



Des Moines

WATERLAND CITY
MINUTES

DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers
21630 11th Avenue S, Suite C
Des Moines, Washington
Thursday, October 23, 2025 - 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Traci Buxton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.

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; Police Chief Ted Boe; Assistant City Attorney Matt Hutchins; IT Manager Chris Pauk; Director of Administrative Services Bonnie Wilkins; Harbormaster Scott Wilkins; Finance Director Jeff Friend; Public Works Director Michael Slevin; Civil Engineer Allyssa Beaver; Surface Water and Environmental Engineering Manager Tyler Beekley; City Engineer Tommy Owen; Deputy City Clerk Sara Lee; and City Clerk Taria Keane

CORRESPONDENCE NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

- No additional correspondence outside of the emails already received by Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Bettina Carey, Transparency

REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

KING COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

- Councilmember JC Harris gave an update on the Regional Transit Committee Meeting held on October 15, 2025.

SOUTH COUNTY AREA TRANSPORTATION BOARD

- Councilmember Matt Mahoney gave an update on the South County Area Transportation Board meeting held on October 21, 2025.

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Mayor Traci Buxton gave an update on the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board meeting held on October 23, 2025.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/PRESENTATIONS/BRIEFINGS

- Item 1: DISCUSSION OF CITY OF BURIEN LETTER TO PORT OF SEATTLE
- City Manager Katherine Caffrey gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Burien Letter to Port of Seattle.
- Item 2: WAREHOUSE TAX COLLECTIONS UPDATE
- City Manager Katherine Caffrey gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Warehouse Tax Collections Update.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Item 1: APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS
- Motion:** To approve the payment vouchers through October 09, 2025 and payroll transfers through October 03, 2025 in the attached list and further described as follows:

EFT Vendor Payments	#12527-12604	\$1,237,181.60
Wires	#3097-3132	\$1,261,394.51

Regular Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2025

Accounts Payable Checks	#167073-167117	\$ 208,531.19
Payroll Checks	#20022-20025	\$ 1,696.31
Payroll Advice	#15129-15295	\$ 472,433.90
Payroll Checks	#15296-15296	\$ 2,074.96
Payroll Advice	#15297-15298	\$ 672.57

Total Checks and Wires for A/P & Payroll: \$3,183,985.04

Item 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes from the September 11, 2025 and September 25, 2025 Regular City Council Meetings.

Item 3: 2026 BUSINESS LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE

Motion: To adopt Draft Resolution No. 25-109 updating the business license fee schedule.

Item 4: TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH FORGED FIBER 37, LLC - 2nd READING

Motion: To pass Draft Ordinance No. 25-085 approving a telecommunications Franchise Agreement with Forged Fiber 37.

Item 5: 2026 VEHICLE PURCHASE

Motion: To approve the purchase of vehicle identified in Attachment 1 for a total estimated amount of \$55,000 and to authorize the City Manager or the City Manager's designee to sign the purchase orders at the time they are created.

Direction/Action

Motion made by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting to approve the Consent Agenda as read; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.

Councilmember JC Harris pulled Consent Agenda Item #5

The remainder of the Consent Agenda passed 7-0.

Council discussed Consent Agenda Item #5.

Motion made by Councilmember Matt Mahoney to approve Consent Agenda Item #5 as read; seconded by Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui.

Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING/CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1: 2026 PROPERTY TAX LEVY - 1st READING

At 6:31 p.m. Mayor Traci Buxton opened the Public Hearing.

Finance Director Jeff Friend gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the 2026 Property Tax Levy.

Mayor Traci Buxton asked 3 times if anyone wished to speak.

Mayor Traci Buxton asked Council if they had any questions.

At 6:40 p.m. Mayor Traci Buxton closed the Public Hearing.

Direction/Action

Motion 1 made by Councilmember Matt Mahoney to forward Draft Ordinance No. 25-101, determining the amount of funds to be raised by ad valorem taxes for the year 2026 for general City expenditures, to a second reading; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting. Motion passed 7-0.

Direction/Action

Motion 2 made by Councilmember Matt Mahoney to forward Draft Ordinance No. 25-102, authorizing the increase in ad valorem taxes for the year 2026 for general City expenditures, to a second reading; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: MARINA STEPS PROJECT – PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD AND CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, INSPECTION AND ENGINEER OF RECORD SERVICES

- Staff Presentation by Public Works Director Mike Slevin

Direction/Action

Motion 1 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to direct Administration to bring forward a budget amendment to the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan and the 2025 Capital Budget to include the amended Marina Steps Project as described herein, and include such amendment in the next available budget amendment ordinance; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.

