

AGENDA
CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING
March 05, 2026
6:00 PM, City Hall and Remote

Call-in numbers 253-215-8782, 669-900-6833, 346-248-7799, 312-626-6799, 929-205-6099 or 301-715-8592, Webinar ID 814 9470 4175, Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81494704175> or via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4k9bA0IEEvSF6PSoDwjvA/>

Items with an asterisk (*) have been added or modified after the initial draft publication of the Agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION TO THE FLAG: Mayor to call the meeting to order, lead the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance and conduct roll call.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *[This is an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Council. If you wish to address the Council, please sign in to be recognized by the Mayor. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Mayor may extend or further limit these time periods at her discretion. The Mayor may allow citizens to comment on individual agenda items outside of the public comment period at her discretion. Please submit written comments to City Hall in person at 7121 E. Loop Rd, via mail to PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648 or via email to jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us by noon the day of the meeting for inclusion in the council packet.]*

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: *[The Mayor may add agenda items or take agenda items out of order with the concurrence of the majority of the Council].*

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are presented for Council approval. *[Consent agenda items are intended to be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions. If discussion of an individual item is requested by a Council member, that item should be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately after approval of the remaining consent agenda items.]*

a) Resolution 2026-___ A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Stevenson, Washington, appointing a City representative to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for purposes of monitoring proposed electric transmission line project partially located within City limits.

MOTION: Appoint Jeff Breckel to would be a voting member on the EFSEC

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 2026-___ - Declaring the City of Stevenson a Sanctuary City for Gender Diverse Peoples

MOTION: To approve the City of Stevenson a Sanctuary City for Gender Diverse Peoples

b) Rock Creek water intake – Discussion on funding and path forward

6. ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MEETING: *[This provides Council Members an opportunity to focus the Mayor and Staff’s attention on issues they would like to have addressed at the next council meeting.]*

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION - City Council will convene in Executive Session under:

a) Interview Council Applicants - Council will interview applicants for the open position #4. Applications are due on March 4th and will be added to the packet as they are received.

After applicant interviews, council may enter into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

After the interviews and potential executive session, an election will take place by voice vote. The first candidate to receive a majority vote will be appointed. The appointed candidate will be sworn in immediately after the vote at the meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor will adjourn the meeting.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

-Thursday, March 19, 2026 Regular Meeting

**CITY OF STEVENSON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-___**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON,
WASHINGTON, APPOINTING A CITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WASHINGTON
STATE ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL (EFSEC) FOR
PURPOSES OF MONITORING A PROPOSED ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE
PROJECT PARTIALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS**

WHEREAS,

The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (“EFSEC”) is established under **RCW 80.50** to review and evaluate proposed energy facilities and transmission lines within the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS,

A proposed electric transmission line project is under review by EFSEC, portions of which may be located within or affect the municipal boundaries, infrastructure, or interests of the City of Stevenson; and

WHEREAS,

RCW 80.50.030(5) authorizes the *city legislative authority* to appoint a member or designee to represent the City in EFSEC proceedings for projects proposed within the city limits; and

WHEREAS,

The City Council desires to ensure that the City’s interests are monitored, communicated, and preserved throughout the EFSEC review process, including land use, infrastructure coordination, public services, and municipal impacts; and

WHEREAS,

The City Council finds that Jeff Breckel possesses the knowledge, experience, and familiarity with City operations necessary to serve as the City’s representative for this purpose;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
STEVENSON, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Appointment.

Pursuant to RCW 80.50.030(5), the City Council hereby appoints Jeff Breckel as the City of Stevenson’s representative to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for purposes of monitoring the proposed electric transmission line project that is proposed to run partially through the City limits of Stevenson.

Section 2. Scope of Authority.

The City Representative is authorized to:

1. Monitor EFSEC proceedings, filings, hearings, and staff recommendations related to the proposed transmission line;
2. Communicate City concerns, observations, and informational input to EFSEC staff and

- participants;
- 3. Coordinate with City staff, the Mayor, and the City Council regarding project developments and potential municipal impacts; and
- 4. Report periodically to the City Council regarding the status of the EFSEC review and any issues affecting the City.

This appointment is intended for monitoring and liaison purposes and does not authorize the City Representative to bind the City, waive municipal rights, or take official positions unless expressly authorized by subsequent City Council action.

Section 3. Term.

This appointment shall remain in effect for the duration of EFSEC’s review of the proposed transmission line project, unless sooner rescinded or modified by action of the City Council.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Stevenson, Washington, at a regular/special meeting thereof this ___ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF STEVENSON

 Mayor, Jenny Taylor
 ATTEST:

 City Clerk
 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 City Attorney
 M:\11313\Resolutions\EFSEC Appointment - 2026-0224.docx

Memo regarding a Resolution to Declare Stevenson a Sanctuary City for Gender Diverse People

In February 2026, Kansas passed a law immediately invalidating the driver's licenses of all transgender people in the state who have updated their gender marker, putting them at risk of criminal charges for driving with a license that doesn't match their appearance or gender expression, and potentially making them unable to vote due to the state's voter ID law. It also imposes possible civil and criminal penalties for using public restrooms and other sex-segregated spaces.

