



Lacey City Council Worksession Approved Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ryder called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Council Present

Mayor Andy Ryder

Deputy Mayor Malcolm Miller

Councilmember Lenny Greenstein

Councilmember Michael Steadman (remote)

Councilmember Robin Vazquez (remote)

Councilmember Nicolas Dunning (remote)

Council Excused

Councilmember Carolyn Cox

Staff Present

Rick Walk, City Manager

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Dave Schneider, City Attorney

Robert Almada, Police Chief

Jennifer Burbidge, Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director

Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director

Troy Woo, Finance Director

Ryan Andrews, Community Planning Manager

Brett Boogerd, Capital Project Engineer

Hans Shepherd, Senior Planner

Paul J. White, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Ryder presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgment.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Councilmember Greenstein moved to approve the agenda. Deputy Mayor Miller seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Verbal Public Comment

One person signed up to speak at the meeting.

Michael Cade, Executive Director, Thurston County Economic Development Council, thanked Council for proclaiming November 29 Small Business Saturday on November 18 and commented on the economic impact of small businesses.

No one registered to speak remotely.

Written Public Comment

One written public comment was received.

6. Agenda Items

A. **2026 State Legislative Agenda and Manual**

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Brian Enslow, State Government Affairs Consultant

Enslow presented an overview of the 2026 legislative session. Party majorities in the House and Senate were noted and factors affecting legislative activity were discussed. Enslow discussed policy alignment between branches of government, the 2026 election, and the condition of the state budget and tax initiatives. Enslow commented on transportation revenue forecasts and highlighted housing as a policy priority. The effect of indigent defense standards changes on municipal budgets was discussed.

Kelley-Fong reviewed the City's state legislative agenda and legislative manual, which are proposed for approval in December. The manual sets parameters for City-sponsored advocacy efforts in the State Legislature and includes the following budget and policy priorities:

- Operating funds for a Thurston County Regional Police Training Academy
- Statutory authority for formation of animal control and shelter districts
- Extension of annexation sales tax credits
- Long-term funding for right-of-way initiative programs aimed at resolving homeless encampments along state highways
- Local law enforcement grant program refinements
- Councilmanic authority to maintain transportation benefit districts
- Funding sources for public defense caseload standards changes

B. Regional Athletic Complex Improvements

Jennifer Burbidge, Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director
Troy Woo, Finance Director
Brett Boogerd, Capital Project Engineer

Burbidge presented an update on the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) Improvements Project which is in its design phase. Burbidge noted preliminary project cost estimates and correlated them to planned and potential improvements ranging from \$7.4 to \$32.6 million. Woo described debt scenarios over 15, 20, and 30 years, and discussion ensued.

C. Comprehensive Plan Update

Vanessa Dolbee, Director of Community & Economic Development
Ryan Andrews, Community Planning Manager
Jeffrey Gadman, Chair of Planning Commission
Hans Shepherd, Senior Planner

Dolbee, Andrews, Shepherd, and Gadman provided an overview of the statutory framework of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The plan's 25-year revision process, including community engagement, key City Council actions, and community priorities and goals as shown in survey responses were described. Shepherd summarized proposed changes to land use and zoning maps and codes. Andrews shared community input from the October 8, 2025, public hearing. Shepherd provided a tour of the Comprehensive Plan website, and Gadman reported on the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding the Thurston County Housing Authority's proposed affordable housing development on Mullen Road. Next steps include City Council adoption scheduled in December, followed by submission to the Department of Commerce for review and approval.

Announcement

Robert Almada, Police Chief, updated the City Council on a November 14, 2025, double homicide in Lacey, in which suspects have been identified and arrests have been made.

7. Adjourn

Mayor Ryder adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

MAYOR: 
Andy Ryder, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Elissa Fontaine, City Clerk

APPROVED: December 16, 2025

