

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026

Following a 6:00 p.m. workshop, **Mayor Bill Aslett** called the City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Councilmembers present:** Kelsey Freeman, Joe DeGloria, Scott Green, Jesús Pérez-Linares, James Stavig, and Elizabeth Turman-Bryant. **Staff present:** Admin & HR Manager Kristen Bachhuber, Community Development Director Brad Johnson, City Attorney Leif Johnson, Finance Director Sandy Kottke, Court Administrator Marina Martinez, Interim City Administrator Andy Parks, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Riggs, Public Works and Parks Operations Director Travis Schwetz, Public Works Director Tyler Stamey, Fire Chief Rob Toth, Police Chief Kevin Turner, and Enrichment Services Director Sarah Ward.

Councilors Green/Turman-Bryant made a motion to excuse **Councilor Jamie Weiss** from the January 22, 2026, City Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES

Councilors Green/Turman-Bryant made a motion to approve the December 18, 2025 and January 8, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes. **Councilor DeGloria** had suggested changes to the 12/18 minutes. **Councilors Freeman, Peres and Stavig** in favor; **Councilor DeGloria** opposed. Motion passed; 5:1.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Councilor Scott Green updated Council on the Audit & Finance meeting.

A motion was made by **Councilors Green/Freeman** to approve Accounts Payable Invoices to be paid as of January 22, 2026, in the amount of \$2,208,412.52; Accounts Payable Invoices to be paid as of January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$679,475.00; January 2026 – Utility Billing Refunds, in the amount of \$572.72; December 2025 – Utility Billing Refunds, in the amount of \$77.34; December 2025 – Electronic AP, in the amount of \$25,911.73; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period Ending December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$703,832.91. All in favor; motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

No Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were two Public Comments. The first commentor, Diane McDougal, shared historical context of the U.S. flag and emphasized the symbolic value of honoring the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance. The following citizen, Steve Sexton, spoke regarding December 2025 Gages Slough flooding. Sexton expressed concern that protective measures used successfully in 2021

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026

were not deployed and requested accountability from the Dike District and clearer communication with residents.

Members of the public may submit comments or questions by mail to City Hall at 833 S. Spruce Street, ATTN: City Administrator, or by email to badministration@burlingtonwa.gov. Contact information for all the City Departments is available at www.burlingtonwa.gov.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Aslett provided an update about attending the City Action Days event hosted by AWC in Olympia for legislative discussions, including state economic forecasts and improved coordination with legislators. **Aslett** shared plans to bring back a proposed legislative priorities list for council input.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Jesús Pérez-Linares shared information about the upcoming school district levy.

Councilor James Stavig spoke about Robert's Rules process and new meeting procedures. **Stavig** prefers the process of engaging in Council discussion prior to making a motion to proceed.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Jesús Pérez-Linares provided an update on the Arts Commission which has produced and in the process of distributing trifold brochures featuring Burlington's art. Other updates include a report on Lodging Tax funded projects and upcoming board recruitment with a member stepping down.

Councilor Joe DeGloria shared an update for the Historical Commission which has identified and installed historical markers throughout Burlington that will be interactive on a geo location app.

Councilor Kelsey Freeman spoke on behalf of the Public Works Committee wherein the meeting provided an overview of development and housing expansion, and notes were sent to Council.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

No Officer's Reports.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026

No Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Teamsters Local 231 Public Works Division MOU Extension Agreement

SCIDEU Interlocal Agreement Amendment – KWW Language Added

Councilor Stavig/Freeman made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items #1 and #2 and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. **Councilors Freeman, Turman-Bryant, Pérez-Linares, Green, DeGloria** in favor; **Councilor Stavig** opposed. Motion passed; 5:1.

ITEMS:

Adoption of Annual Work Plan for the Community Development Department and Planning Commission

Community Development Director Brad Johnson presented the 2026 work plan, emphasizing the completion of Comprehensive Plan update and a fire/EMS Impact Fee study. There was continued discussion around the topics of: PROS plan/park impact fees, transportation impact fees, Cascadia project thresholds, and sub area plans as it relates to commercial development.

