



**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA**

February 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place

To virtually attend the meeting, the public may:

1. **Watch the meeting live on TV10:** Comcast/Xfinity Channel 10
2. **Watch the meeting live, online:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUJob_hcQUmd4S93YkletdrA

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call of Councilmembers

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

(This is an opportunity for Mount Vernon residents to address their City Council. Please provide your information on the guest sign-in sheet located on the table near the entrance to the Council Chambers prior to speaking, and limit comments to three minutes or less. Under normal circumstances, the Mayor and Council will not respond immediately to Community Comments. If you would like someone to follow up with you regarding the topic of your comments, please leave your name and contact information on the form at the entrance of the Council Chambers. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to make your comments via Zoom, please submit a request to speak via email to communitycomments@mountvernonwa.gov or by telephone at 360-336-6211. Requests must be received by 4 p.m. on the meeting date.)

Interpretation services for Community Comments are available on request. Please contact the City at mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov or 360-336-6211 at least two business days prior to the meeting if you would like an interpreter to share your comments with City Council.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of February 11, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes
- B. Approval of February 20, 2026, Payroll checks numbered 113315 - 113326, direct deposit checks numbered 111513 - 111777, and wire transfers numbered 1544 - 1548, in the amount of \$1,618,205.51
- C. Approval of February 25, 2026, Claims numbered 33022 - 33149 in the amount of \$863,395.42

5. REPORTS

- A. Councilmember Comments
- B. Mayor's Report

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Ordinance – Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Animal Cruelty
(Staff is requesting approval of Ordinance 3936, updating Chapter 6.04 of the Municipal Code related to animal cruelty.)
(required action – ordinance)
(staff contact – Kevin Rogerson)

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT



**City of Mount Vernon
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026
Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place**

Present

Mayor Donovan

Councilmembers: Beaton, Daman, Hudson, Oliver, Tercero, Vander Stoep, West

Staff: Finance Director Volesky, City Attorney Rogerson, Parks and Recreation Director Berner, Fire Chief Harris, Library Director Huffman, Development Services Director Sexton, City Clerk Jensen, Police Chief Christmas, IT Director Thomas, Human Resources Director Keator, City Engineer Reinart

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- A. Mayor Donovan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- B. Mayor Donovan lead the pledge of allegiance
- C. City Clerk Jensen called roll of Councilmembers

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Vander Stoep moved to Move New Business Item A to the top of the agenda and approve the amended agenda. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0.

3. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Sara Gering, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against Resolution the K9 program.
- Scott Corea, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program, He suggested that the Library offer a letter writing class. He also spoke about Meals on Wheels, Ward meetings, and speaker time limits.
- Chuck Royal, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9

- program.
- Steve Quinn, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Nicki Levey, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Gary Katz, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about the city budget and in favor of the K9 program.
 - Stephanie, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Bev Herbst, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program.
 - Tom Wenzl, Clear Lake resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program.
 - Levi Hunt, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Oleg Otstavnoi, Mount Vernon, spoke about the Police and encouraged residents to get involved.
 - Andrea, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program and Resolution 1090.
 - Asia McDermott, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Arletta Gustafson, Sedro-Woolley resident, spoke against Resolution 1090 and K9 program.
 - Thomas Smith, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against Resolution 1090 and the K9 program.
 - Zig Wilker, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
- Barrier access
- Jack, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program
 - Yesenia Lopez-Gama, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program.
 - Elma Burnham, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against Resolution 1090 and the K9 program
 - Ben Bryant, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against Resolution 1090.
 - Arne Svendsen, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program.
 - Martha, Mount Vernon resident, shared her experiences with the Police Department.
 - Eric, Mount Vernon resident and representing Kulshan Creek Community, spoke favorably about the Police Department and encouraged council to engage with the Kulshan Creek community.
 - Linda Eiford, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program and encouraged Council to approve Resolution 1090.
 - Glen Davis, Mount Vernon resident, spoke in favor of the K9 program.
 - Lennis Herberger, Mount Vernon resident, spoke against the K9 program.
 - Ingrid, Mount Vernon resident, asked Council to postpone approval of Resolution 1090 and stated that she is not in favor of the K9 program.
 - Ken Salzman, Mount Vernon resident, in favor of the K9 program.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of January 28, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes
- B. Approval of February 5, 2026, Payroll checks numbered 113299 - 113314, direct deposit checks numbered 111244 - 111512, and wire transfers numbered 1539 - 1543, in the amount of \$1,323,416.75
- C. Approval of February 11, 2026, Claims numbered 32682 – 32871 in the amount of \$1,163,580.92
- D. Approval of Agreement Amendment – North Sound BH-ASO
- E. Approval of Agreement - Washington Trails Association

Councilmember Tercero moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A – E Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion passed 7-0.

