

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WA

February 12, 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, Scott Green, Jesús Pérez-Linares, James Stavig, Elizabeth Turman-Bryant, and Jamie Weiss. **Staff present:** Admin & HR Manager Kristen Bachhuber, Sewer Supervisor Don Erickson, 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, and Police Chief Kevin Turner.

Councilors Stavig/Green made a motion to excuse **Councilor Joe DeGloria** from the February 12, 2026, City Council meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES

Councilors Green/Freeman made a motion to approve the January 22, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

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 February 12, 2026, in the amount of \$1,003,065.91; January 2026 – Electronic AP, in the amount of \$31,994.27; Payroll Expenses for Pay Period Ending January 15, 2026, in the amount of \$950,08961; and Payroll Expenses for Pay Period Ending January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$703,955.74. All in favor; motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Aslett presented the 2024 Outstanding Performance award to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Sewer Supervisor Don Erickson** introduced the department staff and noted that it was the 12th award received in a row and 14th overall. Erickson read a email quote from the Department of Ecology which emphasized the merit of this achievement for the department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were two Public Comments. The first commentor, Diane McDougal, spoke about government spending accountability and cost-of-living increases leading to less affordability for taxpayers. McDougal shared historical context about the U.S. flag code and the significance of placing a hand over the heart during the pledge. The second commenter, Linda Blake, spoke in support of adding bicycle lanes on Spruce Street. Blake described positive experiences living in

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bicycle-friendly communities and highlighted how bike lanes improve neighborhood character, safety, and accessibility.

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 administration@burlingtonwa.gov. Contact information for all the City Departments is available at www.burlingtonwa.gov.

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Aslett provided an update about the Senior Center transition, with ongoing conversations among mayors and Skagit County to gather more information. The County has assured cities that efforts are underway to ensure no interruption of senior services. Additionally, the Mayor clarified that the North Star opioid settlement agreement was postponed and he revised item will return at a future meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Elizabeth Turman-Bryant shared information about a Letter of Support request from the City of Burlington for the Skagit Valley Bicycle Coalition to create a temporary pop-up bike park near Rotary Park. **Turman-Bryant** spoke about the Bicycle Coalition's new connection to United General and discussed how the nonprofit umbrella helps the group apply for grants.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Councilor Weiss highlighted details included in an agenda and report emailed to Council, especially statistics and links stored in SharePoint.

Councilor Turman-Bryant noted the Parks & Recreation report had been emailed. **Turman-Bryant** shared that Parks & Rec is developing a volunteer program and that there are three open board seats needing applicants.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

No Officer's Reports.

PROCLAMATION:

No Proclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING:

No Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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BMC 2.76.030 – Amendment to Library Board of Trustees Membership

Teamsters Local 231 Public Works Division MOU Extension Agreement: Revised

Mayor Aslett introduced the Consent Agenda items. Councilor Weiss requested more discussion for the MOU agreement and proposed a vote to move it out of the Consent Agenda.

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

Councilor Weiss/Freeman made a motion to move Consent Agenda Item #2 to be an Intro/Discussion item on the agenda. Councilors Freeman, Weiss, Turman-Bryant, Pérez-Linares, and Stavig in favor; Councilor Green opposed. Motion carries; 5:1.

Councilor Weiss/Turman-Bryant made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 and authorize the Mayor's signature on appropriate documents. All in favor; motion carries.

ACTION ITEMS:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ILA

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Riggs introduced the renewal of interlocal agreement with Department of Natural Resources that would continue Burlington Fire Department to receive grant funding with the program and to respond to mutual aid calls where DNR is the primary authority.

Councilor Freeman/Pérez-Linares made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the interlocal agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that allows for mutual aid and reimbursement of our equipment and personnel. All in favor, motion carried.

PD Vehicle Purchases

Police Chief Kevin Turner requested an approval of Police vehicle purchases with the authority to not exceed the spending allocation of \$504,000. Councilor Weiss added context from the Public Safety Committee meeting wherein the goal would be to purchase vehicles that could align with the current fleet and to maintain a universal inventory of parts to conduct basic repairs. There was continued conversation amongst Council and staff about the number of vehicles requested to buy, the ER&R fund, specifications of patrol vehicles, make and model of intended purchase, final cost after special upgrades were made to the patrol rigs, and change in approval process for vehicle purchasing.

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Councilor Turman-Bryant/Green made a motion to authorize the Police Department to expend up to \$504,000, as approved in the 2026 budget for vehicle purchases, and authorize the Mayor to sign the purchase documents. **Councilors Freeman, Weiss, Turman-Bryant, and Pérez-Linares** in favor; **Councilor Green** and **Stavig** opposed. Motion carries; 4:2.

Teamsters Local 231 Public Works Division MOU Extension Agreement: Revised

Councilor Weiss/Stavig made a motion to defer the vote and conversation to a future meeting, and to provide both versions of the MOU for comparison. All in favor, motion carried.

INTRO/DISCUSSION:

Intergovernmental Agreement with WMD

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Riggs opened the discussion and outlined some of the possibilities the agreement would create to respond to large-scale emergencies outside of Washington State. **Councilor Weiss** stated that during the Public Safety Committee meeting some of the exchanges mentioned could be physical resources or personnel. There was conversation about how City staff could have unique work opportunities outside of their local community and that this agreement would be new for the Burlington Fire Department.

CLOSED SESSION:

City Administrator Andy Parks recited the following: Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140, a closed session will be held to discuss collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or (b) 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. This topic is OPMA exempt. The closed session is expected to last for 30 minutes. No action is expected at the conclusion of the closed session.

City Administrator Andy Parks announced a 5-minute break with the start of the Closed Session meeting beginning at 8:05 p.m. The meeting was expected to last for 30 minutes until 8:35 p.m. An extension was made to add 10 minutes to the session until 8:45 p.m. An extension was made to add 10 minutes to the session until 8:55 p.m. An extension was made to add 5 minutes to the session until 9:00 p.m. The session closed at 9:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Aslett adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

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Sandra Kottke
Finance Director



Bill Aslett
Mayor

Mayor's Comments for 02-26-2026

I called a meeting with the other three cities in the county to discuss the county's unilateral decision to stop funding the Senior Center program. I am confident the cities can work together with the county to reach a compromise that preserves the essential services our seniors rely on.

Chief Toth and Tyler attended the County DEM meeting as part of the ongoing recap of the December flood event. We are nearing the point where we can begin closing out our own process. As I mentioned in December, we will hold a follow-up Town Hall once that is complete.

We are also planning to begin a series of "Coffee with the Mayor" events. I am open to including council members, and one has already reached out with interest. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Next week will be a busy one. On Tuesday, we will tour the new STAR Center. On Wednesday is the EDASC Economic Forecast Dinner.

We are seeing a notable uptick in large construction activity across the city. The apartments just east of Kohl's and those north of the former Dick's location are both progressing quickly. The townhomes on the west side of the police station, as well as the Pine Street townhomes, are also showing active development.

Our annual financial audit by the state has concluded. I will share the date and time of the exit interview as soon as it is scheduled.