



**City of Mount Vernon  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 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, Human Resources Director Keator

Citizens: 36

**1. OPENING CEREMONIES**

- A. Mayor Donovan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Mayor Donovan lead the pledge of allegiance
- C. City Clerk Jensen called roll of Councilmembers

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Councilmember Beaton moved to approve the  
agenda as presented. Motion seconded by  
Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0**

**3. COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

- Sam Irons, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about funding a K9 Program with opioid settlement funds.
- Jaclynn Fisher, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about ICE and the City's cooperation with ICE.
- Nicki Levey, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about Flock cameras, their data access and a Police K9 Program.
- Ingrid, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about public safety, a Police K9 Program, and Flock cameras.

- Andrea, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about Flock cameras and encouraged council to vote no on resolution 1090.
- Gavin Birch, Alger resident, spoke about Flock cameras, resolution 1090, approving a K9 Program, and Parks proposals.
- Callie Lowenstein, Mount Vernon resident, spoke about opioid settlement funds and a Police K9 Program.
- May Gott, Skagit County resident, spoke about the City's response to the recent flood event and Flock cameras.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of January 14, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes
- B. Approval of January 20, 2026, Payroll checks numbered 113273 – 113298, direct deposit checks numbered 110992 – 111243, and wire transfers numbered 1534 – 1538, in the amount of \$1,681,305.88
- C. Approval of January 28, 2026, Claims numbered 32682 – 32871 in the amount of \$1,163,580.92
- D. Approval of Agreement – Skagit County
- E. Approval of Agreement – Modern Cleaners
- F. Approval of Extension of Agreement – Snohomish County Public Defenders Association
- G. Street Closure Request – Illuminight Winter Walk

**Councilmember Tercero moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A – G Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### **5. REPORTS**

- A. Councilmember Comments
  - Councilmember Vander Stoep thanked residents for attending, and spoke about developing some two-way communication with residents, staff, and elected officials.
  - Councilmember West spoke about Senate Bill 5923 related to critical access hospitals and asked Mayor Donovan to support the bill.
  - Councilmember Oliver thanked those in attendance for their comments and shared that there will be a Ward 2 meeting scheduled soon.
  - Councilmember Beaton, thanked all commenters and those in attendance, spoke about Flock cameras and ICE.
  - Councilmember Hudson thanked all in attendance for their comments, spoke about ICE, and announced that Councilmembers Hudson, Beaton, and Daman are hosting a Ward 3/At Large meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station 3. All residents are welcome.

- Councilmember West thanked commenters and supports the sanctuary state designation.

B. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Donovan and Councilmembers Daman, Oliver, and Tercero attended the Association of Washington Cities City Action Days in Olympia on January 21 & 22. They met with our WA State Senators and Representatives of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Districts.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Illuminight Winter Walk is this Friday, January 30, at Skagit Riverwalk Park.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of Appointment to the Planning Commission: Mr. Sexton requested the appointment of Brad Windler to the Mount Vernon Planning Commission.

**Councilmember Beaton moved to appoint Brad Windler to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember West. Motion passed 7-0.**

- B. Approval of Appointment to the Arts Commission: Ms. Berner requested the reappointments of Linda Brookings and Damond Morris to the Mount Vernon Arts Commission.

**Councilmember Oliver moved to reappoint Linda Brookings and Daman Morris to the Mount Vernon Arts Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion passed 7-0.**

Mayor Donovan performed the swearing in of Brad Windler to the Planning Commission and Damond Morris to the Arts Commission.

**Councilmember Hudson moved to amend the agenda by removing New Business Item E. Motion seconded by Councilmember Beaton. Motion passed 6-1**

- C. Approval of Agreement - Western Display Fireworks, Inc.: Ms. Berner requested approval of an agreement with Western Display Fireworks, Inc. to provide a public fireworks show on July 4, 2026. The primary viewing location will be moved to the east side of the river due to potential limited bridge access. Alternate locations were discussed; there is not another location that provides the required clearance zones.

**Councilmember Vander Stoep moved to approve an agreement with Western Display Fireworks, Inc. to provide a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show in the amount of \$23,100. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0.**

- D. Approval of Equipment Purchase - Sports Turf and Landscaping Machine: Ms. Berner requested approval of the purchase of an ABI Force Z23 sports turf and landscaping machine.

**Councilmember Vander Stoep moved to approve the purchase of an ABI Force Z23 sports turf and landscaping in the amount of \$59,793.28. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tercero. Motion passed 7-0.**

- E. Approval of Resolution – K9, K9 Vehicle and Equipment: This item was removed from the agenda.

- F. Approval of Ordinance – Amend City’s Purchasing Policies: Mr. Rogerson requested approval of Ordinance 3935 amending and establishing a model code ordinance regarding city purchasing policies for goods, services, both real and personal property and donations. Mr. Rogerson noted that since the last draft was reviewed by Council language was added requiring the Mayor to provide a report of contracts that were approved or terminated that did not require Council approval if such report is requested by Council. Council discussed the approval designations of various contract types and spending limits, it was proposed that Council approval be required for contracts over \$200,000 rather than the \$350,000 in the draft ordinance for purchased services, goods, supplies, materials, software, computers, telecom, and public works.

**Councilmember West moved to adopt Ordinance 3935, amending the City’s Purchasing Policies and amending the proposed approval requirement for contracts from exceeding 350,000 to exceeding \$200,00 for purchased services, goods, supplies, materials, software, computers, telecom, and public works. Motion seconded by Councilmember Vander Stoep. Motion passed 7-0.**

- G. Approval of Agreement Amendment - North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services: Chief Christman requested approval of an agreement with Skagit County for Integrated Outreach Services (IOS) funding in the amount of \$94,000.

**Councilmember Tercero moved to approve an agreement with Skagit County for IOS funding in the amount of \$94,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember Daman. Motion passed 7-0.**

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION :**

The meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for a period of thirty-five minutes, to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency, matters related to enforcement action agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). And to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to collective bargaining sessions which are exempt under RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) The regular meeting will reconvene at 8:45 p.m. There will be no action following the session.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting reconvened and adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Becky Jensen, City Clerk

Approved: February 11, 2026