



MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and
via Telephone and Teleconference

Councilmembers Present

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

Councilmembers Absent

None

Staff Members Present

City Clerk Jennifer Joki
City Manager Jeff Niten
Communications and Community Engagement Manager Sienna Spencer-Markles
Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope
Finance Director Sirke Salminen
Parks Supervisor Celina Williams
Police Commander Scott King
Police Sergeant Eugene Shin
Police Officer Vale Ostrovkin
Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz
Recreation Supervisor for Aquatics Rose Ploeg

Guests

Terry Barham's Family Members Pam, Bradely, and Mitchell
Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee Regina Sassoon Friedland

1. Call to Order – Flag Salute – Roll Call

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

City Clerk Jennifer Joki called roll.

2. Late Changes to Agenda

City Manager Jeff Niten requested switching item 11 Review and Vote on Ordinance Approving Interfund Loan from Stormwater Fund to Parks Capital Fund and item 12 Presentation on Final Playground Design for Firefighters Memorial Park for efficiency and adding item 2a Presentation on Better Meetings Survey.

2a. Presentation on Better Meetings Survey

City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten informed councilmembers and residents about the current survey regarding city public meetings and how to participate.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Consent Agenda

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

Motion carried 7-0.

a. Payment for 2026 claims

b. Meeting Minutes for 4/2/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/23/2026

c. Pertert Main Street Phase 2 and 3 Agreement Supplement 6

5. Proclamation for Jewish Heritage Month

Mayor Woodard read the proclamation aloud and presented it to the Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee Regina Sassoon Friedland who spoke a few words.

6. Proclamation for ALS Awareness Month

Councilmember Matsumoto Wright read the proclamation aloud and presented it to the Barham family, Pam, Bradely, and Mitchell who spoke a few words.

7. Proclamation for Water Safety Month

Councilmember Erin Murray read the proclamation aloud and presented it to retiring Recreation Supervisor for Aquatics Rose Ploeg who spoke a few words.

8. Proclamation for National Police Week

Councilmember Paige read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Mountlake Terrace Police Sergeant Eugene Shin, Officer Vale Ostrovkin, and Commander Scott King who spoke a few words.

9. Graduation for MLT Community Academy Attendees

City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten read the names of the MLT Community Academy Attendees aloud and presented those present with their graduation certificates.

Councilmembers Murray, Paige, and Matsumoto Wright shared appreciation and congratulations to the academy attendees and encouraged them to apply for boards and commissions

10. Presentation on Final Playground Design for Firefighters Memorial Park
Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz and Parks Supervisor Celina Williams

Betz and Williams presented on this item to include the purpose of the presentation, relevant council goals, legislative history, background, playground design options, community involvement, budget, funding sources, and timeline.

Betz and Williams heard and responded to questions and comments regarding appreciation for the survey and responses, target ages for the playground, public engagement, notification that park will be unavailable during construction, Recreation and Park Advisory Commission input, and announcements outside of social media.

11. Review and Vote on Ordinance Approving Interfund Loan from Stormwater Fund to Parks Capital Fund
Finance Director Sirke Salminen

Salminen presented on this item to include the meaning of an interfund loan, purpose, requirements, reason for the loan, parks capital projects, terms of the loan, and staff recommendation.

Salminen heard and responded to questions and comments regarding interest and cash fund balance, grants, cleaning up processes, and this reimbursement model.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance Approving Interfund Loan from Stormwater Fund to Parks Capital Fund was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wahl and seconded.

Motion carried 7-0.

12. Review and Vote on Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce Recommendations
City Manager Jeff Niten, Deputy City Manager Carolyn Hope, and Finance Director Sirke Salminen

Niten, Hope, and Salminen presented on this item to review the purpose and review of the package proposals again to bridge the gap in the general fund, again.

Niten, Hope, and Salminen heard and responded to questions and comments regarding the specific proposals, appreciation for the taskforce and staff work on the proposals, bank capacity, affordability on cost of living for residents, council being asked by staff to make recommendations, property tax, levies, council's job to solve the problem, Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce, regionalization, support moving forward tonight and continuing to find more solutions.