In recent years, similar laws restricting the rights of trans people to participate equally in society have been introduced and/or passed in most states, as well as in the US House of Representatives. Many aim to criminalize drag performances by defining any form of "cross-sex" expression as sexually explicit, which would put trans people at risk of being arrested for "obscenity" simply for wearing their own clothing in public. These laws endanger not only trans people, but also intersex people and cisgender men and women, primarily those who are gender nonconforming, or whose physical appearance does not match stereotypical assumptions about their sex. I refer to this affected population broadly as gender diverse people.

Roughly half a million US trans people have already fled their home states since the November 2024 election, many moving to Washington and Oregon due to our high-quality healthcare and supportive community values. They will continue coming here, in search of communities where they have equal rights to life, liberty, and self-expression. Portland especially is known for its large and growing transgender population. We have a thriving queer community in Stevenson, and trans and queer people who live in larger cities like Portland and Seattle often vacation in the Columbia Gorge. Despite state-level protections, trans people in our communities experience disproportionately high rates of poverty, homelessness, violence, and other harmful outcomes.

On February 26th, the Washington Supreme Court ruled that my protest activity last year was lawful and constitutionally protected speech. I believe it would be in our best interest as a city to establish policies that help ensure what happened to me does not happen to others in the future. This resolution as written upholds the equal rights of all cis women and intersex people, in addition to transgender people. It would affirm our commitment to defend constitutional rights equally for all members of our community, and direct the development of any necessary policies to do so. This resolution is based on a very similar one passed recently by the Olympia City Council. It is a bare-minimum first step toward addressing the economic and social hardship that gender diverse people are experiencing in America today.

Failure to defend the constitutional rights of all people in our community would risk legal liability for the city, financial costs for our constituents, and would also send a message that this is not a safe community for queer tourists. Trans people from Portland, many of whom have fled dangerous and abusive situations in other states, aren't going to feel safe vacationing here if they risk being targeted by the authorities for their self-expression.

Lucy Lauser, Councilmember #3

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON,
WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY OF STEVENSON A SANCTUARY CITY FOR
GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson is committed to fostering a community where all individuals are treated with dignity, equity, and respect, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical sex traits and appearance; and

WHEREAS, gender diverse individuals face ongoing discrimination, violence, and systemic barriers that threaten their safety, well-being, freedom, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, transgender people in particular have been vilified in political advertisements, and numerous policy proposals and Presidential executive orders outline plans to remove established rights, mandate discrimination, and criminalize the existence of transgender people; and

WHEREAS, across the country there continues to be an increase of legislation enacted that targets gender diverse communities, threatening access to public spaces, healthcare, education, and equal protections under the law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson recognizes the inherent worth and equal rights of all people, including gender diverse individuals, and seeks to provide a safe and welcoming environment for those who reside in or visit our city; and

WHEREAS, as a sanctuary city, Stevenson commits to protecting and advocating for the rights of gender diverse individuals by rejecting policies and actions that promote discrimination or inequality, and embraces Washington's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE STEVENSON CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Stevenson establishes itself as a sanctuary city to protect gender diverse people, and commits to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical appearance, feel safe and supported and equally protected under the law.
2. The City of Stevenson strongly supports the right of individuals to:
 - a. Seek, obtain, provide, or facilitate gender-affirming or sexual health care that is legal in Washington State, and to exercise autonomy in decisions regarding their own bodies;

b. Engage in speech or expression supporting gender diverse people, including but not limited to disseminating books and literature, organizing events, protesting, and drag or other performances;

c. Express their own gender and sexuality and to define what gender and family means to them; including but not limited to dress and appearance, structuring a family unit that works best for them, and sharing these values with their children; and

d. Define their own gender and sex with or without regard to the sex assigned to them at birth.

3. No City of Stevenson resources, including but not limited to City property or time spent while on duty by a covered employee, shall be used for investigation, assisting an investigation, or detention of an individual on the basis of exercising their rights identified in section 2:

a. In the event any law or regulation is passed federally or in the State of Washington which imposes criminal punishment, civil liability, administrative penalties, or professional sanctions on an individual or organization exercising their rights identified in section 2, City personnel shall make enforcement of said law or regulation their lowest priority;

b. No City resources shall be used to assist any out-of-state investigation or prosecution of any person on the basis of laws that restrict the rights identified in section 2; and

c. No federal, state, or local ordinance shall be enforced unequally by the City or any entity contracting with the City on the basis of a person's expressed or perceived sex, physical sex traits, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

4. Whenever the City collects or disseminates information about an individual or their sex or gender, it will be without regard to sex assigned at birth. The City will not collect or disseminate information about sex assigned at birth unless required for an investigation of a violation of Washington State law.

