



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and
via Telephone and Teleconference

Councilmembers Present

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

Councilmembers Absent

None.

Staff Members Present

City Clerk Jennifer Joki
City Manager Jeff Niten
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope
Finance Director Sirke Salminen
Finance Technician Caitland Reinke
Kenyon Disend Attorney Bob Zienemann (via Teleconference)
Kenyon Disend Attorney Lisa Marshall (via Teleconference)
Public Works Director Gary Schimek
Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz

Guests

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission Vice-Chair Teresa Courtney
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commissioner Kernet Apio

1. Call to Order – Flag Salute – Roll Call

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

City Clerk Jennifer Joki called roll.

2. Late Changes to Agenda

Minor update to CED Fee Schedule (Electric Meter Replacement).

3. Public Comment

All public comments submitted in writing were provided to Council.

- MLT resident Adam Cickay commented remotely on Covid and public safety/health information for the community.
- MLT resident Emily Francisco commented in support of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

- MLT resident Chris Francisco commented in support of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.
- MLT resident Vonita Francisco commented in support of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

4. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items a-e, was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0.

- a. Payment of Claims
- b. Meeting Minutes for 11/6/2025 and 11/13/2025
- c. Resolution Adopting Community and Economic Development Fee Schedule
- d. Resolution Adopting Recreation Fee Schedule
- e. Resolution Adopting Engineering Fee Schedule

5. Review, Public Hearing, Vote on Ordinance Adopting the Biennial Budget Amendment

Finance Director Sirke Salminen and Finance Technician Caitland Reinke

Salminen presented on this item to include the purpose, subject summary, budget amendment summary, and financial/budget impacts.

Salminen and Reinke heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding a line-item budget, and \$4.7 million budget difference, beginning fund balances changed, forecasted amounts, and books haven't been closed in several years, and monthly dashboard.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0. The public hearing was declared open.

Public Hearing Testimony: None

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0. The public hearing was declared closed.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance Amending the Biennial Budget was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Council Discussion: None.

Motion carried 6-1 (Sonmore).

6. Review, Public Hearing, Vote on Ordinance Adopting Property Tax Levy

Finance Director Sirke Salminen and Finance Technician Caitland Reinke

Reinke presented on this item to include the background, county tax distribution, typical total property tax, general operating levy options for 2026, and staff recommendation.

Salminen, Reinke, and the City Manager Jeff Niten heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding the 1% increase and other increases for residents.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0. The public hearing was declared open.

Public Hearing Testimony: None

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0. The public hearing was declared closed.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance Adopting the Property Tax Levy was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Council Discussion: Discussion included the 1% increase, the impact of the 1% increase, working toward maintaining a balanced budget, incremental increases, recognition that any increase can impact residents, and asking residents for more money.

Motion carried 6-1 (Sonmore).

7. Review and Vote Ordinance Adopting Franchise Agreement with Puget Sound Energy
Public Works Director Gary Schimek and Kenyon Disend Attorney Lisa Marshall

Schimek presented on this item to include the background, purpose, and length of agreement.

A motion to adopt the Franchise Agreement with Puget Sound Energy was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

8. Review On-Call Engineering Agreement with Parametrix for 2.5 MG Water Tank Recoating Project
Public Works Director Gary Schimek

Schimek presented on this item to include the background, purpose, work order, requests of council, and next steps.

Schimek heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding life expectancy of the tank, impact to budget, stability of the tank, smaller tanks are lead free and the larger tank is not, bid documents,

A motion to approve the On-Call Engineering Agreement with Parametrix for 2.5 MG Water Tank Recoating Project was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

9. Review Agreement with Recreation Conservation Office for Evergreen Playfield #4
Recreation and Park Director Jeff Betz

Betz presented on this item to include the purpose, grant fund application, project timeline, budget impact, next steps, and staff recommendations.

Betz heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding angled lighting and lighting improvements.

10. Review Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan

Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commissioner Vonita Francisco

Hope and Francisco presented on this item to include legislative history, council goals, commission's mission, purpose of the plan, recommendations including council feedback, voting on the plan as presented with the changes in it, and financial impacts.

Hope and Francisco heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding goals, term limit recommendation for council and commissions, the foundation of recommendations, changes in the language, incorporating both versions of the language regarding "Improve Community Access to City Government", term limits for commissions to include emeritus status, keeping the word "consider" in the plan recommendation, council role as a legislative body members bring items up again, community input on term limits, gender neutral restrooms, translation tools, volunteer community board of translators, and community liaison skills.