A motion to authorize city staff to proceed with Proposal 1 was made by Councilmember Murray and seconded.

A motion was made by Councilmember Murray to amend the previous motion authorizing city staff to proceed with Staff Proposal 1 with following changes: strike the cut of economic development 2027 partnership professional services in the amount of \$50,000, and strike parks 2027 service cuts, layoff staff and associated vehicles for \$110,077 for a total of \$160, 077, and add an increase fees for development services for \$200,000 for an ending balance increase of \$39,023 and seconded (Councilmember misread the number as the ending balance increase is \$39, 923).

Motion carried 6-1 (Sonmore)

Discussion: Discussion included ongoing discussions about the budget and appreciation for the city manager providing insight on added costs for tiered fees.

Motion carried 5-2 (Wahl, Sonmore)

The mayor called for a 5-minute recess.

13. City Manager's Report
City Manager Jeff Niten

Niten's report included:

- This week is Economic Development Week, Small Business Week, and Municipal Clerks Week

14. Council Liaison Reports

Councilmember Doyles's report included:

- April 9 Council meeting
- April 10 Evergreen Bottle Shop ribbon-cutting
- April 16 Monthly meeting with City Manager
- April 23 Council meeting
- April 24 Step Up conference in Lynnwood
- April 25 MLT Arbor Day in Action event at Lake Ballinger
- April 28 MLT Utility Open House at City Hall
- May 2 Making Local Market at Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza

Councilmember Matsumoto Wright's report included:

- April 7 Community Transit New Board Member Orientation Tour
- April 8 MLT Community Academy
- April 9 City Manager meeting with Mayor Pro Tem
- April 10 Evergreen Bottle Shop ribbon-cutting
- April 14 Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) annual meeting
- April 16 Community Transit Executive Committee meeting
- April 16 Snohomish County Cities dinner meeting

- April 22 Road Runner Car Wash ribbon cutting
- April 22 MLT Community Academy
- April 28 MLT Chamber of Commerce networking event
- May 2 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander event
- May 2 Making Local Market at Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza
- May 7 Community Transit Board Meeting

Councilmember Murray's report included:

- April Children's Day proclamation and reception
- April 15 Joint meeting of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and Arts Advisory Commission
- April 24 Step Up conference
- May 2 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander event
- May 2 Making Local Market at Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza
- May 6 Alliance for Affordable Housing (AHA) meeting

Councilmember Paige's report included:

- April 10 Evergreen Bottle Shop ribbon-cutting
- April 13 African American Leaders National Network meeting
- April 22 Road Runner Car Wash ribbon cutting
- April 24 Step Up conference
- April 25 MLT Arbor Day in Action event at Lake Ballinger
- April 25 Annual NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) benefit
- May 2 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander event

Councilmember Sonmore's report included:

- April Recreation and Park Advisory Commission meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Wahl's report included:

- April 22 Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee meeting
- April 23 Puget Sound Regional Council Operations Committee meeting
- April 23 Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board meeting

Mayor Woodard's report included:

- April 3 Seashore Transportation Forum meeting
- April 9 City Manager meeting
- April 10 Evergreen Bottle Shop ribbon-cutting
- April 14 Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) annual meeting
- April 14 Disability Board meeting
- April 15 South Snohomish County Cities meeting
- April 16 Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce event
- April 24 Step Up conference
- April 28 MLT Utility Planning Open House

- April 28 Lynnwood High School Family Engagement Night panelist
- April 30 Building Blocks webinar
- May Seashore Transportation Forum meeting
- May 2 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander event
- May 2 Making Local Market at Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza
- May 3 Bethany Church North new business visit
- May 6 Meeting with Snohomish County Councilmember Jared Mead

15. New Business


None

16. Adjournment

Mayor Woodard adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.



Steve Woodard, Mayor



Jennifer Joki, City Clerk