



**City of Mount Vernon
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 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, Public Works Director Phillips, Police Chief Christmas, IT
Director Thomas, City Engineer Reinart, Senior Planner
Manville-Ailles, Capital Programs Manager Chesterfield,
Assistant Fire Chief Sanders

Citizens: 28

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- A. Mayor Donovan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- B. Mayor Donovan lead the pledge of allegiance
- C. City Clerk Jensen called roll of Councilmembers

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Alicia Lewis, Mount Vernon resident welcomed new councilmembers and spoke about AI, committee minutes, and public engagement.
- Gavin Birch, Alger resident, spoke against Flock Safety cameras and addressed a public records request he submitted.
- Harrison Gott, Alger resident, spoke against Flock Safety cameras.
- Andrea, Mount Vernon resident, welcomed new Councilmembers and spoke about public safety, public services, crime statistics, crime prevention, and Flock cameras.

- Callie Lowenstein, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about Flock cameras, community safety, the levy lid lift funds, and the IOS program.
- Chuck Messinger, Mount Vernon resident, provided coordinated entry system and Point and Time count information.
- Jack Canfield, Mount Vernon resident spoke about police and surveillance.
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4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of December 17, 2025, Regular Council Meeting minutes
- B. Approval of December 15, 2025, Payroll checks numbered 113244 – 113256, direct deposit checks numbered 110471 – 110728, and wire transfers numbered 1524 – 1528, in the amount of \$1,813,873.05
- C. Approval of January 5, 2026, Payroll checks numbered 113257 - 113272 – 113256, direct deposit checks numbered 110729 - 110991, and wire transfers numbered 1529 – 1533, in the amount of \$1,436,480.09
- D. Approval of December 24, 2025, Claims numbered 32321 – 32484 in the amount of \$1,036,688.77
- E. Approval of January 14, 2026, Claims numbered 32494 – 32670 in the amount of \$3,802,198.86
- F. Approval of Agreement – Skagit County
- G. Approval of Agreement Supplement No 1 – Washington State Department of Transportation
- H. Approval of Agreement – Pacific Surveying & Engineering, Inc.
- I. Approval of Agreement – Welcome Home Skagit
- J. Approval of Agreement – Helping Hands of Sedro-Woolley

Councilmember Tercero moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A – J Motion seconded by Councilmember Vander Stoep. Motion passed 7-0.

5. REPORTS

- A. Councilmember Comments
 - Councilmember Hudson spoke about community engagement and an upcoming Ward 3 meeting.
- B. Mayor’s Report
 - Mayor’s Coffee Hour will be January 15th from 10 – 11 am at Skagit Preschool & Resource Center (SPARC)

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Appointment to the Library Board: Mr. Huffman requested the reappointment of Joan Gordon to the Mount Vernon Library Board.

Councilmember Hudson moved to reappoint Joan Gordon to the Library Board. Motion seconded by Councilmember Daman. Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Approval of Appointment to the Planning Commission: Mr. Sexton requested the reappointment of LuAnne Burkhart to the Mount Vernon Planning Commission.

Councilmember Beaton moved to reappoint LuAnne Burkhart to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Donovan performed the swearing in of LuAnne Burkhart to the Planning Commission.

- C. Public Hearing and Approval of Ordinance – Rezone PLAN21-0506: Mr. Rogerson relayed quasi-judicial legal processes and the responsibilities of Council regarding this request. He asked a series of questions to council regarding any potential conflicts of interest. Councilmember Vander Stoep disqualified himself from participating on the item. Council received emails opposing the project citing flood controls and traffic concurrency. Mr. Rogers asked parties of records if they wish to disqualify a councilmember; no one came forward.

Ms. Manville-Ailles explained that this is a closed record public hearing and request to adopt Ordinance 3933, accepting the Hearings Examiner's recommendation to rezone Parcels P137379 and P137381, 4400 McLaughlin Road from Public (P) to Multi-Family Residential (4). The rezone is necessary to make the parcels consistent with their Comprehensive Plan designation of Medium High Density Multi-Family (MH MF).

Ms. Manville-Ailles reviewed the regulatory process of the Development Services Department.

Mayor Donovan opened the closed record public hearing.

Norm Barber, Mount Vernon resident and party of record, spoke on behalf of himself and neighbors, in opposition of the rezone to R4 and to consider the alternate zoning designation of R3.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Donovan closed the public hearing.

Ms. Manville-Ailles spoke about the option of R3 and the upcoming Comprehensive Plan updates that will likely eliminate the R3 zoning designation. She also spoke about a recent no rise flood study that was conducted on the property by the applicant of a project on adjacent property.

It was noted that this ordinance changes the zoning but does not approve a specific project.

Councilmember West moved to approve the Hearings Examiner's decision to Rezone PLAN21-0506 with Ordinance 3933 from Public (P) to Multi-Family Residential (4) . Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 6-0.

- D. Approval of Agreement – Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE): Mr. Chesterfield requested approval of an agreement with WSDOE for the FY2025-27 water Quality Stormwater Capacity Grant No. WQSWCAP-2527-MOUVER-0208 for the implementation of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit.

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve an agreement with WSDOE for a water Quality Stormwater Capacity Grant in the amount of \$120,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0.

- E. Approval of Ordinance – Additional Sales and Use Tax: Mr. Rogerson presented Ordinance 3934 expanding funding for public safety with an additional one tenth of one percent sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes as allow by ESHB2015.

Councilmember Beaton moved to approve Ordinance 3934 allowing additional public safety funding with an additional sales and use tax of one tenth of one percent, for criminal justice purposes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Vander Stoep. Motion passed 7-0.

- F. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore: Rogerson explained the necessity to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore.

Councilmember Tercero nominated Councilmember Hudson to act as Mayor Pro Tempore for the year 2026. Motion seconded by Councilmember Vander Stoep. Motion passed 7-0.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- none

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by: Becky Jensen, City Clerk

Approved: January 28, 2026