



MEETING MINUTES FOR WORKSHOP AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council Chambers – 1300 1st Street

March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

WORKSHOP

Grays Harbor College Forestry Program, Patrick Mahoney gave his presentation.

FLAG SALUTE - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Mayor Springer calls the meeting to order; Clerk Vinyard takes Roll Call.

PRESENT: Councilmember Kim Skinner, Councilmember Jeremy Winn *via Zoom*, Councilmember Justin Spargo, Councilmember Steve Davis, Councilmember Sue Darcy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clerk Vinyard states all the action items need to be removed from the agenda tonight. All three items will come back at another meeting.

Councilmember Skinner moves to approve the agenda with modifications; Councilmember Darcy seconded.

Discussion: Councilmember Davis verifies the discussion portion on these items are still intact for this meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Skinner moves to approve the consent agenda; Councilmember Darcy seconded.

Discussion: Councilmember Davis adds inconsistencies with the verbiage on the consent agenda, stating all the items have already been paid, rather than being approved to be paid. Clerk Vinyard asks Attorney Coker to speak to this further.

4 Ayes; 1 Nay

Motion passed

COUNCIL COMMENTS – No comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing & Finance – Clerk Vinyard gives her finance report. Shared updates on the transfer/sale of the Cosmopolis Police vehicles to Aberdeen, permit fees for the month of March, surplus lists being created, and work happening with CPA, Tara Dunford on bank reconciliations.

Parks – Councilmember Spargo stated a meeting has been scheduled for next week so he will have a report at next month's meeting.

Public Safety – Councilmember Davis reports the bulk of the information will be presented during the Chief's reports. Traffic calming and traffic safety measures were discussed. Community Cares group is determining where signs will be placed with hopes of this bringing attention to citizens that may want to get involved.

Public Works – Councilmember Darcy reports trees on Second Street will be getting addressed soon, weather permitting. Snowflakes will be coming down, and flags will be going up on the light poles, the backhoe is back from the College and repaired. Caution tape is still on the slide at Lions Park and continuing to look at grants to get this replaced.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS

Clerk Vinyard – **Clerk report was given during Committee Reports – Finance & Auditing**

Police Chief Report – Chief Green reports on the call statistics from January to February. Touches on speeding concern near the parks and possibility of another speed sign being placed. Aberdeen VIPs continuing their regular patrols through residential and local business areas in Cosmopolis. Chief also speaks on the E-bikes and bicycle updates as there have been a lot of safety concerns, asks citizens if they see something, say something. Reach out to the non-emergency number.

Fire Chief Report – **Chief Coker is excused absent** Councilmember Skinner reads Chief's report. Cosmopolis has had 63 calls for service so far in 2026. Reminder for citizens to change the batteries in smoke detectors as this is a good practice every time change, if assistance is needed reach out to Cosmopolis City Hall or by email at cosifire@cosmopoliswa.gov.

MAYOR'S REPORT – No report. Mayor Springer presents K Marcella Bramstedt and Sue Darcy each with a mayor's plaque of Recognition as community members making a difference. The office will be closed for Staff Training on Monday, March 23rd from 10am-12pm. Drop boxes are always available for payment.

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION

- 1. Cosmopolis' Comprehensive Plan** – Clerk Vinyard reports that the Comprehensive Plan needs to go to Public Hearing before being brought for a vote, which will happen in April or May. Vicki Cummings with GHCOG was unable to attend tonight but will be brought in either next month or for the May Council Meeting to speak more on the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Darcy gives further explanation as to why this is being pushed to next month or May's meeting for discussion. Councilmember Davis believes the comprehensive plan was part of the Brownfields Study from 2020 and was turned into the Department of Commerce. Mayor Springer speaks on information given to her from Vicki Cummings regarding Comprehensive Planning and other pieces of this plan.

2. **Highland Park Speedbump Installation** – Mayor Springer spoke about the need for traffic calming measures near the parks. Specifically Highland Park as there have been many citizen concerns and worries about safety of children in the area. This has been an ongoing concern for the last 2-3 years with requests for this to be brought up at a Council meeting. Other suggestions have been given on how to calm the traffic in this area; this will be a focus for the Parks and Safety Committee’s and by June 1st something will be in place to ensure the safety of citizens and children visiting this park. Councilmember Darcy states being on the finance committee she will look into costs and what will work best. Councilmember Davis asks citizens to report when they see cars speeding through the area so the Police Department can collect data and plan to address these problem areas. Councilmember Skinner adds that safety education should be a focus as well for children in the area.

