



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and
via Telephone and Teleconference

1. Call to Order – Flag Salute – Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Jennifer Joki called roll for City Council.

Councilmembers Present

Councilmember Murray

Councilmember Paige

Councilmember Ryan

Councilmember Sonmore

Councilmember Woodard

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl

Mayor Matsumoto Wright (via Teleconference)

Councilmembers Absent

None.

Guests Present

Regent of the Lady Stirling Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Liz Runkle

Staff Members Present

City Attorney Hillary Evans (via Teleconference)

City Clerk Jennifer Joki

City Manager Jeff Niten

Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope

Public Works Director Gary Schimek

Stormwater Program Manager Patrick Hutchins

2. Late Changes to Agenda

None.

3. General Public Comment

- MLT resident Adam Cickay commented (remotely) in opposition to the Flock Safety Camera agreement and regarding Covid concerns.
- MLT resident Gillian Leving commented (remotely) in opposition to the Flock Security Camera agreement.
- MLT resident Kim Guadalupe commented on a code compliance issue regarding business in the city.

4. Consent Agenda

Regarding Consent Agenda item c: The City Manager responded to a council question from the last meeting regarding reference checks on the agencies interviewed before selection.

A motion to remove item c, Professional Service Agreement with All Together, LLC. for Citywide Branding, from the Consent Agenda was made.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items a- b was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded, and passed by **vote; 7-0**.

- a. Approval of Payment for 2025 Claims
- b. Meeting Minutes for 9/4/2025 and 9/11/2025
- c. Professional Service Agreement with All Together, LLC. for Citywide Branding

Council comments on item c included current staff ability to manage this project, telling the city's story, return on investment, and limiting apartments in downtown Mountlake Terrace.

A motion to approve the Professional Service Agreement with All Together, LLC. for Citywide Branding was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded, and approved by **vote; 6-1** (Sonmore).

- a. Payment of Claims
- b. Meeting Minutes
- c. Professional Services Agreement with All Together, LLC, for Citywide Branding, Placemaking, and Marketing Strategy

5. Proclamation for Constitution Week

Councilmember Paige read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Lady Stirling Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution member Liz Runkle who spoke a few words.

6. Review, Public Hearing, Vote on Ordinance Adopting Urban Forest Management Plan
Stormwater Program Manager Patrick Hutchins

Hutchins presented on this item to include the project team, why urban forests matter in cities, lessons from data and community, plan's visions, goals, and key findings, and strategies for implementation.

Hutchins heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding building codes and trees, Department of Natural Resources funding, cost to the city, tree removal permits, estimated costs for plan implementation, budget, use of the stormwater fund, list of stormwater projects and costs, voting on the plan but not budgetary items or tree removal permit costs for private property.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl, seconded, and passed by **vote; 7-0**. The public hearing was declared open.

Public Testimony:

- Mountlake Terrace resident Michale Ness commented in support of the Urban Forest Management Plan.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilmember Sonmore, seconded, and passed by **vote; 7-0**. The public hearing was declared closed.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance Adopting the Urban Forest Management Plan was made by Councilmember Sonmore and seconded.

Council Discussion: Discussion included appreciation for the plan, the city having Evergreen trees on both sides of Interstate 5, life within the dead trees, legacy, including information about the trees in the newsletter, balancing trees and development, appreciation for the work of Audrey Meyer and Patrick Hutchins on the plan.

The motion to adopt the Ordinance Adopting the Urban Forest Management Plan made by Councilmember Sonmore and seconded, was passed by **vote; 7-0**.

7. Presentation on Public Safety Costs

City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten presented on this item to include salaries and benefits, animal control and records staff, public records requests, fleet program and vehicle maintenance, SnoCom 911 fees, prosecution costs, South County District Court filing costs, online system for traffic tickets, public defense, jail and inmate fees, and a reduction in personnel with increase in demand in the police department.

Niten heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding the costs of crime to the city, keeping police officers, appreciation for the information and context, non-staff costs in 2010 versus now, staff costs increase, housing costs, redaction challenges for video records requests, opportunities for staff efficiencies, proactive investments that reduce crime, and communities that have found ways to save costs, the Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce, determining the city's responsibilities to the community, diversion programs, supporting law enforcement and prevention, crisis rapid response program, the Neutral Zone for youth, 70% state deemed indigent criminal defendants and specifics to Mountlake Terrace, community courts, and schools and city working together.

