

DRAFT MINUTES

CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING

December 18, 2025
6:00 PM, City Hall and Remote

Attending:

City Administrator Wesley Wootten, Finance Director Jayne Borden, Public Works Director Cody Rosander; City Attorney Robert Muth, Fire Chief Ray Broughton.

Elected Officials: Mayor Scott Anderson, Council Members Michael Johnson, Pat Rice, Lucy Lauser, Dave Cox, Erin Minnis*

Guests: Skamania County Sheriff Scheyer, Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney Adam Kick, Skamania County Commissioner Rob Farris.

Public attendees: Mary Repar, Chuck Oldfield, Sam Kinestead, Jeff Breckel

1. CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION TO THE FLAG: **Mayor Anderson** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance, and conducted roll call.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chuck Oldfield spoke about allocations for the new sheriff's budget. He encouraged the city to contribute more funds to the Sheriff's Office for services.

Mary Repar thanked **Councilmember Johnson** and **Mayor Anderson** for their years of service. She also commented on the proposed Cascade Renewable transmission line that will run down the center of the Columbia River channel if approved.

Sam Kinestead thanked all the Council members leaving, and welcomed the newly seated Council member.

a) Submitted Public Comment: Two written comments were received and included in the meeting packet.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: **Fire Chief Ray Broughton** provided an update.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The following items were presented for Council approval.

a) City Engineering Contract - The City currently contracts with Shell Engineering which is involved in multiple ongoing projects. This one-year contract extension will allow these projects to be completed after which the City will solicit a new engineering firm.

b) Cascade Renewable Transmission Project Representative Appointment - Council was asked to appoint Jeff Breckel to be the City's representative to work with the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for the Cascade Renewable Transmission Project.

c) Resolution 2025-462 Banking Authorizations - Council was presented with Resolution 2025-462 authorizing the removal of **Mayor Scott Anderson** and adding **Mayor-Elect Jennifer Taylor** as signers on City bank accounts.

d) Minutes of November 2025.

Prior to the vote **Councilmember Lauser** pointed out a scrivener error in the year of the banking authorization.

Councilmember Cox revised the November minutes by noting he and **Councilmember Rice** had voted affirmatively on an action at the November 2025 City Council meeting.

*Councilmember Minnis' votes are not counted for any actions taken at this meeting due to a procedural seating error that has since been corrected.

MOTION to approve consent agenda items a-d with corrections to the November 2025 minutes and the banking resolution was made by **Councilmember Lauser**, seconded by **Councilmember Cox**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Cox, Minnis, Lauser, Johnson**.

5. SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT:

a) The Skamania County Sheriff's report for activity within Stevenson city limits for the prior month was presented for council review. Skamania County Sheriff Scheyer thanked **Mayor Anderson** and **Councilmember Johnson** for their community service. She briefed the Council on emergency management actions following the recent wind and rainstorm, and responded to comments regarding services provided by the Sheriff's Office.

b) FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Fire Chief Ray Broughton noted a recent joint meeting with the Stevenson City Council and the Fire District 2 Commissioners was productive.

A recent WSRB (Washington Survey and Rating Bureau) audit resulted in the score for the Stevenson Fire Department remaining close to the same as prior reviews. Washington State has added training requirements that Stevenson Fire Department volunteers do not have the resources or capacity for.

He reported the Fire Department is standing by ready to help during the declared local State of Emergency.

The interlocal agreement is being revised and should be provided to the city for signatures following legal team approval.

6. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 2025-463 2026 Salary Scale - Council is presented with Resolution 2025-463 setting the City staff salary scale for 2026.

A COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) of 2.7% was verified by **Councilmember Rice**. Prior to the vote **Councilmember Cox** noted that several salary schedules presented did not match up with those in the current budget. **Finance Director Borden** will review and meet with **Councilmember Cox**. **Councilmember Rice** suggested future COLA's not be provided automatically to top staff members but base future salary increases on performance metrics and evaluations.

MOTION to approve Resolution 2025-463 was made by **Councilmember Lauser**, seconded by **Councilmember Johnson**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Cox, Minnis, Lauser, Johnson**.

