



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 12, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and  
via Telephone and Teleconference

Councilmembers Present

Councilmember Matsumoto Wright  
Councilmember Murray  
Councilmember Paige  
Councilmember Doyle  
Mayor Pro Tem Wahl  
Mayor Woodard

Councilmembers Absent

Councilmember Sonmore

Guests

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance Roll Call

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.**

3. General Public Comment

No one signed up to comment in person or remotely. Any written comments received have been forwarded to Council.

4. Presentation on Budget Calendar

Finance Director Sirke Salminen and Finance Technician Caitland Reinke

Salminen and Reinke presented on this item to include council goals, legislative history,

deadlines, and detailed calendar.

Salminen and Reinke heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding recommendations and preliminaries for staff.

5. Review Fiscal Sustainability Recommendations

Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope and City Manager Jeff Niten

Hope and Niten presented on this item to include an overview of the fiscal challenges, addressing the fiscal gap, Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce budget strategy recommendations, preferred and alternative budget packages, preferred packages phase 1, contingency plans (phases 2-4), summary of service impacts from reductions, implementation, and recommendation on path forward from council.

Hope and Niten heard and responded to questions and comments from council regarding software subscriptions and hotspot on phones, setting higher goals, permit fees, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), reducing newsletter to twice/year, charging rent for Mickey Corso Clubhouse, childcare fees, recreation program fees, tiered fee levels for recreation programs, training and travel, recreation postage, cancelling preschool and dance programs, partnerships, impacts, cause and effect explicitly clear to residents, metropolitan parks district levy, appreciation for the work of the Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce, timelines, going to voters only once, and potential pathways.

6. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten's report included:

- Second MLT Community Academy last night.
- Second bid for Pedestrian Plaza goes out March 24.
- Summer camp spots filled up within the first 30-45 minutes of opening registration.

7. Review March 19 Meeting Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved by council.

8. Council Comments

- Mayor Woodard commented on two separate youth gun violence incidents last weekend in the community and parents asking about bringing back School Resource Officers.
- Mayor Woodard stated the council has heard the resident's concerns for public health and working to see if the county health department will do a safety series for the city.
- Mayor Woodard commented that Sno-Isle Libraries will be going out to voters for support.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Woodard adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.



Steve Woodard, Mayor



Jennifer Joki, City Clerk