



Meeting Location:
Council Chambers
216 Prospect Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366

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City Council Minutes

Work Study Session of Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk as follows:

Present: John Morrissey, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Councilmember, Position No. 2
Jay Rosapepe, Councilmember, Position At-Large
Shirah Dedman, Councilmember, Position No. 6, **via Zoom**
Mark Trenary, Councilmember, Position No. 1
Eric Worden, Councilmember, Position No. 4
Heidi Fenton, Councilmember, Position No. 5
Scott Diener, Councilmember, Position No. 3
Robert Putaansuu, Mayor

Staff present: City Clerk Wallace and City Attorney Archer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Putaansuu called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Putaansuu led the audience and Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Putaansuu said he would like to share with the Council a couple things at the end of the meeting; downtown mural proposal, Gorst Coalition, and funding for Bay Street.

A. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor Pro-tempore 2026

Moved by Eric Worden; seconded by Scott Diener to Appoint Councilmember John Morrissey as the Mayor Pro-tempore for 2026.

Motion Carried: 7- 0

Voting For: Mark Trenary, Jay Rosapepe, Scott Diener, Eric Worden, Heidi Fenton, John Morrissey, Shirah Dedman

Voting Against: None

B. Council Committee Assignments

After discussion and polling, the Council Committee assignments were suggested as follows:

Land Use

Diener
Rosapepe
Dedman

Economic Development/Tourism

Fenton
Morrissey
Dedman

Transportation

Diener
Trenary
Worden

Finance

Trenary
Worden
Morrissey

Utilities/SAC

Fenton
Dedman
Rosapepe

Lodging Tax

Morrissey

Ad hoc POMC Title 2.04 Review

Rosapepe
Worden
Diener

Outside agencies:

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC): Fenton
Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC): Trenary (alt)
Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA): Morrissey
Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) : Trenary (alt)
Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC): Rosapepe (alt)
Kitsap Public Health Board: Rosapepe (alt)
Kitsap Transit (2nd year term): Rosapepe (alt)
911: Fenton (alt)

Council Direction: A resolution will be brought forth at the next Council meeting for adoption of the Committee assignments.

C. Team Building Workshop

Mayor Putaansuu provided a proposal for a team building workshop for him and Council. The purpose is to provide City Council and the Mayor with a structured, neutral retreat designed to strengthen trust, clarify toles, and establish shared ways of working, so Council meetings and interactions are more productive, respectful, and aligned with the City's values and responsibilities to the community.

In response to Mayor Putaansuu asking if the Council would like to proceed with this workshop, Councilmembers Fenton, Dedman, and Trenary voiced their concerns which included the cost of \$5,000.

Mayor Putaansuu mentioned this workshop would need the full Council's support. As it does not, the workshop will not be moving forward.

Council Direction: None

A brief discussion was held about not having a facilitator for the next Council Retreat.

At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Putaansuu recessed the meeting for a 5-minute break.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Putaansuu reconvened the meeting back into session.

D. Council Outreach

Coffee with Council

Council discussed the next few months of Coffee with Council and agreed that Councilmembers Diener, Fenton, and Dedman would attend February 7th; Councilmembers Morrissey, Dedman, and Worden would attend March 7th; Councilmembers Diener, Rosapepe, and Trenary would attend April 4th; and Councilmembers Morrissey, Trenary, and Worden would attend May 2nd.

Councilmember Virtual Hours

Councilmember Dedman inquired about hosting virtual meetings for her to meet with the public. She would carve out a specific timeframe and noted this would also be helpful to individuals who may have accessibility issues.

In response, Mayor Putaansuu noted he would like to assist with this idea and asked Councilmember Dedman to send him an email outlining what she envisions. Once it is finalized, he would like to share the information with the public. He said this option is open to all Councilmembers.

Town Hall Meetings

Councilmember Worden read into record a statement outlining his concerns regarding another Councilmember questioning meetings he and Councilmember Morrissey wanted to have with their neighbors at McCormick Woods. He said he is open to hearing from all Councilmembers on this topic but asked that we be honest and consistent.

Discussion was held regarding transparency, having town hall meetings that would target certain geographic areas, not having the meetings at City Hall but rather in the specific geographic area of the City, attendance of the meetings, option to mail notices, town hall meetings should be less formal than City Council meetings, location options, using the City's booth at the downtown Farmer's Market, outreach, staff responding to citizen questions, timeframes, and holding a Q&A during the town hall meetings.

City Attorney Archer explained there is no requirement to record the meeting, but by state law, the meeting would need to be noticed, an agenda published, and minutes taken.

Council Direction: Hold the first meeting in McCormick Woods, discuss at a work study session the topics for these meetings, bring this up again at the next Council meeting for possible dates, and have the Town Hall meetings on a Thursday.

Mayor Putaansuu spoke about federal funding and the Bay Street project which was selected for three million dollars, explaining he was notified earlier in the day that there is a bipartisan transportation funding package that is working its way through the system and there could be a vote as early as next week. He explained the next steps in the process and pointed out we may still not receive the money.

Mayor Putaansuu also said he received a proposal from a local artist for a mural downtown off the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway near the Soroptimist pavilion. The proposal is \$4,500 plus tax.

Additional discussion was held regarding a bid and proposal process to allow other options and artists to showcase their work.

Council Direction: Council would like more options and artists to choose from and would like Mayor Putaansuu to bring up the Gorst Coalition topic at the next Council meeting.

3. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Not held.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. No other action was taken.

Signed by:
Brandy Wallace
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Brandy Wallace, MMC, City Clerk

Signed by:
Rob Putaansuu
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Robert Putaansuu, Mayor