5. The City will actively oppose legislation or actions at the state or federal level that threaten the rights, safety, or dignity of gender diverse individuals.
6. The City commits to ongoing engagement and collaboration with local LGBTQIA2S+ community members and organizations to:
 - a. Reduce barriers to accessing resources and support for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and organizations, and facilitate dissemination of information about said resources;
 - b. Increase availability of resources to directly address the crisis of homelessness, poverty, discrimination, abuse, and displacement of gender diverse individuals in the US;
 - c. Provide training and consultation to City staff, police, and any other relevant entities working with the City, to advocate for community members and build trust; and
 - d. Collaborate with local LGBTQIA2S+ community leaders, working closely with event organizers to ensure public safety while prioritizing the needs and well-being of participants.
7. The City shall conduct regular reviews of its policies, practices, public services, and contracts to ensure they are inclusive, equitable, and affirming for gender diverse individuals.
8. The City of Stevenson will continue to celebrate and uplift the voices and contributions of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals through public events, education, and partnerships with local organizations.
9. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is found to be unconstitutional or is otherwise held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of any remaining parts of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Stevenson affirms its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice, ensuring that all members of our community can live freely and without fear of discrimination or harm.

a)

From: karen pettyjohn <callkaren@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Subject: vote NO

[You don't often get email from callkaren@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Protect the rights of all humans by voting NO on making Stevenson a sanctuary city for LGBTQ individuals. They do not deserve more rights than any other humans!

Vote NO.

Karen A Pettyjohn

Registered voter in Skamania County

and Stevenson tx

Sent from my iPhone

Support for Sanctuary City resolution before City Council 3/5/26

From Robin Knauerhase <robin@knauerhase.com>

Date Wed 3/4/2026 4:05 PM

To Info <info@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from robin@knauerhase.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening. I was hoping to offer input over Zoom, but had an inescapable conflict, so I'm submitting a written statement.

My name is Robin Knauerhase. I am "out" as a woman of trans experience. However, I am writing on behalf of the Community Advisory Board of the Transgender Health Program of Oregon Health Science University (OHSU), and I know the THP has many current and former patients who have benefitted from our world-class trans-specific healthcare in southwest Washington, definitely including Stevenson proper.

For the THP board, and personally as well, I would like to strongly support the resolution proposing that Stevenson be a Sanctuary City for transgender people. As you may know, trans people are under literal attack throughout the country. States in the middle of the country are denying healthcare, driver licenses, and psychological therapy, as well as sports participation and bathroom use, for children and adults. Worse, these states are beginning to attempt enforcement of their laws *across state lines* with "litigation bounties" and requests for information about private matters within our state boundaries. No matter one's position on transgender equality, this sort of cross-state enforcement is dangerous and unconstitutional.

I served for many years on the board of the Living Room, a hangout center and support structure for LGBT youth in Oregon City. People were sometimes surprised that there would be a need outside "downtown Portland", but there **absolutely** was. I assure you -- there are transgender people and youth in Stevenson, as well as children, grandchildren, and friends/relatives of the city's citizens. These people need, and **deserve**, protection.

Sanctuary, outside of church definition, means "a secure, designated area providing safety and refuge for people." Everyone deserves to feel safe. Whether or not every individual in town supports trans equality, passing this resolution would provide safety and refuge to transgender people and those who love and/or support them.

I ask you to **please** have the courage and compassion to designate Stevenson as a Trans Sanctuary City with both tangible and intangible support for these vulnerable people as spelled out in the resolution before the Council this evening.

Sincerely,
Robin Knauerhase
Member, Community Advisory Board for Trans Health at OHSU

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From: joankniestadt@gmail.com <joankniestadt@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:35 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Subject: All person's need to be protected from discrimination

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joankniestadt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to express my hope that the Resolution ### - Declaring the City of Stevenson a Sanctuary City for Gender Diverse Peoples is voted down.

Ideally all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, national origin, age, disability etc. are protected individuals from discrimination and are ensured that city resources are not used to prosecute or punish them for seeking care or other services and that all people are given a safe and welcoming environment.

Highlighting a specific population makes a statement that one set of people have more rights and should be treated with more consideration. To single out a group of people also implies other groups do not experience discrimination. We are not a perfect society; our efforts should be that no one experiences discrimination. We need to ensure everyone is treated equally. Verbiage such as sanctuary city for Gender Diverse people does not tell our community that they are all important and will be receiving equal effort to ensure their rights are being looked after. Please vote no for this resolution.

Please include the email in the 3/5/26 agenda

Thank you,

Joan Kniestadt

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From: Ken Kullby <kendrakullby@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Subject: Public Comment for Tonight's Special Council Meeting

You don't often get email from kendrakullby@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

My name is Ken Kullby. I am making a public comment to support the resolution to declare Stevenson a sanctuary city for gender diverse people. I myself am gender diverse and have found my own sanctuary in Stevenson thanks to the kind citizens of the town. I know many more gender diverse individuals within the area of Stevenson that would benefit from this sanctuary. If the city council is to serve the people and do what is best for the livelihood of its citizens, it would be in everyone's best interest to support the resolution to declare Stevenson a sanctuary city for gender diverse people.

Thank you for your time,
Ken Kullby

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City of Stevenson

Phone (509)427-5970
FAX (509) 427-8202

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

From: Cody Rosander
To: Mayor, City Council
RE: Emergency Repairs for Rock Creek Intake
Date: 3/2/2026

Rock creek Intakes (RCI) ability to intake water is reducing further than anticipated. A permanent failure of rock creeks manifold is likely impending. The systems ability to supply water to the treatment plant are getting dangerously close to not producing enough water to keep up with demand. It also indicates that there is a bigger problem, which will likely to permanent shut down of the facility. With long-term water supply (LTWS) final product being a minimum of 4-5 years out. The time has come to make emergency repairs to the intake to maintain a safe supply of drinking water for the foreseeable future.

