



City Council Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Council Present

Mayor Andy Ryder
Deputy Mayor Malcolm Miller
Councilmember Lenny Greenstein
Councilmember Michael Steadman
Councilmember Carolyn Cox
Councilmember Robin Vazquez
Councilmember Nicolas Dunning

Staff Present

Rick Walk, City Manager
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Robert Almada, Police Chief
Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director
Dave Schneider, City Attorney
Troy Woo, Finance Director
Ryan Andrews, Community Planning Manager
Chelsea Knight, Acting Financial Services Manager
Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development
Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst
Elissa Fontaine, City Clerk

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ryder led the Flag Salute.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Ryder presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement.

5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the November 25, 2025, Worksession
- B. Minutes of the December 2, 2025, Council Dinner meeting
- C. Minutes of the December 2, 2025, Council meeting
- D. Approval of claims, wages, and transfers for November 25 through December 5, 2025

Councilmember Greenstein moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Councilmember Vazquez seconded. The motion carried.

6. Public Recognitions and Presentations

A. North Thurston High School Volleyball Team State Champions

Jackie Meyer, Teacher and Coach, North Thurston High School

Angela Brooks, Director of Activities, Arts, & Athletics, North Thurston High School

Mayor Ryder and Council recognized the North Thurston High School Volleyball team for winning the State Championship. The championship marks the first state championship for the volleyball team in seventy (70) years.

B. 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Joel Rubin, CFM Advocates

David Hodges, CFM Advocates

Kelley-Fong, Rubin, and Hodges presented the federal legislative priorities for 2026. The presentation highlighted recent successes, the draft federal agenda, a review of 2025, a preview of 2026, and 2026 midterm election forecast. The 2026 federal agenda prioritizes the Senior Center Expansion, Huntamer Park Civic Implementation, and the College Street Safety Improvement Project. A review of the City's policy priorities were presented in detail. Discussion ensued.

C. Night Market Update

Wesley Nguyen, Economic Development Coordinator

Jason Huang, SWAE Night Market

Nguyen and Huang presented an update on the Lacey Night Market. The Night Market is executed by SWAE through a contract and continues to offer free, inclusive events that bring residents, visitors, and local businesses together at the Lacey Depot. The presentation included event statistics, visitor data, vendor totals and testimonials, attendee demographics, and sales-tax impact.

D. Retirement of Police Commander Joe Upton

Rick Walk, City Manager

Robert Almada, Police Chief

In honor of Upton's upcoming retirement, Almada highlighted Commander Upton's service to the Lacey Police Department for over 33 years. The Mayor, Council, and staff presented Upton with a City of Lacey Police Department Commendation.

7. Proclamations

A. Recognition of Service Clubs

Representatives from regional service clubs

Mayor Ryder and Council paid tribute to service club organizations. Representatives from the Lacey Rotary, Gateway Rotary, Hawks Prairie Rotary, Lacey Sunrise Lions, Sergeants Major Association Northwest, and Fred U. Harris Lodge #70 PHA, were present to accept the proclamation.

8. Public Comment

Verbal Public Comment

One (1) person signed up to speak at the meeting.

Shauna Stewart, Interim CEO of the Visitors Convention Bureau (VCB), provided an introduction and highlighted VCB efforts supporting Lacey.

One (1) person registered to speak remotely.

Sarah Bland, Lacey resident, signed up to speak but was not present during the time of public comment.

Written Public Comment

No written public comments were received.

9. Resolutions

A. Resolution 1178 - 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan Adoption

Kimberly Graham, Thurston County Hazardous Waste Specialist

Graham presented the County's 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan for adoption. Pursuant to state law, all counties and cities must develop a plan that provides a framework for the management of community-generated solid and hazardous waste. The law allows jurisdictions the flexibility to develop such plans jointly and requires that the plans be reviewed every five (5) years.