Councilor Stavig/Green made a motion to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation and annual work plan dated January 7, 2026, and authorize the Mayor to sign the attached resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

BMC 2.76.030 Amendment for Library Board of Trustees Membership

Enrichment Services Director Sarah Ward introduced the proposed Ordinance alteration that would add non-voting, teen positions to the Library Board. Council inquired about the recruitment process and if there were variations from other City board positions. Discussion only.

Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County for Continued Source Control Inspection Program

Public Works Director Tyler Stamey shared a 2-year contract for Council approval that modeled a similar agreement already in place with Skagit County.

Councilor Stavig/Green made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County. All in favor, motion carried.

Renewal of Fire Mobilization Agreement with the State of Washington

Fire Chief Rob Toth presented a contract renewal that provides interagency support and reimbursement mechanisms for regional coordination during emergencies.

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026

Councilor Turman-Bryant/DeGloria made a motion to approve and allow the Mayor to sign the interagency agreement with the State of Washington, State Patrol, allowing for participation during a state mobilization. All in favor, motion carried.

Water Rescue Services with Skagit County Sheriff's Office

Fire Chief Rob Toth presented a new agreement that would establish a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and BFD for on water rescue efforts that would increase training resources and teams available to react in emergency situations.

Councilor Green/Stavig made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the interlocal agreement with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office for water rescue services. All in favor, motion carried.

Reciprocal Lending Agreement with Fire District 6

Fire Chief Rob Toth shared a reciprocal agreement with Fire District 6 that is modeled after similar lending exchanges with other partners. It provides clear parameters for loaning or borrowing equipment.

Councilor Green/Stavig made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the reciprocal lending agreement with Skagit County Fire District #6 for the lending of fire equipment. All in favor, motion carried.

2026 Lodging Tax Award: Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team

Admin & HR Manager Kristen Bachhuber spoke about the SRBEAT recommendation for Lodging Tax funds. There were special circumstances for the request, and an additional application period was opened for off-cycle applications to be received. Council had clarifying questions about: the impact of approving the ask on the LT fund, details about the special circumstance for the organization, and if there was an impact on any other 2026 LT awardees.

Councilor Stavig/Freeman made a motion to approve the 2026 Lodging Tax award of \$9,000.00 to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team. All in favor, motion carried.

WALK ON: North Star Funding

Mayor Aslett brought forth a resolution with Skagit County and the North Star Group to allocate opioid settlement funds and opened discussion for Council input. Aslett shared that the allocation was a similar 80/20 breakdown as other cities in the County. There was robust Council discussion and feedback covering the topics of: contract wording about current funds versus future funds, more specification of projects funded, and possible City uses for the settlement

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026

funding. **Mayor Aslett** stated that a tour of the facility would be arranged. Council did not adopt the proposed resolution; item will return with revisions.

Councilor Turman-Bryant/Pérez-Linares made a motion to adopt the resolution setting aside a portion of opioid settlement funds to support the North Star Initiative. Motion failed; 6:0.

EXECUTIVE & CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Leif Johnson recited the following: pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, an executive session will be held to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140, discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public. There was no expected action at the conclusion of the session.

City Attorney Leif Johnson recited the following: pursuant to RCW 42.30.140, a closed session will be held for collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. There was no expected action.

City Attorney Leif Johnson announced a 5-minute break with the start of the Executive Session meeting beginning at 8:27 p.m. The meeting was expected to last for 5 minutes until 8:32 p.m. The Executive Session ended at 8:34 p.m.

The Closed Session began at 8:35 p.m. An extension was made to add 5 minutes to the session until 8:42 p.m. An extension was made to add 5 minutes to the session until 8:48 p.m. An extension was made to add 5 minutes to the session until 9:06 p.m. An extension was made to add 5 minutes to the session until 9:12 p.m. The meeting closed at 9:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Aslett adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

January 22, 2026



Sandra Kottke
Finance Director



Bill Aslett
Mayor