



Des Moines

WATERLAND CITY
MINUTES

DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

City Council Chambers
21630 11th Avenue S, Suite C
Des Moines, Washington
Thursday, September 4, 2025 - 5:00 PM

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Traci Buxton called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present:

Mayor Traci Buxton; Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz; Councilmember Gene Achziger; Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui; Councilmember JC Harris; and Councilmember Matt Mahoney

Council Via Zoom:

Councilmember Jeremy Nutting

Staff Present:

City Manager Katherine Caffrey; Assistant City Manager Adrienne Johnson-Newton; City Attorney Tim George; Director of Administrative Services Bonnie Wilkins; Harbormaster Scott Wilkins; Public Works Director Mike Slevin; Finance Director Jeff Friend; Planning & Development Services Manager Laura Techico; Assistant City Attorney Matt Hutchins; City Engineer Tommy Owen; City Prosecutor Tara Vaughn; IT Director Chris Pauk; Administrative Coordinator Laura Hopp; and City Clerk Taria Keane

Staff Via Zoom:

Community Development Director Rebecca Deming

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS

- Item 1: SUSTAINABLE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE
- Community Development Director Rebecca Deming, along with Legislative Advocate Anthony Hemstad, presented a PowerPoint on the Sustainable Airport Master Plan update.

Following the presentation, the Council provided feedback and direction to the staff.

- Item 2: DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PILOT
- Council discussed opinions regarding the Committee structure. The Committee of the Whole pilot discussion will be brought back in early 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Traci Buxton called the City Council Study Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Gene Achziger.

ROLL CALL

Council Present:

Mayor Traci Buxton; Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz; Councilmember Gene Achziger; Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui; Councilmember JC Harris; and Councilmember Matt Mahoney

Council Via Zoom:

Councilmember Jeremy Nutting

Staff Present:

City Manager Katherine Caffrey; City Attorney Tim George; Assistant City Manager Adrienne Johnson-Newton; Director of Administrative

Services Bonnie Wilkins; Police Chief Ted Boe; Harbormaster Scott Wilkins; Public Works Director Mike Slevin; Finance Director Jeff Friend; Planning & Development Services Manager Laura Techico; Assistant City Attorney Matt Hutchins; City Engineer Tommy Owen; City Prosecutor Tara Vaughn; Administrative Coordinator Laura Hopp; and City Clerk Taria Keane

CORRESPONDENCE

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Bettina Carey, Marina Steps
- Melanie Barlow, Marina Steps
- Lee Tomlin, Marina Steps
- Victoria Andrews, Marina Steps
- Bill Linscott, Marina Steps
- Katie Paulson, Amenity Rentals
- Charlene Bacalzo, 223rd and Marina Steps
- Liz Daldalian, Amenity Rentals
- Jayme Wagner, Marina Steps
- Vic Pennington, Marina Steps
- Matt Pina, Marina Steps
- Joslyn Vekich, Amenity and Short-term Rentals
- Annie Pantzke, Amenity Rentals
- Catherine Dupras, Amenity Rentals
- Kaydee Kalaluhi, Amenity Rentals

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1: PRESENTATION BY HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOUT PACIFIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Public Works Director Mike Slevin and City Engineer Tommy Owen presented a PowerPoint, along with Ellie Daneshnia the Executive Director of Capital Planning & Construction with Highline Public Schools, Robin Brown the Senior Project Director with Vanir, and Katie Pond the Principal Architect with Hutteball + Oremus Architecture, on the Pacific Middle School Project.

Item 2: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- City Engineer Tommy Owen presented a PowerPoint to Council regarding the Interlocal Agreement with Highline School District.

Direction/Action

Motion made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Highline School District for the 24th Avenue South street improvements fronting Highline School District property known as Pacific Middle School, and further authorize the City Manager to sign said Interlocal Agreement substantially in the form as Submitted; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.
Motion passed 7-0.

Item 3: DRAFT ORDINANCE 25-001 SHORT TERM RENTALS; AMENITY RENTALS

- City Prosecutor Tara Vaughn presented a PowerPoint on the Draft Ordinance 25-001, Short Term Rentals; Amenity Rentals.

Following the presentation the Council provided recommendations to staff.

Direction/Action

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to pass Draft Ordinance No. 25-001 to a second reading at the next available City Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.
Motion passed 7-0.

At 7:55 p.m. Council took a 5 minute break and resumed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Item 4: DES MOINES MARINA STEPS (DMMS) FUNDING AND BIDDING UPDATE

- Public Works Director Mike Slevin and Finance Director Jeff Friend presented a PowerPoint on the Des Moines Marina Steps Funding and Bidding Update.

Direction/Action

Motion made by Councilmember Matt Mahoney to authorize the Public Works Department to publicly bid the DMMS project to construct as presented with deductive alternates for the vertical play area and spray park as soon as practicable and to approve the funding of the project with the funding sources as shown in the attached presentation; seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz.
Motion passed 4-3.

For: Mayor Traci Buxton, Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz, Councilmember Matt Mahoney, and Councilmember Jeremy Nutting.

Against: Councilmember JC Harris, Councilmember Yoshiko Grace

Study Session Minutes
September 4, 2025

Matsui, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 11, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Direction/Action

Motion made by Councilmember Gene Achziger to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.

Motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.