A motion to adopt the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan as presented was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Discussion: An amendment to the motion was made in reference to section CA7 in the plan to read "Provide options for restrooms that are not designated for a specific gender, featuring private stalls in city buildings as remodels are planned, new buildings are designed, and funding is available."

A motion to adopt the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan as amended (CA7) to read "Provide options for restrooms that are not designated for a specific gender, featuring private stalls in city buildings as remodels are planned, new buildings are designed, and funding is available." was made by and seconded.

Discussion: Language is acceptable as is and as proposed.

Motion carried 6-1 (Murray).

Discussion: A second amendment to the original motion was made to remove redlining on CA3 and keep this language in, "Consider revising the city code to limit the term of service for all commissions and council to allow for more opportunities for community members to participate in leadership roles within the city and bring new ideas forward." And modify language in the next sentence from "allow" to "create" to read, "Create more opportunities for community members to participate in leadership roles within the city and bring new ideas forward."

A motion to adopt the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan as amended (CA3) was made by Councilmember Woodard and seconded.

Discussion: Open more volunteer opportunities in the city versus moving councilmembers out, many residents in the city want to participate, should the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission recommendation stand, removing the redlining, and keeping the word “consider”.

Motion carried 4-3 (Ryan, Sonmore, Wahl).

Discussion: Appreciation for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and their work on this plan and to the council, making commissions larger for more opportunities, commissioners wanting to step into other roles, and council to support the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission more.

Motion carried 7-0.

The Mayor called for a 5-minute recess.

11. City Manager’s Report (City Manager Jeff Niten)

Niten’s report included:

- Tree going on water tomorrow tomorrow
- Holiday tree early next week and winterizing the fountain
- Thank you to Ivy League for volunteering 33 hours of clean up
- Next Thursday is Thanksgiving, no meeting

12. Council Liaison Reports

Councilmember Murray’s report included:

- November 19 missed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission meeting, DEIC appointed 11 Community Ambassadors for new program

Councilmember Paige’s report included:

- November 12 City Manager meeting
- November 14 City branding team meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session

Councilmember Ryan’s report included:

- November 12 Law Enforcement Officer/Firefighter Disability/Retirement Board meeting
- November 14 City branding team meeting
- November 18 Arts Advisory Commission meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session

Councilmember Sonmore’s report included:

- November 17 Fiscal Sustainability Task Force meeting
- November 12 Law Enforcement Officer/Firefighter Disability/Retirement Board meeting

- November 12 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting
- November 18 Recreation and Park Advisory Committee meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session

Councilmember Woodard's report included:

- November 11 Lynnwood, Everett, and Shoreline Veterans Day services
- November 14 City Manager meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session
- November 20 WA State Auditor entrance exam for the city

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl's report included:

- November 14 City branding team meeting
- November 18 Snohomish County Tomorrow Exploratory Committee meeting
- November 19 South County Cities Collaborators meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session
- November 20 Council Subcommittee interviews for Planning Commission vacancy

Mayor Matsumoto Wright's report included:

- November 7 Seashore Transportation Forum meeting
- November 8 MLT Library Randal Gravelle book discussion Mountlake Terrace: Four Square Miles
- November 11 Mountlake Terrace Veterans Day event
- November 19 South County Cities Collaborators meeting
- November 19 Council Executive Session
- November 20 Council Subcommittee interviews for Planning Commission vacancy

13. New Business

- Councilmember Sonmore requested council consider restarting some commissions and increasing size of existing commissions. Sonmore also commented on the impact of all the visitors during the World Cup next summer.

A motion to make the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission its own line-item in the budget was made by Councilmember Sonmore and seconded.

Discussion: The City Manager and council discussed that this would need to be seconded, and another budget amendment made, boards and commissions had one-time money from ARPA, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission was written out of the ARPA funding.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:15 pm was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

- Councilmember Woodard commented on appreciation for Councilmember Ryan's idea to save money by not sending all councilmembers to events and kudos to the city regarding communication to residents regarding water leak.

Discussion on motion to make the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission its own line-item: This item deserves full discussion with more background information, intent and amount, ARPA budget money, and future council discussion to consider putting this line item in the budget.

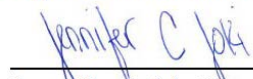
Councilmember Sonmore withdrew the motion to make the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission its own line-item, and the seconded was withdrawn.

14. Adjournment

Mayor Matsumoto Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.



Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor



Jennifer Joki, City Clerk