I would like to provide a brief history on the RCI and the LTWS projects. Given that this project started prior to me being in this role, the update was written by Grayling Engineering. They have been with the project since the beginning and have a wealth of knowledge of the intricate water system.

Original Rock Creek Intake Investigation

This project was scoped to investigate the cause of lost capacity at RC and provide recommendations for treatment at Hegewald. At the time, RC was estimated to still have a capacity of 250-300 gpm. Following the first site visit to RC, it was clear that rehab of RC would likely require a full or partial replacement of the infiltration gallery. The scope was then modified to bring Aspect Consulting on board to perform a pumping test and aquifer analysis at Hegewald Well to ensure that the Well could be used to meet demands while RC was offline for repairs/replacement. At the time, the City could still meet demands of the system, so getting Hegewald up and running was considered the priority. The City was able to get a regional DOH grant to complete the pumping test and associated analysis for Hegewald. The scope started evolving as the question arose of whether it was worthwhile to put money into the rehab of RC if there were better alternatives. That is where the LTWS project was conceived - the City wanted an alternatives analysis completed to decide whether surface water as a whole was the best way to meet demands considering the cost to rehab RC and keep the WTP running.

LTWS

The LTWS project was scoped while the Hegewald pumping test and report were still in progress. The intent was to go through all three phases of the LTWS project while the three surface water sources still supplied water to the City, with Hegewald as a supplementary source. Unfortunately, we did not anticipate that the capacity of RC would more than halve in less than three years.

From my understanding speaking with the engineering team, completing these repairs to RCI were not possible until the Hegewald testing was completed, and new equipment was installed for better chemical control and monitoring.

The next steps for RCI. We have had open discussion with permitting specialists to get the ball rolling on that front. Prior to fully committing to the project, however, we will be sending divers to inspect the actual intake lines. They will be able to run underwater cameras into the systems manifolds, and we hope to see the extent of what exactly is going on. If the lines remain intact, and just full of sedimentation, we will attempt to blow the lines out using very high pressure water. We will then test flows in hopes they improved enough to maintain through the summer. If we find the manifold to be damaged or blowing out the sediment in the lines does not work, we will need to move forward with the project.

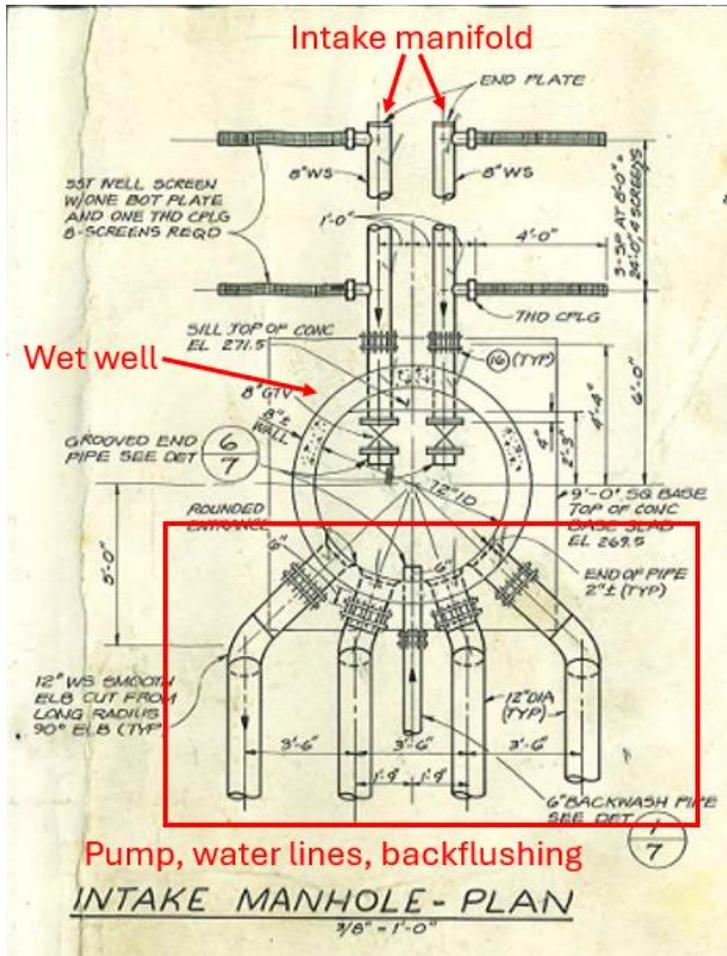
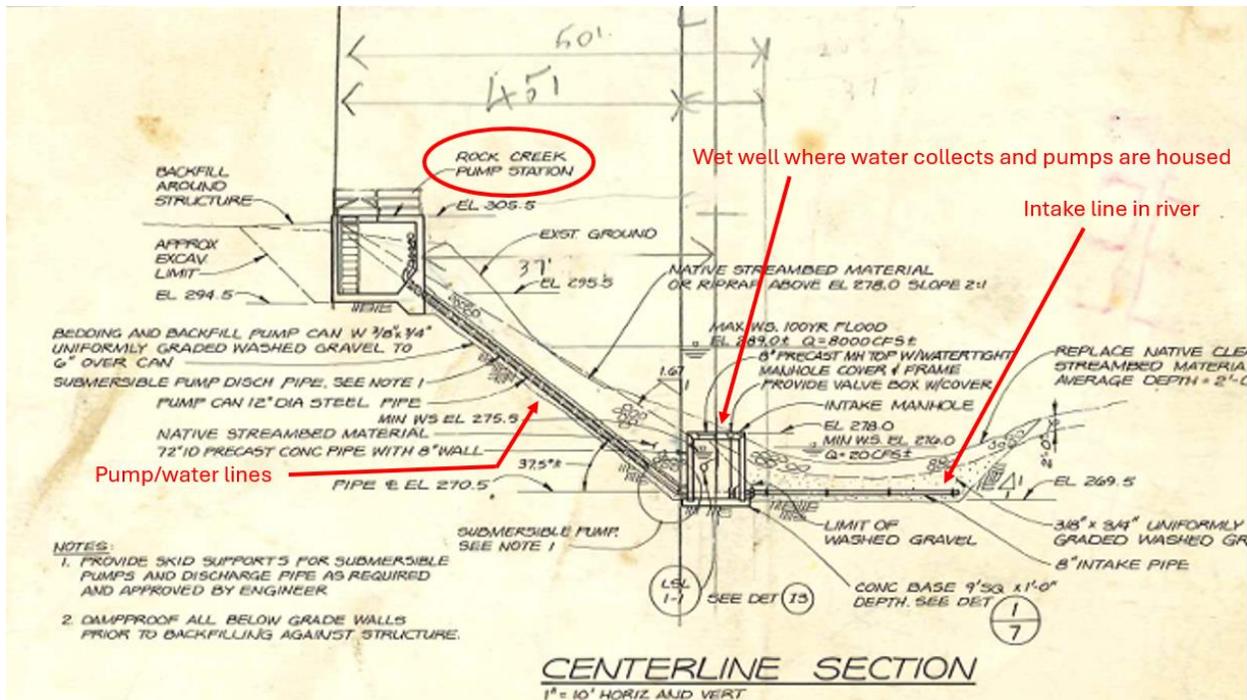
I have been in conversation with many grant agencies and have not been able to find one that will meet our needs or that is currently properly funded. If we move forward with the project, it is likely we will need to fund it internally. The project has a very rough estimated cost of \$500,000, which the City has in bonds that can be pulled quite quickly. I will continue to pursue grants, but it seems unlikely and I want to make sure the Council is informed on the likelihood of tapping into reserves.