3. **Council Processes, Communications, and Request for information (RFI’s)** – Mayor Springer spoke about stabilization and creating/updating processes and procedures. She gave information on the process for Council requesting information and remaining transparent with all council members.

4. **Move Council meetings to twice a month** – Councilmember Davis spoke on the city needing to get back on track with two council meetings per month. States it is the Councilmembers’ duty to set the policies and direction of the city and with only one council meeting per month this creates too long of a gap between meetings. Suggests this would create better oversight into city business, finances, and policy matters and would give better momentum on projects and follow-up items. He believes this would improve transparency and strengthen public participation. **Attached note at the end of minutes requested to be made public record.**
Councilmember Darcy speaks from the financial side of this topic stating this would create a burden. More paper, longer staffing hours, and conflicts with scheduling amongst councilmembers and their regular jobs.
Councilmember Winn believes meeting times are hard for everyone, scheduling committee meetings as well with other conflicts trying to make things work can become difficult.
Councilmember Spargo believes two meetings per month would be beneficial, but at this time the workload is manageable and is open to more discussion about this in the future.
Councilmember Skinner states that business is being handled with just one meeting. Believes focusing on moving forward through growing committees, gathering recommendations from citizens and other agencies to create plans and put actions towards these plans for the future of Cosmopolis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Citizen speaks on support for the speed bumps near the park, he also believes that speaking on council processes is redundant as all councilmembers understand this process and have been through training. Adds his support for having meetings twice a month, believes transparency for the paying public is of highest importance.

Another Citizen adds her ideas for how to gain control of the few citizens who speed past the parks dangerously, believes that speed bumps won’t change the way these people choose to drive. Encourages the city to put the money towards sidewalks near parks and other safety controls for the children of Cosmopolis.

NEW BUSINESS – No items for Council Action tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Citizens comments on needed infrastructure updates within the city, including regular maintenance of filling potholes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilmember Davis comments on the importance of making traffic calming a city-wide issue, rather than focusing on one specific park. He thanks the city staff for their hard work and effort and hopes to see another Public Works employee hired soon.

Councilmember Skinner moved to Adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Spargo seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

To the Citizens of Cosmopolis, the City Council, the Mayor, and City Staff:

It may be time for Cosmopolis to return to a **twice-a-month regular City Council meeting schedule**, with the option of a reduced **summer schedule of one meeting per month** if needed.

The Council is the **legislative branch** of the city, and it is the Council's duty to set policy and direction. When formal meetings are held only once a month, the long gap between meetings can create the appearance that important policy direction is being developed outside the Council's full knowledge, outside a public meeting, and outside the normal scope of Council review.

There are several practical reasons to return to two meetings per month:

- **Better oversight of city business, finances, and policy matters.**
- **More timely decisions on issues that should not wait a full month.**
- **More focused and correct agendas and more thoughtful discussion.**
- **Greater transparency and more regular public access to city government** Residents should not have to wait a full month to raise concerns, comment on proposals, or hear responses. Twice-monthly meetings give the public more timely access to its elected officials..
- **Better momentum on projects, ordinances, and follow-up items, less things getting stale.**
- **Less informal direction between meetings.**
- **Less reliance on special meetings** which have separate notice rules and may less convenient for the public to anticipate and attend.

Bottom line: Meeting twice each month would help the Cosmopolis City Council improve transparency, strengthen public participation, respond faster to problems, and provide more consistent oversight of city business.

A reasonable compromise would be to hold **two regular meetings per month most of the year**, with a **summer schedule of one meeting per month** if the Council chooses.

I believe this approach would better serve the citizens of Cosmopolis, support the Council in carrying out its legislative role, and improve communication and accountability throughout city government.

Respectfully,

Steve Davis

Cosmopolis City Council Position #4

A proactive approach to transparency, public involvement, problem-solving, and oversight