



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 9, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and
via Telephone and Teleconference

1. Call to Order

Mayor Matsumoto Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance Roll Call

City Clerk Jennifer Joki called roll.

Councilmembers Present

Mayor Matsumoto Wright
Councilmember Murray
Councilmember Paige
Councilmember Ryan
Councilmember Sonmore
Mayor Pro Tem Wahl
Councilmember Woodard

Councilmembers Absent

None.

Guests

Baker Tilly Director of Public Sector Advisory Steve Toler
Gordon Thomas Honeywell State Lobbyist Shelly Helder
Gordon Thomas Honeywell State Lobbyist Amina Teouri
Leadership Snohomish County Chief Executive Officer Adrienne Wagner

Staff Members Present

City Clerk Jennifer Joki
City Manager Jeff Niten
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope
Finance Director Sirke Salminen

3. General Public Comment

No one signed up to provide public comment, either online or in person. All public comments submitted in writing were provided to Council.

4. Proclamation for Leadership Day

Councilmember Woodard read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Leadership Snohomish County CEO Adrienne Wagner who spoke a few words.

5. Presentation on State Legislative Agenda by Gordon Thomas Honeywell
City Manager Jeff Niten and State Lobbyists Shelly Helder and Amina Teouri

Helder and Teouri presented on this item to include the 2026 legislative session preview, the context for funding requests, legislative agenda development, and next steps.

Niten, Helder, Teouri heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding the last time there was a presentation from Gordon Thomas Honeywell, changing the name of the Mickey Corso Clubhouse, appreciation for the agenda, diversity in types of housing and ownership opportunities, programs to bridge gap for first-time home buyers, Snohomish County Tomorrow Taskforce report and recommendations on housing, larger rental units for families, process and safety for housing program, library and clubhouse costs, language in the legislative agenda priorities, next steps, Olympia council visit, how the legislative bills and budgets impact Mountlake Terrace, issues important to the city, emerging policy issues, childcare, and the one ask in 2026 of \$300,000 is for the library and then ask in 2027 for funds for the clubhouse.

6. Presentation on Fiscal Sustainability Planning Project Update by Baker Tilly
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope, Finance Director Sirke Salminen, and Baker Tilly Director of Public Sector Advisory Steve Toler

Hope introduced Toler who presented on this item to include the purpose of the update, Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce process to date, updated long-range financial forecast, changes from July forecast, addressing the fiscal gap, fiscal sustainability plan report, budget strategies, and work ahead for council and task force.

Hope, Salminen, Niten, and Toler heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding the Strategic Reserve fund, outreach to those who will be impacted, cost-cutting, operating budget, funding infrastructure, strategies not listed but to be considered, messaging for the considerations, consolidation of funds, more transparency, amount task force likely to cut, what is city legally required to spend the money on, status of the reserves, Regional Fire Authority, city is overstaffed, balancing the budget now, hiring freeze, structural imbalance of General fund, a metropolitan parks district, priority places budgeting, priority process and strategies the task force will consider, public feedback on priorities, difficult asks at community engagement meetings, decisions will have long-term impacts, plans for community engagement, the process with the task force and community, the task force meetings, and request for more information.

7. City Manager's Report
City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten's report included:

- Several upcoming regularly scheduled meetings will be cancelled due to holidays.
- Public Works is looking at crosswalk and sidewalk issues referred to in public comment last meeting.
- Ivy League at Veterans Park on October 25 removing invasive plants from the trail area.

8. Review October 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Council reviewed the 10/16/2025 regular meeting agenda. Mayor Pro Tem will not be at the next meeting and asked to be excused.

9. Council Comments

- Councilmember Sonmore requested information on staff costs and city safety.
- Councilmember Murray shared upcoming community events.
- Councilmember Woodard commented on City Action Days January 21-22, council liaison roles, Councilmembers Woodard and Murray meeting with GMP Consultants regarding City Manager contract, and appreciation for City Manager and Deputy City Manager discussing MLT Academy and transparency in AWC article.
- Councilmember Sonmore asked who the GMP consultant will be and how much it will cost and commented on council liaisons' role.
- Mayor Matsumoto Wright commented on the Jurassic Parliament class for elected officials.

10. Adjournment

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.



Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor



Jennifer Joki, City Clerk

