



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 8, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: Mayor Ross called the Roundtable Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

City Council: Councilmembers Ethan Benson (remote), Rob Wotton, Bryan Holloway, Catherine Cotton, Cara Christensen, and Jo Johnson

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Johnson to:

Excuse CM Washington from tonight's meeting.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

Mayor Ross was also present.

City Staff: Mike Chambless, City Administrator; Dena Burke, City Attorney; Deana Dean, City Clerk; Fletcher Lacroix, IT Director; Gary Horejsi, Interim Police Chief; Mike Bailey, Fire Chief; Mona Davis, Community and Economic Director; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison; Jen Hughes, Deputy Finance Director; Kyla Henderson, Senior Accountant; Drew Bouta, Finance Director; Jeff Hamlin, Parks and Public Works Director; Kim Johnson, HR Director; Anne Bacher, Accountant; and Jimmie Betts, IT Support.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Johnson to:

Approve the agenda.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Recognition and Reception for Mayor Ross and Councilmember Benson. Mayor Ross recognized Councilmember Benson and presented him with the Service Recognition Award. Mayor Pro Tem Holloway recognized Mayor Ross and presented her with the Service Recognition Award. Photos followed. Mayor Ross thanked Council and those in Council Chambers.

At 6:10 pm, Council recessed until 6:30 pm.

Council reconvened at 6:30 pm.

2. State Auditor's Office Entrance Conference – 2024 Financial Statements and Accountability Audits. Introduction by Finance Director Bouta. Present remotely from the State Auditor's Office were June Li, Assistant Audit Manager, and Zachariah Shelton, Assistant State Auditor. Presentation by Mr. Shelton. Topics covered included information about the State Auditor's Office, types of audits, audit scope including accountability audit for January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, financial statement audit for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, compliance examination for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and levels of reporting. Closing remarks made by Assistant Audit Manager June Li.

ADJOURNMENT – It was moved by CM Johnson and seconded by CM Cotton to adjourn the Special Meeting which passed unanimously. The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ross called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

City Council: Councilmembers Ethan Benson (remote), Rob Wotton, Bryan Holloway, Catherine Cotton, Cara Christensen, and Jo Johnson.

City Staff: Mike Chambless, City Administrator; Dena Burke, City Attorney; Deana Dean, City Clerk; Fletcher Lacroix, IT Director; Drew Bouta, Finance Director; Mona Davis, Community and Economic Development Director; Jeff Hamlin, Parks & Public Works Director; Jen Hughes, Deputy Finance Director; Janna Walker, Budget Manager; Kim Johnson, HR Director; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison; and Jimmie Betts, IT Support.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge of allegiance was led by CM Holloway.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by CM Johnson; seconded by CM Holloway to:

Approve the agenda as amended.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

It was moved by CM Holloway, seconded by CM Johnson to:

To remove Class IV Work Agreement from the agenda.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS

Appointments

3. Oath of Office – Councilmembers Holloway, Cotton, Johnson. City Clerk Dean administered the oath of office. Photos followed.
4. **AB25-124:** Appointment to Arts Commission.

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Benson to:

Confirm the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Tan Eccleston to the Arts Commission

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

Presentations

5. Recognition of Motorized Stair Chair Donation. Introduction by Chief Bailey who described the stair chair and thanked Todd and Lisa for the donation on behalf of the estate of Ethel. Present remotely were Todd and Lisa Schmalhurst.
6. Top Accomplishments 2025. Presentation by City Administrator Mike Chambless.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Approve the Claims Report dated December 8, 2025.
8. **AB25-112:** K&L Gates Budget Authorization
9. **AB25-114:** Madrona Law Contract Amendment

It was moved by CM Wotton; seconded by CM Holloway to:

Approve the consent agenda.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

ORDINANCES

11. **AB25-120:** Electric Motorcycle Ordinance. Introduction read into the record by CM Wotton. Additional information provided by Interim Chief Horejsi.

It was moved by CM Wotton; seconded by CM Christensen to:

Approve Ordinance 1315 adopting SMC Chapter 10.36 to define and regulate electric motorcycles.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee:

11. **AB25-122:** Resolution Adopting New Indigent Defense Standards. Introduction read into the record by CM Wotton. Additional information provided by Interim Chief Horejsi.

It was moved by CM Wotton; seconded by CM Cotton to:

Approve Resolution 1740 adopting new standards for Indigent Defense.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

12. **AB25-123:** Indigent Defense Contract with Valley Defenders PLLC. Introduction read into the record by CM Wotton.

It was moved by CM Wotton; seconded by CM Holloway to:

Approve Resolution 1741 approving the contract with Valley Defenders, PLLC.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

Community Development Committee: There was no report.

Parks & Public Works Committee:

13. Community Center Presentation and Update provided by City Administrator Chambless. Topics covering a recap of the Community Center Expansion Project included public support, expansion direct impacts, design, funding picture, and review of floor plan and budget update from August 2025. Council questions followed. Additional information provided by Josh Sutton from the YMCA.
14. Class IV Work Crew Master Agreement with Washington State Department of Corrections Discussion. This item was removed from the agenda.

Finance & Administration Committee:

15. **AB25-089:** Resolution Amending Financial Management Policy. Introduction read into the record by CM Holloway. Additional information provided by Director Bouta. Council questions followed.

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Christensen to:

Approve Resolution 1729 Amending the Financial Management Policy.

PASSED: 6-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

16. Totem Pole Discussion. Discussion led by CM Holloway. Additional information provided by Community Liaison Nicole Wiebe.

It was moved by CM Holloway, seconded by CM Christensen to:

Take the Totem Pole to Public Works for assessment and have a discussion at the Arts Commission with what to do after that.

Discussion followed. Motion rescinded.

It was moved by CM Holloway, seconded by CM Christensen to:

Move to have the Totem Pole moved to Public Works for assessment and restoration as deemed necessary and that it go to the Arts Commission for determination of where the pole goes from there, with a preference that it not return to its current location, and what to do with that current location.

PASSED: 5-1 (Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson) (Nay: Benson)

17. Council Chambers Mural Discussion. Discussion led by CM Holloway.

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Johnson to:

Remove Council Chambers murals, put in storage, and bring before the Arts Commission for disposition and recommendation for Council Chambers backdrop.

PASSED: 5-1 (Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson) (Nay: Benson)

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Johnson to:

To add some treatment to the wall beyond painting and patching such as temporary acoustic panels.

PASSED: 5-1 (Wotton, Holloway, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson) (Nay: Benson)

Committee of the Whole: There was no report.

REPORTS

18. Mayor's Report included a final statement as Mayor.
19. Commission/Committee Liaison Reports. There were no reports.
20. Department Reports for November 2025. No discussion. These are available in the agenda packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

21. Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price.
22. Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

At 8:34 pm, Council took a 5-minute break and then went into Executive Session which was expected to last until 9:00 pm. Recording of the meeting ceased.

At 9:00 pm, it was announced outside the Mt Si Conference Room that Executive Session was extended to 9:05 pm.

At 9:05 pm, it was announced outside the Mt Si Conference Room that Executive Session was extended to 9:10 pm.

At 9:10 pm, it was announced outside the Mt Si Conference Room that Executive Session was extended to 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

CITY OF SNOQUALMIE

James Mayhew, Mayor for
Katherine Ross, former Mayor

Attest:

Deana Dean, City Clerk