5. REPORTS

- A. Councilmember Comments
 - Councilmember Tercero announced a Ward 1 meeting will be held on March 2nd at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 6 pm.
 - Councilmember Daman Demi reminded residents that the Ward 3 and At-Large meeting is February 12th at Fire Station 3, beginning at 5:30 pm.
 - Councilmember Oliver spoke about a recent demonstration by High School students, announced there will be a Ward 2 meeting, Friday, February 20th at Hillcrest Lodge beginning at 6 pm, and thanked all who spoke during community comments.
 - Councilmember Vander Stoep thanked all who spoke during community comments and spoke about communication and division.
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- B. Mayor's Report
 - Mayor Donovan attended the Mayors Innovation Project in Washington, DC January 30-31, where he spoke about the Downtown Floodwall.
 - 2026 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) meeting, 6 pm, Wednesday, March 11th at the Police/Court Campus
 - Mayor's Coffee Hour: February 24th, 10-11 am at Littlefield Celtic Center

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. (This item was presented at the beginning of the meeting.)
Presentation – Lincoln Theatre Foundation: Lincoln Theatre Foundation Director of Operations provided a history of the theatre and shared

upcoming events to celebrate the theatre's 100th Birthday.

- B. Approval of Agreement - Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (WA RCO): Mr. Reinart requested approval of a grant agreement with WA RCO to provide funds for the Carpenter Creek/Hickox Road Fish Passage Improvement project.

Councilmember Beaton moved to approve an agreement with WA RCO to provide a funding for the Carpenter Creek/Hickox Road Fish Passage Improvement project in the amount of \$3,193,314. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion passed 7-0.

- C. Approval of Resolution – K9 Program: Chief Christman requested approval of Resolution 1090 authorizing the reinstatement of the K9 program. The program will be funded by General Fund revenue.

Mayor Donovan acknowledged that funds have been moved around to use General Fund revenue to fund the startup costs for the K9 Program. The Resolution establishes a K9 Program to combat the rise of drug related crimes and the increase of drugs being brought into the City. Council approved the reinstatement of the K9 Program during the 2026 budget process and the budget includes K9 funding.

Councilmember Hudson spoke in favor of the K9 Program. She proposed approval of Resolution 1090, with the caveat of adding a process for accepting applications for the remaining opioid settlement funds.

Mayor Donovan, Mr. Volesky and Council discussed the funding of the K9 program, the IOS funding, opioid settlement funds disbursement, and K9 deployment policies.

Councilmember Tercero moved to approve Resolution 1090 re-establishing the Police Department K9 program. Seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion failed 4-3

- D. EXECUTIVE SESSION : None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Submitted by: Becky Jensen, City Clerk

Approved: February 25, 2026

NEW BUSINESS ITEM: A



DATE: February 25, 2026
TO: Mayor Donovan and City Council
FROM: Kevin Rogerson; City Attorney
SUBJECT: RE: ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE WASHINGTON STATE ANIMAL CRUELTY STATUTE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Passage of the Proposed Ordinance

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The City of Mount Vernon has authority to prosecute misdemeanor crimes - crimes punishable up to a maximum of 364 days in jail \$5000 fine or both. This is done through adopting crimes in its municipal code.

Washington State has adopted the gross misdemeanor of Animal Cruelty in the Second Degree pursuant to RCW 16.52.207. In order to grant the City authority to prosecute this crime, state law requires that it be adopted into the City's municipal code. The statute has gone through a number of amendments since its original adoption - including three in the past 10 years.

The proposed ordinance adopts the state law by reference as now or hereafter amended. Any future amendments to the state law would then be automatically adopted by the City without further need of legislative action.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS:

That it is in the best interest of the City to adopt Washington State's crime of Animal Cruelty in the second degree.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

ATTACHED:

Ordinance 3936

ORDINANCE NO. 3936

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON
RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL AMENDING CHAPTER 6.04 OF THE
MUNICIPAL CODE.**

WHEREAS, City Council finds there it is in the best interests of the City to adopt laws prohibiting animal cruelty.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT VERNON,
WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. Amendment. That Mount Vernon Municipal Code Section 6.04.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.04.200 Cruelty to animals.

RCW 16.52.207, Animal Cruelty in the Second Degree is hereby adopted by reference as it now exists or hereafter may be amended.

SECTION 2. Severability.

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, word, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

SECTION 3. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect five days after its publication.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2026.

SIGNED AND APPROVED this _____ day of February, 2026.

Peter Donovan, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Jensen, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Kevin Rogerson, City Attorney

Published February 28, 2026