



**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 Christman, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 6 pm.
  - Councilmember Daman Demi reminded residents that the Ward 3 and At-Large meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> at the Police/Court Campus
  - Mayor's Coffee Hour: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 Hudson. 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