Below you find some images from the original 1979 design, I added a few comments to help better understand what and how everything fits together. Essentially, the manifold sits out in the river and water infiltrates through the pipe and into the wet well. In between the actual pump station and the wet well are a multitude of pipes. Some of these pipes house the submersible pumps that are lowered from the pump station into the wet well, and others supply water out of the wet well to the Water Treatment Plant.

I look forward to discussing this with you more, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Cody

b)





CITY COUNCILMEMBER APPLICATION

Application is due by 11:59 p.m., March 4, 2026

Name: Jeffrey P Breckel

Are you a registered voter? Yes

Are you a resident of the City of Stevenson? Yes

Length of residence in Stevenson? 30 Years (2018-present and 1978-2000)

1. List your educational background (or attach resume).

- See Attached Resume

2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer (or attach resume).

- See Attached Resume

3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work (or attach resume).

- See Attached Resume

4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to City Council.

For over 40 years, I have been successful in bringing people together, listening to them, and working with them to forge workable solutions to challenging issues. I know how to work with elected officials and public agencies to achieve results for local communities. As the director of several small local agencies, I have been accountable for producing solid results while making the most effective and efficient use of public funds. More specifically, I have served on the City Planning Commission for 6 years and as its chair for over 3 years. I worked to strengthen the commission's efforts to reach out and involve the public and to review and update land use plans and regulations. I worked on the Downtown Plan for Success and participated on the city's sewer and broad band work groups. I also attend City Council meetings to represent the Planning Commission and better understand the issues facing the City.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Stevenson City Council?

I'm proud to be a citizen of Stevenson. While I have lived here for over 30 years, Stevenson has always been a part of my life. I spent time in Stevenson growing up. I moved here after serving in the Navy and raised a family. I've watched Stevenson change from a timber economy to a tourist economy. I want our city to be a strong, viable and livable community in keeping with our small-town character. I believe I have the skills and background to help Stevenson chart its future path.

6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.

I know of no personal activity that might create a conflict of interest should I be appointed to the City Council.

7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Stevenson community at this time and the role the City Council can play in addressing each issue.

The highest priority must be building credibility and trust in city government. It must be transparent, open and inviting to people. It must listen, be respectful and responsive. If the City is to play a lead role in achieving strong, viable and livable community it must strive to build strong cooperative partnerships with the county, the port, the school district, and organizations such as the Stevenson Downtown Association, the Chamber, the Skamania EDC. Second, given the uncertain economic outlook, the City must strengthen its financial management and controls. Simply balancing the budget is not enough. It must look for efficiencies while maximizing value to our citizens. Third, to ensure economic viability and orderly community development, the City must be willing to review its regulations and programs when the need arises. Are the regulations serving their intended purpose? Are they being effectively and fairly administered? Fourth, the City should lead efforts to ensure that adequate housing is available to meet varied needs of the people who live and work here.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provide herein is true and correct.

