



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 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

Associate Planner Mirna Ali
City Attorney Hillary Evans (via Teleconference)
City Clerk Jennifer Joki
City Manager Jeff Niten
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope
Community and Economic Development Director Christy Osborn
Parks Supervisor Celina Williams
Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz

Guests

Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Christian Johnson
Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Eoin Ritter
ECONorthwest Project Manager Mckenzie Visser
Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation Member Robyn Rice
Recreation and Park Advisory Commissioner George Stanton
Recreation and Park Advisory Commission Vice-Chair Audrey Meyer

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.

A motion to excuse Councilmember Sonmore was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2. Late Changes to Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

All public comments submitted in writing were provided to Council.

- MLT resident George Stanton commented in support of the food forest.

4. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Payment for 2025 claims
- b. Meeting Minutes for 11/19/2025 and 11/20/2025
- c. Agreement with Recreation Conservation Office for Evergreen Playfield #4
- d. On-Call Engineering Agreement with Parametrix for Water Tower Improvements
- e. Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County Regional Narcotics Task Force (2026-2027)
- f. Planning Commission Vacancy Appointment

Motion carried 6-0.

5. Recognition of Eagle Scouts

Parks Supervisor Celina Williams and Recreation and Park Advisory Commissioner George Stanton read the certificates aloud and presented them to Eagle Scouts Christian Johnson and Eoin Ritter.

6. Review, Public Hearing, and Vote on Ordinance Adopting Housing Action Plan

Community and Economic Development Director Christy Osborn, Associate Planner Mirna Ali, and ECONorthwest Project Manager McKenzie Visser

Osborn introduced Ali and Visser and Visser presented on this item to include updates on the plan since the November 13 work session, plan overview, housing needs and opportunities, action sheet details, implementation timeframe, completed actions, in-progress actions, near-term actions, and ongoing actions.

Councilmember Ryan stated a point of privilege informing the Eagle Scouts they are not required to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Osborn, Visser, and Ali heard and responded to comments and questions from council regarding the timeframes, impacts on the city, plans to notify the community of the plan, tenant protection strategies, supporting lower income renters, housing instability, mobile homes, staff capacity, appreciation for the list of ongoing projects,

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

Motion carried 6-0. 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 6-0. The public hearing was declared closed.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance Adopting Housing Action Plan was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Council Discussion: Discussion included appreciation for all the work on the plan and the housing crisis.

Motion carried 6-0.

7. Presentation on Food Forest at Ballinger and Ballinger Organic Garden
Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz, Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation Member Robyn Rice, and Recreation and Park Advisory Commission Vice-Chair Audrey Meyer

Betz introduced Rice and Meyer who presented on this item to include the history of the board an foundation, definition of food forests/food gardens, layers and benefits of a food forest, definition and types of guilds, the city Comprehensive Plan and Ballinger Park Master Plan, volunteers installing and maintaining the food forest, planning, tours, outreach, site plan, Ballinger Organic Garden (BOG), BOG benefits, how it works, costs, and upcoming volunteer meeting.

Betz, Rice, and Meyer heard and responded to questions and comments from Council regarding the site being near the road, long-term interest, volunteer component, appreciation for this project, funding, planning site, harvesting and maintaining opportunities for all residents, inclusivity, and appreciation for project.

The mayor called for a 5-minute recess.

8. Review Professional Services Agreement for Federal Lobbyist
City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten presented on this item to include the extension, purpose, cost and funding, and scope of work.

Niten heard and responded to questions and comments from Council regarding the significant rewards from working with Jake Johntston, Federal Lobbyist.

9. City Manager's Report (City Manager Jeff Niten)

Niten's report included:

- The city earned the Transportation Improvement Board grant this year for the Main Street project.
- Our Public Works Director Gary Schimek was appointed by the governor to the statewide Public Works Board.

10. Council Liaison Reports

Councilmember Murray's report included:

- Congratulations to Chris Finch on appointment to Planning Commission
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion meetings are now at 6:30 p.m. with a special meeting on

December 17, 2025.

Councilmember Paige's report included:

- November 24 City Manager meeting
- November 26 Senator Salomon virtual meeting with council
- December 4 Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser, Day 1 at the Getaway Tavern

Councilmember Ryan's report included:

- Nothing to report at this meeting.

Councilmember Woodard's report included:

- November 22 Redtail Hawks Flying Club event
- November 26 Senator Salomon virtual meeting with council
- December 4 Cops and Clergy

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl's report included:

- November 26 Senator Salomon virtual meeting with council
- December 1 Quarterly Snohomish County Councilmember Jared Mead meeting with Mayor Matsumoto Wright and City Manager
- December 1 Snohomish County Tomorrow Exploratory Committee Co-chairs meeting
- December 2 South Snohomish County Cities Mayors, Mayors Pro Tem, and Council Presidents meeting
- December 3 Snohomish County Tomorrow Executive Committee meeting
- December 4 Puget Sound Regional Council Operations Committee meeting
- December 4 Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board meeting
- December 4 City Manager meeting with Mayor Matsumoto Wright

Mayor Matsumoto Wright's report included:

- November 24 Snohomish County Mayors meeting
- November 26 Senator Salomon virtual meeting with council
- November 29 Senator Del Bene lunch
- December 1 Quarterly Snohomish County Councilmember Jared Mead meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and City Manager
- December 3 South Snohomish County Mayors luncheon
- December 3 Alliance for Affordable Housing (AHA) meeting
- December 4 Community Transit Board meeting
- December Snohomish County Collaborators meeting

11. New Business

- Mayor Pro Tem Wahl commented on how the Flock Safety Camera system that was originally supported by a majority of councilmembers has brought division to the community with its troubles and challenges.

A motion to cancel the Flock Camera contract was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 6-0.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Matsumoto Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.


Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor


Jennifer Joki, City Clerk