Battle Ground City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Battle Ground City Council was called to order in the Battle Ground Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Eric Overholser. The meeting was recorded via Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Executive Assistant Kelly Jensen called the roll. The following were present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Eric Overholser, Deputy Mayor Vaile, and Councilmembers Troy McCoy (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Shane Bowman (via Zoom), Victoria Ferrer, Jeanie Kuypers, and Brian Munson

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Kristina Swanson, Deputy City Manager Robert Ferrier, Finance and Information Services Director Meagan Lowery, Police Chief Dennis Flynn, Public Works Director Mark Herceg, Community Development Director Kristin Lehto, Acting City Attorney Aziza Foster (via Zoom), Communications Manager/Public Information Officer Alisha Smith, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Kelly Jensen.

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER MCCOY
MOTION: Councilmember Ferrer moved to excuse Councilmember McCoy
SECOND: Councilmember Kuypers
VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA **7:02 p.m.**
MOTION: Councilmember Munson moved to approve the agenda as presented.
SECOND: Councilmember Ferrer
VOTE: Motion carried 6-0

Councilmember McCoy entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

SUMMARY REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS **7:03 p.m.**
Councilmember Reports:

- *Councilmember Ferrer provided a report on the recent Urban County Policy Board meeting held March 9, 2026.*
- *Councilmember Ferrer provided a report on the recent ECHO meeting held March 10, 2026.*

- *Councilmember McCoy provided a report on the recent RTC meeting.*

Mayor's Report:

- *Mayor Overholser provided a report on the recent EMS District 2 Board meeting held March 9, 2026.*
- *Mayor Overholser provided a report on the recent C-TRAN Board Composition Committee meeting and C-Tran Board of Directors meeting.*
  The Council discussed the C-TRAN Board meeting report.

Presentations:

- **New Employee Introduction and Oath of Office: Police Officer Brandon Degraw**
  Police Chief Dennis Flynn introduced Officer Degraw, who took the Oath of Office and was welcomed by the Council.
- **Council for the Homeless Presentation:**
  Sunny Wonder, Chief Operating Officer and Sesany Fennie-Jones Chief Executive Officer for Council for the Homeless provided a presentation to the Council.
  Council discussed the presentation
  Ms. Wonder and Ms. Fennie-Jones responded to questions from Council

CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS **8:04 p.m.**

- *Simon (last name not given) provided public comment*
- *Jessica Cole provided public comment*

CONSENT AGENDA **8:12 p.m.**

A. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026
B. City Council Special Meeting/Council Retreat Minutes of March 6, 2026
C. Claim Vouchers dated 02/25/2026 #99453-#99489 and Bank Drafts, in the amount of $466,091.72
D. Claim Vouchers dated 03/05/2026 #99490-#99527 and Bank Drafts, in the amount of $434,740.25
E. Claim Vouchers dated 03/10/2026 #99528-#99609 and Bank Drafts, in the amount of $1,302,296.40
F. Payroll dated 03/10/2026, vouchers #29297-#29298 in the amount of $983.86 and direct deposits of $308,381.26 for a total payroll of $309,365.12
G. Battle Ground Municipal Code Updates – Set Public Hearing for April 20, 2026
H. NE 1st Street Phase 2 – Right of Way Purchase Approval – Brauhn
I. Clark County Construction Agreement

MOTION: Councilmember Ferrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
SECOND: Councilmember Kuypers
VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 26-02 Surplus of Utility Equipment: Public Hearing/Motion **8:13 p.m.**

Presented by Finance and Information Technologies Director Meagan Lowery
Summary: The Council heard public testimony and considered the adoption of Ordinance 2026-02: Surplus of Utility Equipment.

Director Lowery provided a brief presentation.

Mayor Overholser opened the public hearing at 8:13 p.m.

- *No public testimony was provided*

Mayor Overholser closed the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Ferrer moved to adopt Resolution 26-02 as presented.
SECOND: Deputy Mayor Vaile
Council discussed the Resolution
Attorney Aziza Foster responded to questions from Council
Director Lowery responded to questions from Council
VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

BUSINESS **8:17 p.m.**

4th Quarter 2025 Financial Overview
Presented by Finance and Information Technologies Director Meagan Lowery
Summary: The City Council was presented with an overview of the city's fourth quarter 2025 financial performance.

Director Lowery provided a presentation.
The Council discussed the presentation.
Director Lowery responded to questions from Council.

Capital Projects 101
Presented by Public Works Director Mark Herceg
Summary: The City Council received a presentation on the basics of a capital project, from planning and design through construction.

The Council discussed the presentation.
Director Herceg responded to questions from Council.