Jeffrey P Breckel
Signature

February 28, 2020
Date

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Jeffrey Breckel

Home Address: 381 NE McEvoy Lane, Stevenson, WA, 98648

Cellular/Home Telephone Number: 360-921-0955

Work Address: Not Applicable. Retired

Work Telephone Number: None

Email address: jpbreckel@gmail.com

JEFFREY P. BRECKEL
381 NE McEvoy Lane
Stevenson, WA 98648
360-921-0955

Member and Chair (2016 to Present)
Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office
Olympia, Washington

Initially appointed to the Board in 2016, Mr. Breckel has served as Chair since September 2021. Mr. Breckel has led his fellow Board members in working with the staff of the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, regional recovery organizations and lead entities to restore and protect critical habitat for ESA listed salmon and steelhead. During his tenure the Board has streamlined procedures to make more efficient use of grant funds, refocused monitoring efforts to better understand and address habitat needs, and developed a grant program to protect and restore riparian areas.

Mr. Breckel worked to establish and serves as the co-chair of the Salmon Recovery Network which brings together agencies and organizations engaged in salmon recovery to share information and coordinate their efforts.

Executive Director (1998 to 2016)
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Longview, Washington

Mr. Breckel served as the Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. State law established the 15-member Board in 1998 to provide local governments, tribes, and interested citizens an active role in salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in the lower Columbia region. The Board is responsible for coordinating fish habitat restoration and preservation efforts, coordinating the development and implementation of a regional salmon recovery plan, leading watershed planning activities, and promoting public understanding and participation in salmon recovery efforts.

Under his leadership and, together with federal and state agencies, tribes and local jurisdictions, the board led a collaborative effort to forge the first salmon recovery plan adopted by NOAA Fisheries. The plan also serves as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Subbasin Plan for 8 lower Columbia Subbasins. Over the same time period, he worked with interest groups and government agencies to publish 3 water management plans for the Lower Columbia Watershed Resource Inventory Areas.

Mr. Breckel directed the Board’s habitat and water-related project funding efforts. He worked with state and federal agencies, local governments, conservation districts, utilities, and nonprofit organizations to develop and secure funding for over 260 habitat restoration and water-related projects with a total value of over \$60 million.

Mr. Breckel served as chair of the Council of Salmon Recovery Regional Organizations which works with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and state agencies to help shape statewide recovery policies and programs.

Nuclear Waste Policy Advisor (1988 to 1998)
Washington Governor's Office and Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

Mr. Breckel advised the Governor's Office and Department of Ecology on nuclear waste policy issues involving the cleanup of the US Department of Energy Hanford Reservation and the management commercial low level radioactive waste. He served as the state's congressional liaison on nuclear waste issues and worked on national nuclear waste issues through the National Governors' Association and the National Association of Attorneys General. He served as chair of the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low Level Radioactive Waste Management and sat on the US Department of Energy Environmental Management Board.

Executive Director (1978 to 1987)
Oregon and Washington Columbia River Gorge Commissions
North Bonneville, Washington

Mr. Breckel served as the director of the Washington and Oregon commissions created to oversee and protect the unique scenic, natural, historical, and cultural features of the Columbia River Gorge. He worked with federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, and the business and environmental communities to develop and implement land and resource management plans. Mr. Breckel represented the governors of Washington and Oregon in the drafting and passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and the supporting interstate compact legislation.

Headquarters Staff Officer (1972 to 1977)
Navy Nuclear Power Program
Washington, DC

Mr. Breckel served on the staff Admiral H.G. Rickover and was engaged in logistic issues associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and overhaul of nuclear reactor plants in US Navy ships and submarines. He was honorably discharged in 1977 and attained the rank of Lieutenant.

Education

BA, Business Administration, University of Washington, 1972

Volunteer Activities

- Member, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 2016 to present. Chair, September 2020 to present
- Co-Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet)
- Chair, City of Stevenson Planning Commission
- Member, Columbia Land Trust Conservation Committee



CITY COUNCILMEMBER APPLICATION

Application is due by 11:59 p.m. March 4, 2026

Name: AARON D LANA

Are you a registered voter? YES

Are you a resident of the City of Stevenson? YES

Length of residence in Stevenson? 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

1. List your educational background (or attach resume).

SEE RESUME

2. Please state your occupational background, beginning with your current occupation and employer (or attach resume).

SEE RESUME

3. Describe your community activities and volunteer work (or attach resume).

a. Eight years as a Boy Scout Assistant Scoutmaster

b. Member of Stevenson **Fraternal Order of Eagles (Aerie 1744)** for two years, recently accepted role as a Trustee

4. Describe your special qualifications applicable to City Council.

My 28-year career as a U.S. Navy Officer and 10-year career at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has equipped me with a robust suite of leadership and administrative skills directly applicable to the governance of Stevenson. These qualifications include:

- **Strategic Program & Budget Management:** I have extensive experience overseeing large-scale program management, which translates to the City Council's responsibility for fiscal oversight, long-term capital improvement projects, and municipal budget balancing.
- **Key Leader Engagement & Interagency Collaboration:** My background in "Key Leader" engagement is vital for a city like Stevenson, which must navigate complex relationships with federal, state, and regional entities. My 10 years at the BPA further provides me with a deep understanding of the diverse organizations within the Columbia River Gorge basin that compete for and share vital resources.
- **Personnel Management & Organizational Leadership:** I have managed significant numbers of personnel across various operational environments. This experience ensures I can effectively support city staff and contribute to a productive, professional environment within the city's executive and legislative branches.
- **Objective Decision-Making:** Military service requires the ability to remain "levelheaded," analyze all aspects of a complex topic, and reach conclusions that

prioritize the welfare of the entire organization or community. I am adept at making high-stakes decisions that are balanced, fair, and favorable for all stakeholders involved.

