



City Council Special Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM

9103 E Frederick Ave.

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2026 Strategic Theme: "Our Future. Our Water."

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Beese called the City Council Special Meeting to order at 5:59 pm. A quorum was present.

PRESENT

Mayor Shawna Beese
Council Member Shaun Culler
Council Member Kelly Stravens
Council Member Andy Van Hees
Council Member Tina Seifert

ABSENT

Council Member Dan Sander

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Seifert to approve the meeting agenda, Seconded by Council Member Stravens.

Voting Yea: Council Member Seifert, Council Member Culler, Council Member Van Hees, Council Member Stravens

4. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Millwood Data Center Moratorium - Proposed Work Plan Options Presentation - Ms. Tainio

Ms. Tainio presented the proposed work plan options presentation to Council, asking for direction on if Council would like to move forward and if so, which work plan they would like to utilize.

Council Member Stravens requested clarification on the difference between the two work plan options. Ms. Tainio explained key differences being City Council would have extensive review on research to help craft the text amendments that would then go to Planning Commission to process or Planning Commission reviews and then present to Council for review. Council Member Stravens ask Ms. Tainio for her professional opinion on which plan would be most efficient timing wise. Ms. Tainio recommended Planning Commission to Council to be the most efficient, noting however it is up to City Council on how in depth would like to be on the research and evaluation side.

Mayor Beese explained Planning Commission meetings are designated for code discussion, and this would occupy their fall docket where conversely City Council would have to incorporate work sessions into Council meetings.

Council Member Culler asked how much access Council would have to research if choosing the Planning Commission route. Ms. Tainio stated she could supply anything along with summary monthly report.

Council Member Van Hees was in favor of Planning Commission to Council if it expedites the process.

City Attorney, Brian Werst, reviewed and discussed the Appearance of Fairness doctrine with Council.

b. Public Hearing Regarding Millwood Data Center Moratorium and Proposed Work Plan Options

Mr. Werst opened the public hearing at 6:11 pm regarding the Millwood Data Center Moratorium and proposed work plan options, Ordinance #559 adopted by the City Council on July 14th, 2026.

Mayor Beese informed the Council Members comments were received via email and distributed for their viewing.

LaDonna Dement, 10306 E Empire, stated she and her husband are against Data Centers due to the noise it can cause and how much water they can use noting she does not think with how small the town is, it would not fit Millwood.

Ben Carleton, with Inland Empire Paper Company, asked Council why is the city interested in a Moratorium at this time and why on an emergency basis? Mayor Beese stated the Planning Commission is just wrapping up our periodic update, discovering the topic was not addressed within the code, and historic precedence is to get ahead things. Ms. Tainio included the topic was not a requirement for the Periodic update checklist, however it became a topic within the region noticing there wasn't any regulation to allow or prohibit them within the City code.

Kevin Lehinger, 3306 N Dale, stated Millwood is a nice, peaceful community and is predisposed to be against any massive development to protect the community he moved here for, noting it is interesting to him how data centers initially started with mining crypto to mining information. He is hoping the voters of Millwood would be able to have some say on this development, beyond just the Council Members.

Mayor Beese asked if there were any additional comments, no additional comments were made. Mayor Beese closed the public hearing at 6:17pm.

c. Council Discussion and Action Regarding Millwood Data Center Moratorium and Work Plan

Council Member Stravens discussed his preference would be Planning Commission to City Council, with Council receiving monthly updates. Stating he is curious about surrounding jurisdictions, noting the Planning Commission is qualified, and we have enough time to make good rational policy and to make it unique to Millwood.

Council Member Seifert stated she agrees and thinks the Planning Commission would do a good job.

Council Member Culler stated as long as there is transparency in the research, Planning Commission can take point.

Council Member Stravens asked Ms. Tainio if any Washington city has passed a code that defines Data Center and has guidelines. Ms. Tainio stated she does not know of any yet but has stayed very high level to just put together the workplan, locally City of Spokane is little bit ahead of Millwood or Spokane County and they may have some information but have not taken action on anything.

Council Member Van Hees stated he thinks it's a good idea to be proactive rather than reactive, noting the Planning Commission does a good job at fact finding agreeing to start with them with receiving updates to Council.

Motion made by Council Member Stravens to propose a work plan Data Center Moratorium for the presentation that goes Planning Commission to City Council, Seconded by Council Member Culler.

Voting Yea: Council Member Seifert, Council Member Culler, Council Member Van Hees, Council Member Stravens

5. SET NEXT MEETING - September 8th, 2026 at 6:00 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Council Member Culler, Seconded by Council Member Stravens to adjourn the City Council Special Meeting & Public Hearing at 6:24 pm.

Voting Yea: Council Member Seifert, Council Member Culler, Council Member Van Hees, Council Member Stravens