



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION (ACTION TAKEN) MINUTES

January 8, 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
Councilmember Sonmore
Mayor Woodard
Mayor Pro Tem Wahl

Councilmembers Absent

None

Guests

None

Staff Members Present

City Clerk Jennifer Joki
City Manager Jeff Niten
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope
Communications and Community Engagement Manager Sienna Spencer-Markles

1. Call to Order

City Manager Jeff Niten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Jeff Niten requested moving the swearing in ceremony up to before the Attendance Roll due to guests in the audience. The City Councilmembers agreed.

2. Swearing-In Ceremony for Newly Elected Councilmembers

City Clerk Jennifer Joki

Joki administered the Oaths of Office to re-elected councilmembers Steve Woodard (Position No. 2) and Kyoko Matsumoto Wright (Position No. 4), and elected councilmembers Sam Doyle (Position No. 1) and William Paige (Position No. 3).

3. Attendance Roll Call

City Clerk Jennifer Joki called roll.

4. Elections of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

City Manager Jeff Niten



Niten called for nominations for Mayor for the 2026-2028 two-year term.
Nominations included: Steve Woodard

A roll-call vote (voice vote) was conducted by City Clerk Jennifer Joki.
Steve Woodard was elected as Mayor by vote, 7-0.

City Manager Jeff Niten called for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem for the 2026 one-year term.

Nominations included: Bryan Wahl and Erin Murray

A roll-call vote (voice vote) was conducted by City Clerk Jennifer Joki.
Bryan Wahl was elected as Mayor Pro Tem by vote, 4-3.

5. General Public Comment

All public comments submitted in writing are forwarded to Council.

- MLT resident Adam Cickay commented on concerns for public health.
- MLT resident Maggie Fimia commented on appreciation for council and the work they do and plans for transportation.
- MLT resident Aude Pugfoulhour commented on the recent violent incident in Minneapolis and the holocaust.

6. Selections and Vote on Councilmember Intergovernmental Boards

Council committee liaisons and intergovernmental positions were selected by Councilmembers based on seniority.

Councilmembers agreed on the following selected appointments.

BOARD/COMMITTEE	2026 REPRESENTATIVES
MLT Arts Advisory Commission (1) (1-Year Term)	William Paige
MLT Board and Commission Interview Subcommittee (3) (1-Year Term)	1. Sam Doyle 3. William Paige 2. Erin Murray
MLT Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (1) (1-Year Term)	Erin Murray
MLT Finance Committee (2) (1-Year Term)	1. Bryan Wahl 2. Steve Woodard
MLT LEOFF 1 Disability Board (2) (2-Year Staggered Terms, Mayor Appoints)	1. Laura Sonmore (appt'd 1/2/2025) 2. Steve Woodard (appt'd 1/8/2026)
MLT Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (1) (1-Year Term)	Laura Sonmore
MLT Personnel (City Manager) Review Subcommittee (2) (1-Year Term)	1. Sam Doyle 2. Laura Sonmore



MLT Recreation and Park Advisory Commission (1) (1-Year Term)	Laura Sonmore
Alliance for Housing Affordability (AHA) Board (1-Year Term)	Primary: Kyoko Matsumoto Wright Alt: Bryan Wahl
Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum (1-Year Term)	Primary: Erin Murray Alt: Steve Woodard
SeaShore Transportation Forum (1-Year Term)	Primary: Steve Woodard Alt: Erin Murray
Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT) Steering Committee (1-Year Term)	Primary: Bryan Wahl Alt: Steve Woodard
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council	

7. Review and Vote on Agreement Amendment with Baker Tilly for Long-Range Fiscal Sustainability Plan

Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope

Hope presented on this item to include Baker Tilly's current work with the MLT Long-Range Fiscal Sustainability Task Force, the need for another meeting with Baker Tilly, proposal, and ask of council.

Hope heard and responded to questions and comments from the council regarding the additional \$8,000 cost, task force recommendations, background information for task force members, outcome if council doesn't approve amendment, Baker Tilly recommendations for council in February, and passing costs on to residents.

A motion to approve the Agreement Amendment for Baker Tilly was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Council discussion: Council asked from which budget the funds for this would be coming from.

Motion passed 6-1 (Sonmore).

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten's report included:

- Government finance series on MLT News is informative and valuable.
- January 15 meeting is cancelled due to Snohomish County Cities and Towns dinner.
- Next council meeting is January 22 work session.

9. Review January 22 Work Session (Action Taken) Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by council and approved.

10. Council Comments

- Councilmember Matsumoto Wright notified the council that she will not be involved in Snohomish County Board, Conservation Futures anymore so the position will be available, also traveling interviewer/photographer traveled for six years speaking to mayors in all 50



states.

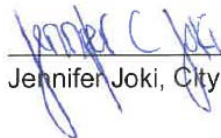
- Councilmember Doyle commented on the violent act in Minneapolis and asked if the city could publish a statement addressing it and the importance of being good neighbors.
- Mayor Woodard asked the City Manager how the City goes about publishing a statement regarding the recent violent act in Minneapolis. Council asked if the City Manager could prepare a draft statement.
- Councilmember Paige commented on publishing a statement as a city and individually.
- Councilmember Sonmore commented on putting council resources toward the budget and asked if the council publishing a statement will set a precedent.
- Councilmember Paige commented on community engagement in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan and being stewards of both the city finances and the people of the community.
- Councilmember Doyle commented on the importance of commenting on some incidents and no expectation of a statement for all incidents.
- Councilmember Murray commented on the complexities of how organizations respond and don't respond and pursuing a policy for these circumstances and to discuss at the retreat.
- Councilmember Woodard asked if the city released a statement when George Floyd was murdered and asked what the county is doing on this issue.
- Mayor Pro Tem Wahl commented on previous statements by the city, healing community and loving local, and establishing a protocol.
- Councilmember Woodard asked the City Manager how long it would take to put together a draft statement and council how/when to review it.
- Councilmember Woodard commented on being the first African-American mayor for the city, a new council moving forward together, the work of Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, the first Asian-American mayor, did and the smooth transition.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Woodard adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.



Steve Woodard, Mayor



Jennifer Joki, City Clerk