Ordinance No. 2026-03 Northwest Natural Gas Franchise Agreement: Presentation/Set Public Hearing
Presented by Deputy City Manager Robert Ferrier
Summary: The council received a presentation and considered setting a public hearing to hear public testimony regarding a proposed franchise agreement with Northwest Natural Gas Company.

The Council discussed the presentation.
Acting City Attorney Aziza Foster responded to questions from the Council.
Director Herceg responded to questions from Council regarding the term length of the agreement.
Deputy City Manager Ferrier responded to questions from Council regarding the term length of the agreement.

CONSENSUS was reached by the Council directing staff to present additional information at the public hearing regarding potential revisions to the proposed Franchise Agreement's term length, including documentation of the procedural standards and changes over the past 30 years that led to the current ten-year term proposal.

Deputy City Clerk Kelly Jensen read the Title of Ordinance 2026-03 (First Reading)

MOTION: Councilmember Kuypers moved to set a public hearing for April 20, 2026, to hear public testimony regarding Ordinance 2026-03 Northwest Natural Gas Franchise Agreement.
SECOND: Councilmember Munson
VOTE: Motion carried 7-0

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS **9:31 p.m.**

- *City Manager Swanson reported on the following:*
  - *Ms. Swanson noted that the revisions, updates, and modernizations proposed for the NW*

Natural Gas Franchise Agreement align with the model policies provided by MRSC, which recommend a ten-year term length for such agreements.

- *Update regarding the first part of the West Main Commons project: Eight permits have been issued.*
- *2026 Legislative Awards: The City received $1.4 million for additional projects including $1 million for the 92nd Avenue Pump Station (Force Main) and $400,000 for the inclusive play equipment at Remy Park.*
- *SB5820 passed (Rail line bill). Ms. Swanson noted the city sent a letter to the governor encouraging him to sign the bill.*
- *The City's Federal Lobbyist has completed all submissions to the three congressional offices.*

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS **9:33 p.m.**

- *Councilmember Munson: Thanked Representatives McClintock and Ley for their help with the 2026 Legislative Awards, and thanked Deputy Mayor Vaile and Councilmember Ferrer for going to Olympia.*

- *Councilmember Ferrer: Question regarding whether the Council will be introduced to the newly employed Construction Project Manager at the next council meeting.*
  City Manager Swanson responded in the affirmative.

- *Councilmember Ferrer stated that with respect to the emails council has received regarding the Grace Project, could Director Herceg put together a presentation and update regarding this project.*
  The Council discussed Councilmember Ferrer's request.
  Director Herceg responded to questions from Council.

- *Councilmember Ferrer proposed a future agenda item regarding the creation of a City Code Review Board for the council.*
  The Council discussed Councilmember's request.
  Community Development Director Kristin Lehto responded to questions from the Council.
  Acting City Attorney Aziza Foster responded to questions from the Council regarding the city's established Planning Commission and its involvement in the review of municipal code changes.
  Mayor Overholser directed Staff and legal to look at the validity of having a review committee for Ordinances and Code to see if that is something that we want to entertain or if it's legally unadvisable.

- *Mayor Overholser announced that the Battle Ground Citizen of the Year has been awarded to Johanna Hyatt. Mayor Overholser invited citizens and staff to attend the celebration on April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Prairie Tavern.*

- *Mayor Overholser announced that 324 kids are registered for Battle Ground Little League, forming 31 teams. This is the highest number of registrants ever reported.*

- *Mayor Overholser thanked Representatives Stephanie McClintock and John Ley for helping secure the funding for the City of Battle Ground, Senator Adrian Cortes for getting the rail bill through, and Josh Weiss for all of his continued hard work on the legislative side.*

- *Mayor Overholser announced the Legislative Town Hall scheduled for March 28, 2026, in the Battle Ground City Hall Council Chambers.*

POINT OF ORDER: Councilmember McCoy raised a Point of Order, noting there was a motion on the floor that needed to be addressed.

Mayor Overholser ruled on the Point of Order by requesting that Councilmember McCoy formalize the motion.

MOTION: Councilmember McCoy moved to direct staff and legal to bring forth to council what a potential council led Code Committee would look like.
SECOND: Mayor Overholser

The Council discussed the motion

Mayor Overholser called for a Roll Call Vote.

VOTE: Motion Failed 1-6
AYES: Councilmember Ferrer
NAYS: Mayor Overholser, Deputy Mayor Vaile, Councilmember McCoy, Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Kuypers, Councilmember Munson

- *Councilmember Munson: Question regarding the status of the Battle Ground Little League Contract Deputy City Manager Robert Ferrier responded to the question.*

ADJOURNMENT
The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 – No Study Session - Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Eric Overholser (Apr 8, 2026 16:48:05 PDT)

Eric Overholser
Mayor

Elizabeth Halili

Elizabeth Halili
City Clerk

Date of approval by the City Council: April 6, 2026

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Final Audit Report 2026-04-09

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