



**MINUTES**  
**DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
City Council Chambers  
21630 11th Avenue S, Suite C  
Des Moines, Washington  
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

City Clerk Taria Keane called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The flag salute was led by City Clerk Taria Keane.

**ROLL CALL**

**Council Present:**

Councilmember Gene Achziger, Councilmember Pierre Blosse, Councilmember Robyn Desimone, Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, Councilmember Jeremy Nutting, Councilmember Harry Steinmetz

**Staff Present:**

City Manager Katherine Caffrey; Assistant City Manager Adrienne Johnson-Newton; City Attorney Tim George; Police Chief Ted Boe; Director of Administrative Services Bonnie Wilkins; Harbormaster Scott Wilkins; Finance Director Jeff Friend; Assistant City Attorney Matthew Hutchins; City Prosecutor Tara Vaughn; Community Development Director Rebecca Deming; Planning & Development Services Manager Laura Techico; Public Works Director Mike Slevin; City Engineer Tommy Owen; IT Manager Chris Pauk; City Clerk Taria Keane; and Deputy City Clerk Sara Lee

**CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS**

- City Clerk Taria Keane called Councilmember Harry Steinmetz to the podium to be sworn in by Des Moines Citizen MaryEllen Laird.
- City Clerk Taria Keane called Councilmember Gene Achziger to the podium to be sworn in by Des Moines Citizen Jayme Quinn Wagner.
- City Clerk Taria Keane called Councilmember Pierre Blosse to the podium to be

sworn in by his partner Autumn Counts.

- City Clerk Taria Keane called Councilmember Robyn Desimone to the podium to be sworn in by her daughter Fabiana Desimone.

## **SELECTION OF MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR**

City Clerk Taria Keane called for nominations for Mayor.

- Councilmember Jeremy Nutting nominated Councilmember Harry Steinmetz to serve as Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember Harry Steinmetz declined the nomination.
- Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui nominated Councilmember Gene Achziger to serve as Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember Gene Achziger declined the nomination.
- Councilmember JC Harris nominated himself to serve as Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember JC Harris accepted the nomination.
- Councilmember Harry Steinmetz nominated Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui to serve as Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui accepted the nomination.

City Clerk Taria Keane asked if there were any other nominations.

Seeing none, City Clerk Taria Keane closed nominations and called for the vote.

- Councilmember Gene Achziger voted for Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.
- Councilmember Pierre Blossie voted for Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.
- Councilmember Robyn Desimone voted for Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.
- Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui voted for Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui
- Councilmember JC Harris voted for Councilmember JC Harris.
- Councilmember Jeremy Nutting abstained from the vote.
- Councilmember Harry Steinmetz voted for Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.

With a vote of 5-1-1, Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui was elected as Mayor for the 2026-2027 term.

City Clerk Taria Keane turned the meeting over to Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui.

Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui called for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

- Councilmember Harry Steinmetz nominated Councilmember Gene Achziger to serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember Gene Achziger accepted the nomination.
- Councilmember Jeremy Nutting nominated Councilmember Harry Steinmetz to serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 term. Councilmember Harry Steinmetz declined the nomination.

Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui asked if there were any other nominations.

Seeing none, Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui closed nominations and called for the vote.

- Councilmember Harry Steinmetz voted for Councilmember Gene Achziger.
- Councilmember Jeremy Nutting abstained from the vote.
- Councilmember JC Harris abstained from the vote.
- Councilmember Gene Achziger voted for Councilmember Gene Achziger.
- Councilmember Robyn Desimone voted for Councilmember Gene Achziger.
- Councilmember Pierre Blossie voted for Councilmember Gene Achziger.
- Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui voted for Councilmember Gene Achziger.

With a vote of 5-0-2, Councilmember Gene Achziger was elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 term.

## **CORRESPONDENCE NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

- There was no additional correspondence beyond the emails already received by Council.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

### **Comments from the Public Sign-Up Sheet**

- Chris DeLaRosa, Des Moines, Flock
- Judy Grande, Des Moines, Flock

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATIONS/BRIEFINGS**

- Item 1.        **City Manager Report PowerPoint**  
 Staff Presentation:  
 Katherine Caffrey, City Manager

City Manager Katherine Caffrey gave a PowerPoint Presentation update on the Burning Boat Festival and an update on the New Agenda Software.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- Item 1. **Approval of Vouchers**  
**Motion:** "I move to approve the payment vouchers through December 22, 2025 and payroll transfers through December 19, 2025 in the attached list and further described as follows:"

EFT Vendor Payments #12830 - 12944	\$3,325,331.97
Wires #3177 - 3202	\$2,158,554.35
Accounts Payable #167202 - 167254	\$209,346.70
Checks	
Payroll Checks #20035 - 20038	\$3,020.96
12/5/2025	
Payroll Advice #15785 - 15948	\$515,432.62
12/5/2025	
Payroll Checks #20039 - 20040	\$4,343.01
12/19/2025	
Payroll Advice #15949 - 16103	\$495,738.11
12/19/2025	
Total Checks and Wires for A/P & Payroll:	\$6,711,767.72

- Item 2. **Approval of Minutes**  
**Motion:** "I move to approve the minutes from the City Council Regular Meeting(s) held on November 13, December 04, and December 11, 2025."