Councilmember Dunning moved to approve Resolution 1178, adopting the 2025 Thurston County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Councilmember Steadman seconded. The motion carried.

10. Ordinances

A. **Ordinance 1689: Chapter 9.60 - Indigent Defense Standards Amendment**

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong presented draft Ordinance 1689, amending Lacey Municipal Code (LMC) Chapter 9.60 relating to Indigent Defense Standards. As currently written, the City's indigent defense standards will be out of compliance with the Supreme Court Standards as of January 1, 2026. Staff recommend amending LMC Chapter 9.60 to remain in compliance. Staff noted that remaining standards are under review by the Supreme Court and once a full decision is rendered, the City Council may need to re-address additional standards.

Councilmember Vazquez moved to approve Ordinance 1689, related to the Standards for Indigent Defense, amending Lacey Municipal Code 9.60.010. Councilmember Dunning seconded.

The motion carried, 6-1:

In favor: Ryder, Miller, Greenstein, Vazquez, Cox, and Dunning

Opposed: Steadman

B. **Ordinance 1690: Cable Utility Tax**

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

Kelley-Fong presented draft Ordinance 1690, relating to the utility tax on the conduct of cable services. The proposed ordinance implements a 6-percent utility tax on cable services, estimating a \$720,000 increase in revenue within the general fund.

Councilmember Dunning moved to adopt Ordinance 1690, related to Utility Tax, imposing a utility tax upon the Conduct of Cable Services within the City, Amending Sections 3.01.020 – 060, 3.01.070, and 3.01.090 all the Lacey Municipal Code, and approving a summary for publication. Councilmember Cox seconded. The motion carried.

C. **Ordinance 1691: Reserve Designation**

Chelsea Knight, Acting Financial Services Manager

Knight presented draft Ordinance 1691, establishing fund balance designations as provided by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54.

Mayor Ryder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1691, establishing fund balance designations as provided by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 and approving a summary for publication. Councilmember Greenstein seconded. The motion carried.

D. Ordinance 1692: Business & Occupation Tax Model

Chelsea Knight, Acting Financial Services Manager

Knight presented draft Ordinance 1692, relating to the Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax Model. The update amends LMC 3.02.040 in order to comply with the statewide B&O Model tax Ordinance.

Councilmember Greenstein moved to adopt Ordinance 1692, amending Lacey Municipal Code 3.02.040 to comply with the Statewide B&O Model Tax Ordinance. Councilmember Vazquez seconded.

The motion carried, 6-1:

In favor: Ryder, Miller, Greenstein, Cox, Vazquez, and Dunning

Opposed: Steadman

E. Ordinance 1693: 2026 Budget

Troy Woo, Finance Director

Woo presented draft Ordinance 1693, setting the total 2026 budget in the amount of \$224,954,147, and the General Fund total budget in the amount of \$74,396,916.

Deputy Mayor Miller moved to adopt Ordinance 1693, setting the total 2026 budget at \$224,954,147. Councilmember Greenstein seconded. The motion carried.

F. Ordinance 1694: Comprehensive Plan Adoption

Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director

Ryan Andrews, Community Planning Manager

Dolbee and Andrews presented draft ordinance 1694, adopting the Comprehensive Plan (Plan). The Plan is required to be reviewed and updated every ten (10) years and establishes the community vision for the next twenty (20) years. The Plan elements include greenhouse gas reduction; resiliency; transportation; economic development; housing; land use; parks and recreation; capital facilities; utilities; and shorelines and were reviewed in detail.

Councilmember Greenstein moved to adopt Ordinance 1694, adopting the 2025 update to the Lacey Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Vazquez seconded. The motion carried.

G. Ordinance 1695: Title 16 Zoning Amendments

Vanessa Dolbee, Community and Economic Development Director

Ryan Andrews, Community Planning Manager

The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan prompts necessary amendments to Title 16, related to zoning. Andrews presented draft Ordinance 1695, amending Title 16.

