



Lacey City Council Approved Worksession Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Council Present

Deputy Mayor Malcolm Miller
Councilmember Lenny Greenstein
Councilmember Michael Steadman (remote)
Councilmember Carolyn Cox
Councilmember Robin Vazquez
Councilmember Nicolas Dunning

Council Excused

Mayor Andy Ryder

Staff Present

Rick Walk, City Manager
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Scott Egger, Public Works Director
Dave Schneider, City Attorney
Aubrey Collier, City Engineer
Brian Petrin, Transportation Engineer
Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst
Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Deputy Mayor Miller presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

4. Approval of the Agenda

**Councilmember Greenstein moved to approve the agenda as published.
Councilmember Vazquez seconded. The motion carried.**

5. Public Comment

No verbal public comment was received; six (6) written public comments were received.

6. Agenda Items

A. Experience Olympia and Beyond Visitor Convention Bureau

Emily Brooks, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement

Kelly Campbell, Vice President of Finance and Administration, provided an organizational update indicating a current budget of \$1.4 million with a staff of four. Recent efforts include ongoing meetings with elected officials and stakeholders, the formation of a selection committee for interim leadership, and improved communication of board updates to member organizations.

Brooks gave an update on the state of tourism in Thurston County, sharing that 3.39 million people visited the area, traveling more than 50 miles to their destination. These visitors provided an economic impact by spending \$572.5 million, supporting 4,076 local jobs, and generating \$56.7 million in tax revenue. Overnight visitors made up 41.2% of all visitors but accounted for 70.7% of all spending. A snapshot of Lacey visitors showed that many are inspired to travel by websites found through search engines. The most popular activities included dining, shopping, and enjoying the area's natural beauty, with top travel interests being nature experiences, road trips, and seasonal getaways. Discussion ensued.

B. Five-Year Homeless Plan

Tom Webster, Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention Manager
Jackie Velasco, Homeless Services Program Manager

Webster provided an overview of the Five-Year Homeless Plan. Thurston County is currently drafting its 2025-2030 Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan, which is required every 5 years by the Washington State Department of Commerce. Webster detailed plan requirements, statewide objectives, stakeholder engagement, public engagement efforts and strategies, and timeline leading up to a public hearing, Regional Housing Council review, and final approval by the Board of County Commissioners. The Final 2025-2030 Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan is due to the Washington State Department of Commerce in December 2025.

Velasco detailed statewide objectives that aim to:

1. Promote an equitable, accountable, and transparent homeless crisis response system.
2. Strengthen the homeless service provider workforce.
3. Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible.
4. Prioritize assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm.

5. Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs.

Velasco presented proposed resource allocation priorities for maintaining and improving the effectiveness of the Homeless Response System (HRS), expanding HRS capacity, and using existing capital resources to create new affordable housing units throughout Thurston County. Discussion ensued.

C. 2024 Transportation Benefit District Annual Report

Brian Petrin, Transportation Engineer

Petrin presented the 2024 Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Annual Report, which included a financial summary showing \$3.9 million in revenue, \$2.4 million in expenditures, and a \$4.4 million funding balance. The report covered completed projects, Pavement Condition Index (PCI) trends, and various budget scenarios (unfunded, funded, maintained, and needs-based). Key 2024 projects included Yelm Highway rehabilitation, Pacific/Homann roundabout improvements and sharrows route striping, and carryover crack sealing from 2023. Project metrics were reported in terms of paving, materials used, pavement striping, and crack sealing. Upcoming projects include 8th Avenue rehabilitation, sidewalk repairs, and the College Street NE extension in 2025, and improvements to Willamette Drive and additional sidewalk repairs in 2026.

Aubrey Collier, City Engineer, explained that a TBD is a funding tool authorized under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) that allows local governments to finance transportation improvements. Collier reviewed the TBD's timeline and discussed the potential schedule for renewal.

D. Revenue Sources Overview: Cable Utility Tax and Lodging Tax

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst

Kelley-Fong presented a recap of potential revenue options previously discussed at the August 19 and September 9, 2025, Council meetings. These included technology fees, body-worn camera fees, franchise fees, gambling tax, utility tax, and business and occupation (B&O) tax. This presentation explored additional potential revenue sources through a cable utility tax. Discussion ensued.

Siglin presented an overview of the lodging tax, including its allowable revenue uses, the application and award process, and resulting outcomes. The presentation highlighted potential allocation of funds generated through lodging tax. A discussion on lodging tax revenue funding ensued.

E. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

At 9:07 p.m., Council recessed for 5 minutes.

At 9:12 p.m., Council recessed to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss matters pertaining to current or potential litigation. Deputy Mayor Miller announced that the executive session would start at 9:12 p.m. and last approximately 10 minutes, after which the Council would reconvene at or shortly after 9:22 p.m. The executive session lasted 10 minutes, and no final action was taken.

7. Adjourn

Deputy Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

MAYOR: 
Andy Ryder, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Elissa Fontaine, City Clerk

APPROVED: November 3, 2025