- Item 3. **South County Area Transportation Board Agreement**  
**Motion:** "I move to approve the Agreement with South County Area Transportation Board for the 2026 to 2029 term, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement substantially in the form as submitted."

### Direction/Action

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to approve the Consent Agenda as read, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz.

**Motion 7-0.**

## PUBLIC HEARING/CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

- Item 1. **Unit Lot Subdivision, Lot Splitting, and Substandard or Nonconforming Lot Regulations Update -1st Reading**  
Staff Presentation:  
Laura Techico, Planning and Development Services Manager

**Motion:** "I move to pass Draft Ordinance 25-117 to a second reading

on January 22, 2026.”

At 6:21 p.m. Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui opened the Public Hearing.

Planning & Development Services Manager Laura Techico gave Council a PowerPoint Presentation Update on Unit Lot Subdivision, Lot Splitting, and Substandard or Nonconforming Lot Regulations.

Public Comment

Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui asked 3 times if anyone wished to speak. Seeing none, Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui asked the Council if they had any questions.

At 6:33 p.m. Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui closed the Public Hearing.

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to pass Draft Ordinance 25-117 to a second reading on January 22, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz.

**Motion 7-0.**

At 6:34 p.m. Council took a 5 minute break and resumed the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Item 1.        **2026 City Council Calendar**  
Staff Presentation:  
Bonnie Wilkins, Director of Administrative Services

**Motion:** "I move to approve the 2026 City Council Calendar as presented."

Director of Administrative Services Bonnie Wilkins gave Council a PowerPoint presentation on the 2026 City Council Calendar.

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to approve the 2026 City Council Calendar as presented, seconded by Councilmember Pierre Blosse.

Council recommended the following date changes, moving the May 28th meeting to May 21st, moving July 23rd to July 30th, and adding a meeting to November 19th.

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to approve the 2026 City Council Calendar with date changes, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz.

**Motion 7-0.**

**The main amended motion passed 7-0.**

Item 2. **Planning Commission Appointment Process**

Staff Presentation:

Rebecca Deming, Community Development Director

**Motion:** "I move to direct staff to proceed with option # \_\_\_\_ for appointment of Planning Commissioners."

Community Development Director Rebecca Deming gave Council a PowerPoint presentation on the Planning Commission Appointment Process.

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz to direct staff to proceed with option# 2 for the appointment of Planning Commissioners, seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting.

**Motion 7-0.**

Item 3. **Business License Model Ordinance Update - 1st Reading**

Staff Presentation:

Matt Hutchins, Assistant City Attorney

**Motion:** "I move to pass Draft Ordinance 25-124 to a second reading on the next available regular Council meeting agenda."

Assistant City Attorney Matt Hutchins gave Council a PowerPoint presentation on the Business License Model Ordinance Update.

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to to pass Draft Ordinance 25-124 to a second reading on the next available regular Council Meeting agenda, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz.

**Motion 7-0.**

**COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

(4 minutes per Councilmember) - 30 minutes

COUNCILMEMBER HARRY STEINMETZ

- Burning Boat Festival
- Communication

COUNCILMEMBER JEREMY NUTTING

- Proposed Future Agenda Item — Flock Camera Presentation  
Council Supported

COUNCILMEMBER JC HARRIS

- Congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- Flock Camera Program
- Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP)

DEPUTY MAYOR GENE ACHZIGER

- Council Collaboration for 2026

COUNCILMEMBER ROBYN DESIMONE

- Excitement for New Year

COUNCILMEMBER PIERRE BLOSSE

- Thanked the Voters, Supporters, City Staff and Colleagues

### **PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**

MAYOR YOSHIKO GRACE MATSUI

- Thank you to Council
- Burning Boat Festival

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Property Acquisition under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) - 10 Minutes

The Special Meeting was called to order by Mayor Yoshiko Grace Matsui at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

##### **Council Present:**

Councilmember Gene Achziger, Councilmember Pierre Blosse, Councilmember Robyn Desimone, Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, Councilmember Jeremy Nutting, Councilmember Harry Steinmet

##### **Others Present:**

City Manager Katherine Caffrey, City Attorney Tim George

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to hold an Executive Session to discuss the Property Acquisition under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

The Executive Session was expected to last until 7:40 p.m.

The Special Meeting lasted 10 minutes and adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

No formal action was taken.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

January 22, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Direction/Action**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Harry Steinmetz.

**Motion 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.