Motion made by Councilmember Gene Achziger to postpone to January 15, 2026; seconded by Councilmember JC Harris.

Motion failed 3-4.

For: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

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

Main Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 2 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to approve the Public Works Contract with Bayshore Construction (Contractor) for the Marina Steps Project in the amount of \$8,537,713.64, and authorize a project construction contingency in the amount of \$1,375,000.00, and further authorize the City Manager to sign said Contract substantially in the form as submitted; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting. Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 3 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to approve the Consultant Services Contract with Psomas, Inc. to provide Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Marina Steps Project in the amount of \$924,000.00, and further authorize the City Manager to sign said Consultant Services Contract substantially in the form as submitted; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney. Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 4 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to approve the 2024-2025 On-Call General Civil Engineering Services Task Assignment 2025-01 with KPFF, Inc. to provide Engineer of Record services for the Marina Steps Project in the amount not to exceed \$426,787 and authorize the City Manager to sign said Task Assignment substantially in the form as submitted; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting. Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 5 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to authorize the acceptance of the 2023-25 Washington State Department of Commerce Direct Appropriation in the amount of \$970,000.00, and further authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to sign the State funding agreement(s) when they are available; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney. Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 6 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to authorize the acceptance of the 2025-27 Washington State Department of Commerce Direct Appropriation in the amount of \$999,100.00, and further authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to sign the State funding agreement(s) when they are available; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting. Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Motion 7 made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to authorize the acceptance of the Stormwater Ecology Grant in the amount of

\$560,407.00, and further authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to sign the State funding agreement(s) when they are available; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.

Motion passed 4-3.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Councilmember JC Harris, and Councilmember Gene Achziger.

Item 2: WATER/SEWER FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS

- Staff Presentation by Surface Water/Environmental Engineer Tyler Beekley

Direction/Action

Motion made by Councilmember Matt Mahoney to direct the City Manager to notify eligible utility providers of the City's intent to renegotiate existing franchise agreements; seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz.

Motion passed 6-1.

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

Against: Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui

At 7:59 p.m. Council took a 7 minute break.

At 8:06 p.m. the meeting resumed.

Item 3: B&O TAX MODEL ORDINANCE UPDATE - 1st READING

- Staff Presentation by Assistant City Attorney Matthew Hutchins

Direction/Action

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to pass Draft Ordinance 25-100 to a second reading on the next regular Council meeting agenda; seconded by Councilmember Matt Mahoney.

Motion passed 7-0.

Item 4: CONSIDERATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITY OF DES MOINES AND KING COUNTY METRO TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

- Staff Presentation by City Manager Katherine Caffrey

Direction/Action

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with King County Metro Transit Department for studies related to a potential water taxi service between Des Moines and Seattle; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting.
Motion passed 7-0.

- Item 5: CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NELSON-NYGAARD
- Staff Presentation by City Manager Katherine Caffrey

Direction/Action

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz to approve the Consultant Services Contract with Nelson\Nygaard in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the implementation of a Washington Department of Commerce Grant for Economic Analysis of the Electric Water Taxi Pilot Program, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Contract substantially in the form as attached; seconded by Councilmember Jeremy Nutting.
Motion passed 7-0.

- Item 6: NEW AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION – 10 Minutes
- Mayor Traci Buxton suggested a new agenda item to propose a COLA to the stipend for the Council.
Council supported.
 - Mayor Traci Buxton suggested a new agenda item to consider increasing the City Managers signing threshold.
Council supported.

Councilmember Jeremy Nutting left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

(4 minutes per Councilmember) - 30 minutes

COUNCILMEMBER YOSHIKO GRACE MATSUI

- Pet Licenses
- Upcoming events: Drag Bingo and Halloween

COUNCILMEMBER JC HARRIS

- University of Washington Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Meeting
- Sustainable Airport Master Plan

COUNCILMEMBER GENE ACHZIGER

- Trick or Treat Path
- Speed Bumps on 10th Avenue and Redondo Beach Drive

COUNCILMEMBER MATT MAHONEY

- Des Moines Marina Camera
- Flower Pots
- Halloween
- November 11th Veterans Day Event at Steven J. Underwood Park

DEPUTY MAYOR HARRY STEINMETZ

- Community Events
- Pet Licensing
- Flower Pots
- Halloween

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

- Community Events: Galas, Young Life, Resource Fair, Girls on the Run, Sips and Chicks
- Halloween

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 06, 2025 City Council Study Session

ADJOURNMENT

Direction/Action

Motion: made by Councilmember Yoshiko Grace Matsui to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Deputy Mayor Harry Steinmetz.

Motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.