City Attorney Muth provided a brief explanation of the terms and conditions in the following four Interlocal Agreements. Further details were provided in the meeting packet.

b) ILA 2025-1204 Prosecuting Attorney - Council was presented with Interlocal Agreement 2025-1204 between the City and Skamania County for prosecutorial legal services. A 3% increase will begin on 1/1/2027.

MOTION to approve Interlocal Agreement 2025-1209 between the City and Skamania County for prosecutorial legal services was made by **Councilmember Johnson**, seconded by **Councilmember Cox**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Johnson, Cox, Minnis**
Abstaining: **Councilmember Lauser**.

c) ILA 2025-1209 Probation Services - Council was presented with Interlocal Agreement 2025-1209 between the City and Skamania County for probation services. Services are currently \$1,900/month, with an annual 3% increase beginning in 2027.

MOTION to approve Interlocal Agreement 2025-1209 between the City and Skamania County for probation services was made by **Councilmember Johnson**, seconded by **Councilmember Cox**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Johnson, Cox, Minnis**
Abstaining: **Councilmember Lauser**

Councilmember Cox asked for an explanation on the cost increase in probation services. Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney Adam Kick responded with information on the increases. **Cox** asked about reports requested from the county probation services that show levels of service for the City Council to review. They are reportedly sent with each month's invoice. **City Administrator Wootten** will research the whereabouts of the reports to share them with the Councilmembers.

Determining how to get information requested on court services specifically within Stevenson is being looked into by **City Attorney Muth**.

d) ILA 2025-1210 Municipal Court Services - Council was presented with Interlocal Agreement 2025-1210 between the City and Skamania County for municipal court services. Services are currently \$2,500/mo for court services, with an annual 3% increase beginning in 2027.

MOTION to approve Interlocal Agreement 2025-1210 between the City and Skamania County for municipal court services was made by **Councilmember Johnson**, seconded by **Councilmember Cox**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Johnson, Cox, Minnis**
Abstaining: **Councilmember Lauser**

e) ILA 2025-1212 Law Enforcement - Council was presented with Interlocal Agreement 2025-1212 between the City and Skamania County for law enforcement services.

Prior to the vote **Mayor Anderson** confirmed the new Sheriff's Office contract with the City of Stevenson removes code enforcement, animal control responses, and mental health support services.

Councilmember Rice stated the contracts negotiated were for a one-year duration to allow for changes and revisions if needed.

MOTION to approve Interlocal Agreement 2025-1212 between the City and Skamania County for law enforcement services was made by **Councilmember Rice**, seconded by **Councilmember Johnson**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Johnson, Cox**

Voting nay: **Councilmember Minnis**

Abstaining: **Councilmember Lauser**

(**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2025-463 was then inadvertently repeated. It had been passed unanimously under item 6a, Council Business.)

7. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a)** 2024 Financial Audit - Attached was the report from the State Auditor's Office on the City's 2024 financial audit.
- b)** Financial Report - The Treasurer's Report and year-to-date revenues and expenses through the prior month were presented for council review.
- c)** Planning Commission Minutes - Minutes were attached from the Planning Commission meeting for November 2025.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS:

- a)** Cody Rosander, Stevenson Public Works Director
- b)** Wesley Wootten, Stevenson City Administrator

Their reports were provided in the meeting packet.

9. VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Vouchers were presented prior to the meeting for council review.

MOTION to approve vouchers was made by **Councilmember Rice**, seconded by **Councilmember Johnson**.

Voting aye: **Councilmembers Rice, Johnson, Cox, Lauser, Minnis.**

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Plaques were presented to **Mayor Anderson** and **Councilmember Johnson** in appreciation for their years of service.

Mayor Anderson recalled highlights of his terms in office. He advised new and continuing Councilmembers to be prepared and make educated decisions.

11. ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Councilmember Lauser distributed copies of a draft ordinance she would like the City Council to consider at the January 2026 meeting.

12. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Repar commented on the Sheriff's contract and the loss of certain services.

Councilmember Cox noted many services are now handled remotely.

13. ADJOURNMENT - **Mayor Anderson** adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.