- **Operational Planning & Infrastructure Oversight:** My tenure at BPA has given me unique insight into the technical and logistical needs of the region's power and water systems, which is directly relevant to Stevenson's current focus on modernizing aging water and sewer infrastructure.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Stevenson City Council?

My desire to serve on the Stevenson City Council stems from a lifelong commitment to public service and a deep-rooted connection to this community. While I have been a resident of Stevenson for just over a year, my ties to the area and its people extend much further back. As my family and I have integrated into the local fabric—through my involvement as a Trustee with the Stevenson Eagles 1744 and my past mentorship with the Boy Scouts, my dedication to the future of this city has only intensified.

I view an appointment to the City Council as a natural extension of my 28-year career as a U.S. Navy Officer. I have always believed that acts of service are the most meaningful way to give back to the community I love. My professional background has instilled in me a levelheaded, analytical approach to problem-solving. I pride myself on the ability to objectively evaluate all facets of a complex issue to reach balanced conclusions that serve the best interests of all stakeholders.

While I had originally considered seeking a council seat in the future, the current vacancy presents an immediate opportunity to apply my leadership experience toward Stevenson's most pressing challenges. I am eager to demonstrate to my fellow residents that I will work tirelessly to advocate for our shared values and improve our community every day.

6. Specify any activities that might create a conflict of interest if you should be appointed to the City Council.

As a current Federal Civilian employee of the BPA, I am acutely aware of the ethical requirements regarding conflicts of interest. Should the City Council engage in actions, negotiations, or policy decisions directly involving BPA or other federal agencies where my professional role creates a nexus, I will proactively recuse myself from those specific proceedings.

Additionally, to ensure complete transparency and maintain public trust, I wish to disclose the following local affiliations:

- **Fraternal Order of Eagles (Aerie 1744):** I currently serve as a Trustee for this organization. If matters regarding the Eagles' property, permits, or specific localized interests come before the Council, I would evaluate the need for recusal on a case-by-case basis.

In all matters, I am committed to adhering to the Washington State Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers (RCW 42.23) and will seek guidance from the City Attorney whenever a potential conflict arises.

7. Briefly explain what you believe are the most important issues facing the Stevenson community at this time and the role the City Council can play in addressing each issue.

a. Utility Rates and Infrastructure Funding

A major priority is the Prop 1 (Transportation Benefit District) initiative. Residents are concerned about rising water and sewer rates. The city is working to use a small sales tax increase to offset these utility costs while funding essential street repairs and snow plowing.

b. Affordable and "Middle" Housing

Like much of Washington, Stevenson is facing a housing crunch. The concern is two-fold: a lack of affordable options for the local workforce and the need for "middle housing" (duplexes, townhomes) to prevent residents from being priced out of their own community.

c. Aging Water and Sewer Systems

The city is managing significant upgrades to its wastewater treatment and water delivery systems. High-profile issues like major water line breaks and the need for new pumper fire trucks highlight the urgency of modernizing 20th-century infrastructure.

d. Preserving "Small Town" Identity

There is a recurring community dialogue about intentional growth. Locals are concerned that becoming a "tourism-only" town will erode the character of Stevenson. The goal is to ensure downtown remains usable and comfortable for residents, not just visitors.

e. EMS and First Responder Sustainability

Ensuring consistent staffing and fair pay for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a top-tier concern. High turnover in rural EMS districts has led to a push for better compensation to ensure prompt emergency responses.

f. Mental Health and Crisis Support

Community health reports indicate a high demand for integrated mental health services. There is a strong local push to expand community paramedicine programs to address chronic and mental health issues without relying solely on law enforcement or ER visits.

g. Tourism Balance and Funding

While tourism drives the economy, there is a shift toward scaling back certain tourism grants to ensure the long-term stability of local funds. The community is looking for "clearer expectations" on how tourism tax dollars are reinvested into local amenities.

h. Workforce Development

There is a noted "labor gap" for small businesses. Community leaders are focused on strengthening the local workforce through schools and supporting trades-based entrepreneurship so working families can afford to stay in the area.

i. Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity

The "Safe Routes to School" and "Spruce Up Stevenson" initiatives reflect a concern for walkability. Improving sidewalk connections and downtown accessibility remains a frequent topic in city planning sessions.

j. Economic Diversity

Residents and leaders are concerned about a lack of economic diversity. There is an active effort to move beyond a service-based economy by encouraging light industry and professional services that provide year-round, high-paying jobs.