Mayor Ryder moved to adopt Ordinance 1695, adopting proposed text amendments to Title 16 of the Lacey Municipal Code. Councilmember Dunning seconded. The motion carried.

11. Mayor's Report

- A. Commission on Equity Reappointment - Raul Garza
- B. Commission on Equity Reappointment - Clifton Brown
- C. Commission on Equity Reappointment - Jon Hegwood
- D. Commission on Equity Reappointment - Kim Sauer

Mayor Ryder moved to re-appoint Raul Garza, Clifton Brown, Jon Hegwood, and Kim Sauer to the Commission on Equity. Deputy Mayor Miller seconded. The motion carried.

12. City Manager's Report

- A. **2026 Lodging Tax Fund Allocation**
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst

Siglin presented the 2026 lodging tax fund awards as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC). The Council received a detailed presentation of the LTAC's selection and allocation process during the November 18, 2025, Worksession. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Greenstein moved to approve the funding awards with the reassignment of FIFA funds to the RAC. Councilmember Dunning seconded.

The motion failed, 1-6:

In favor: Greenstein

Opposed: Ryder, Miller, Steadman, Cox, Vazquez, and Dunning

Councilmember Steadman moved to approve the lodging tax funding awards as recommended by the LTAC, and outlined in Table A for the 2026 funding cycle. Councilmember Dunning seconded.

The motion carried, 6-1:

In favor: Ryder, Miller, Steadman, Cox, Vazquez, and Dunning

Opposed: Greenstein

Announcements:

Walk extended an invitation to Commander Upton's retirement celebration, scheduled for the following week at City Hall.

Walk congratulated Council and City staff for all the hard work and accomplishments shared throughout the 2025 year.

13. Council Reports

A. Mayor Andy Ryder:

1. Mayors' Forum
2. Thurston Chamber Shared Legislative Committee
3. Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

Mayor Ryder provided reports from the Mayors' Forum and the TPB.

Mayor Ryder announced the December 23, 2025, Council Worksession would be canceled.

B. Deputy Mayor Malcolm Miller:

1. Economic Development Council (EDC)
2. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC)
3. Thurston County Coalition Against Trafficking (TCCAT)
4. Joint Animal Services Commission (JASCOM)

Deputy Mayor Miller provided a report from JASCOM.

C. Councilmember Lenny Greenstein:

1. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
2. TCOMM911
3. Opioid Abatement Council Independent Subcommittee

Councilmember Greenstein did not provide any reports.

D. Councilmember Michael Steadman:

1. Nisqually River Council
2. Thurston County Law & Justice Council

Councilmember Steadman did not provide any reports.

Councilmember Steadman thanked the City for the opportunity to serve during his tenure on the Council.

- E. Councilmember Carolyn Cox:
1. Lacey-Olympia-Tumwater-Thurston Clean Water Alliance (LOTT)
 2. Regional Housing Council
 3. Intercity Transit Authority

Councilmember Cox provided reports from RHC and LOTT.

- F. Councilmember Robin Vazquez:
1. Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC)
 2. Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

Councilmember Vazquez provided a report from the TRPC.

Councilmember Vazquez thanked the City for the opportunity to serve during her tenure on the Council.

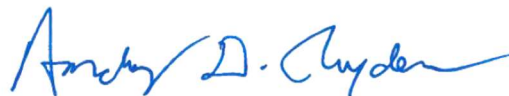
- G. Councilmember Nicolas Dunning:
1. Thurston Thrives
 2. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
 3. Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB)
 4. Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA)
 5. Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board (LEOFF-1)

Councilmember Dunning provided reports from SWAC, ORCAA, and the VCB.

14. Adjourn

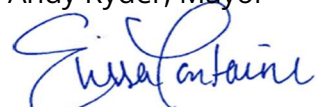
Mayor Ryder adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

MAYOR:



Andy Ryder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elissa Fontaine, City Clerk

APPROVED: January 6, 2026