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeff Niten

- The generators are installed for the Fire Station (with South Snohomish County Fire paying for half) and the Police Department, and the City Hall one will be connected soon.
- The Housing Action Plan is going to the Planning Commission on Monday, September 22.
- The City received a request from Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 to support Senator Murray's federal legislative bill to streamline the Floodplain Restoration permitting process. If council supports it, a response is needed by September 23.

9. Council Liaison Reports

Councilmember Murray's report included:

- September 6 Lake Ballinger Food Forest Open House
- September 11 Council work session
- September 13 National Day of Service
- September 13 Luminaria Walk at Ballinger Park
- September 16 Economic Alliance Snohomish County Coffee Chat on housing
- September 16 League of Women Voters Celebrate Constitution Week event
- September 17 Virtual Town Hall for Week without Driving Preparations
- September 17 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission meeting, Welcoming Week on Saturday and the beginning of the Friends of the Arts 45th Juried Art Show
- September 18 Puget Sound Regional Council Regional Transportation Planning Open House event in Snohomish County

Councilmember Woodard's report included:

- September 5 Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Legislative Tour
- September 7 Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, gave a sermon on volunteerism
- September 10 Terrace Talk
- September 11 Edmonds 9/11 Tribute event
- September 11 Everett Monumental Talks 9/11 event
- September 11 City Manager meeting
- September 13 National Day of Service
- September 16 Economic Alliance Snohomish County Coffee Chat on housing
- September 18 City of Sultan Public Utility District and Volunteers of America Sultan River side-channel opening event, Adopt-a-Stream Program

Councilmember Ryan's report included:

- September 9 Law Enforcement Officer/Firefighter Disability/Retirement Board (LEOFF 1) meeting
- September 19 Artist Reception for Friends of the Arts 45th Juried Art Show, awards 6:30 – 7 p.m. at City Hall, then to the library to preview the artwork, the art show will be open to the public Saturday 9/20 – Saturday 9/27.

Councilmember Paige's report included:

- September 5 Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Legislative Tour
- September 6 Lake Ballinger Food Forest Open House
- September 6 Lynnwood's Fair on 44th Community Health and Safety Block Party
- September 6 Chamber of Commerce Wag Fest event
- September 10 City Manager meeting
- September 10 Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Technical Committee meeting
- September 10 Terrace Talk
- September 12 Review 9/10 Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 meeting with Stormwater Program Manager Patrick Hutchins
- September 13 Day of Service

- September 13 Luminaria Walk
- September 18 Salmon Recovery Council Meeting

Mayor Matsumoto Wright's report included:

- September 5 Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Legislative Tour
- September 6 Chamber of Commerce Wag Fest event
- September 16 Economic Alliance Snohomish County Coffee Chat on housing
- September 16 City Tour for Snohomish County Executive Director for Economic Development Mike Fong with City Manager, Mayor Pro Tem, and MLT Economic Development Manager Ryan Doss
- September 17 South County Collaboration (Snohomish County Mayors, Mayors Pro Tem, Council Presidents, City Managers and staff) meeting on housing

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl's report included:

- September 5 Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Legislative Tour
- September 9 Snohomish County Tomorrow Exploratory Committee meeting
- September 11 Meeting with Mayor and City Manager regarding city priorities
- September 11 Council work session
- September 16 City Tour for Snohomish County Executive Director for Economic Development Mike Fong with City Manager, Mayor, and MLT Economic Development Manager Ryan Doss
- September 17 South County Collaboration (Snohomish County Mayors, Mayors Pro Tem, Council Presidents, City Managers and staff) meeting on housing
- September 18 Snohomish County Tomorrow Co-Chair meeting with Executive Directors

Councilmember Sonmore's report included:

- August Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce, funds and revenue types
- September 9 Law Enforcement Officer/Firefighter Disability/Retirement Board (LEOFF1) meeting
- Recreation and Park Advisory Commission meeting, city flood map and critical areas

10. New Business

- Councilmember Woodard commented on 4-year anniversary of this City Hall building.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Matsumoto Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Kyoko Matsumoto Wright

Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor

Jennifer C Joki

Jennifer Joki, City Clerk