Aaron D Lana

Phone: 808-265-0403

Email: adlanatis@gmail.com

Relevant Work Experience

Supervisory Physical Scientist | Bonneville Power Administration | Portland, OR

10/2022 - Present | Hours per week: 40

- Provide administrative supervision, budget oversight, and technical guidance to a diverse team of 15 federal positions, ensuring 24/7/365 real-time power scheduling, hydraulic operations, and technical support for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).
- Responsible for FCRPS operations and managing daily power generation scheduling changes.
- Develop and maintain new methodologies and tools to improve scheduling operations.
- Recommend and implement changes to meet Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), National Energy Regulatory Commission (NERC), and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) guidelines.
- Direct planning, development, and administration of programs and systems for Generation Scheduling and Generation Supply.
- Led Grid Modernization to improve operations and technology, preparing the agency for evolving energy markets, collaborating with internal and external entities.
- Support Power Generation Implementation and Agency Initiatives for Day-Ahead-Market (DAM) and other priorities (Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), Provider of Choice), delivering hydro scheduling input and assessing specific tools/processes.
- Ensure my entire team trains for WRAP requirements, providing input for environmental support, and engagement on transition from Slice energy to Provider of Choice contracts.
- Accountable for ensuring hourly baseload work meets non-power objectives, with spill variances under 1% due to human error and no reportable NERC/WECC violations.
- Lead a safe, inclusive, compliant, and high-performing work environment, including safety leadership, emergency preparedness, financial stewardship, Contract Officer Representative (COR) oversight, and Equal Employment Opportunity implementation.

Physical Scientist | Bonneville Power Administration | Portland, OR

02/2016 - 10/2022 | Hours per week: 40

- Served as a Hydro Duty Scheduler for real-time operations, managing Columbia River Operations across 30+ federal projects.
- Applied extensive hydrological knowledge to balance energy generation, fish habitat, tribal treaties, dissolved gas, and flood control, coordinating with external agencies.

- Provided daily communication with weather forecasters, predicting precipitation impacts and energy consumption effects.
- Proficient in internal BPA software (HERMES, Slice DUI) for predictive analysis and energy contract modeling.
- Routinely interacted with diverse stakeholders within and outside the Federal Government.
- Volunteered as a BPA Ambassador and completed the Portland State University course, Governance of the Columbia River Basin.

Typhoon Duty Officer | Joint Typhoon Warning Center | Pearl Harbor, HI

09/2008 - 02/2016 | Hours per week: 40

- Served as a senior forecaster, providing operational decision-making to a global audience under time-sensitive schedules.
- Directed a 4-person team for 6-hourly forecasts across Pacific and Indian Ocean basins, providing training and guidance to junior forecasters.
- Lectured on El Nino impacts at the 2012 Tropical Cyclone Conference in Tokyo.
- Managed human resources, stakeholder relations, and provided leadership in a high-pressure environment.

United States Navy Officer (Multiple Leadership Roles) | Global Assignments

06/1998 - Present | Hours per week: Varies (10-70)

- **Leadership & Management:** Directed work objectives for teams of up to 60 personnel (military/civilian), optimizing asset management and ensuring application of oceanographic/meteorological principles. Managed disciplinary actions, procurement, budgeting, and operational decisions.
- **Operational Oversight:** Led METOC product delivery, emergency response, and aviation unit operations. Oversaw critical forecasts for naval vessels and coordinated critical information flow. Served as COR for an \$11M annual contract with 50 contractors.
- **Strategic Communication:** Briefed Flag/General Officers, including an Executive Assistant role to a Lieutenant General. Coordinated with Department of Defense, Department of State, and foreign militaries, managing complex stakeholder relationships.
- **Problem-Solving:** Developed risk mitigation plans, investigated equipment malfunctions, and made time-sensitive operational decisions in high-stakes environments.
- **Mentorship & Training:** Guided junior officers/enlisted personnel, including annual training in Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Equal Opportunity, and Suicide Prevention. Developed training plans for reservists.
- **Specialized Roles:** Served as Techniques Development Officer, leading a team to improve forecasting efficiency and representing JTWC at international campaigns. Acted as Best Track Officer, ensuring data correctness and creating Annual Tropical Cyclone Reports.

Education, Certifications, or Licenses

Naval Postgraduate School | Monterey, CA

Master's degree | GPA: 3.69 | Major: Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

Bachelor's degree | GPA: 3.2 | Major: Physical Oceanography

Job-related Training

- **Additional Training:** American Heart Association Heartsaver AED (Adult/Child CPR with Mask and Choking, Adult/Child AED), Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scout Leader.
- **FEMA Certifications:** ICS-100, 139, 200, 230, 235, 240, 241, 242, 244, 275, 700, and 800.

Additional Information

- **Clearance:** TOP SECRET SCI clearance.
- **Awards:** Defense Meritorious Service Medal (U.S. Central Command, Sept 2011; U.S. Special Operations Command, Sept 2014 - Oct 2015), Joint Service Commendation Medal (US Pacific Command for forecasting 150+ tropical cyclones).
- **Computer Software Proficiencies:** Microsoft Office Suite (Expert), Matlab (Intermediate), UNIX-based systems (Working knowledge), Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecasting (ATCF) System (Expert), Programming Languages (html, BAT, C++, Basic).