

CITY OF GEORGE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
December 16, 2025

COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE: George Community Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Juan Villalpando, Council Member Kate Schooler, Council Member Debby Kooy, Council Member Julia Schooler, Council Member Patty Neff (remote).

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Clerk Amy Grace, Public Works Superintendent Aaron Harwood, City Engineer Mike Meskimen, City Planner Alex Kovach; City Attorney Chuck Zimmerman.

Guests in attendance: Bob Horst, Curt Morris, Drew Scott

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Villalpando called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to excuse Council Member Melissa Maldonado. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 4-0

ABSENT: Melissa Maldonado

Mayor Villalpando opened the 2026 Final Budget Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. After no comments were received the public hearing was then closed at 7:05.

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Citizens wishing to speak under items 7 or 8 identified themselves as follows: None

Public comment: None

Council Member Debby Kooy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and approval of vouchers #19394 in the amount of \$137.47; vouchers #19425-19459 in the amount of \$66,273.82 and electronic checks in the amount of \$39,780.60. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

City Engineer Mike Meskimen presented the Public Works Board Emergency Funding Contract Amendment to Council. He explained that the amendment is to the Scope of work on the contract and said the scope matches what work was actually completed and recommended the Council authorize the Mayor to sign.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Public Works Board Emergency Funding Contract Amendment. Council Member Julia Schooler seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

City Planner Alex Kovach presented to Council the George Town Center Phase 2 – Preliminary Major Plat

Submittal Planned Development Planning Agency Recommendation letter and asked for a motion to approve recommendations as conditioned.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to approve the George Town Center Phase 2 – Preliminary Major Plat Submittal Planned Development Planning Agency recommendations as conditioned. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

City Planner Alex Kovach led a Parks Plan discussion. He mentioned the beginning steps of a Civic Center Development Plan. A lengthy discussion continued. Mayor Villalpando suggested that the land acquisition committee meet to discuss further.

City Planner Alex Kovach presented to Council an amendment to the Kovach Architect Contract. Mr. Kovach explained to Council that the current contract was passed down from the previous City planner and has not been updated since 2009. Mr. Kovach discussed the contract terms.

Council Member Debby Kooy made a motion to approve the amended Professional Services Agreement for Planning and Building Official Services. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The City Clerk briefly discussed the 2026 Budget with Council which included a 3% COLA increase for the City employees, a \$15,000 budget to the Traffic Control Devices line item under the Street Fund for City wide striping, a \$50,000 budget to the Capital Outlay Machinery/Equipment line item under the Street Fund for Public Work equipment, and the creation of a new fund 420 for any Grant/Loan Revenue and Expenditures for Well projects. Council discussed the Criminal Justice Fund 102 with the concerns that revenues may not sustain current security service expenditures. Council discussion followed. Mayor Villalpando formed a Criminal Justice Committee which includes Mayor Villalpando, Council Member Julia Schooler, and City Clerk Amy Grace.

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05 An Ordinance of the city of George, Washington adopting the Budget for the City for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-06 An Ordinance of the City of George, amending the 2025 final budget for the fiscal year ending December, 2025; and setting an effective date. Council Member Patty Neff seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Council Comments and Questions: Curt Morris asked the City engineers how the wastewater treatment plan is coming along. City Engineer Mike Meskimen said there would be an update at January's meeting for funding applications and a more in depth update late February or early March.

Council Member Kate Schooler asked the City Engineers to bring an update on the Well funding applications to January's meeting. Mr. Meskimen agreed to bring back an update.

City Planner Alex Kovach updated Council on the PUD lighting on E. Montmorency and let them know the City is still in que for new street lighting.

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Patty Neff seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved by the City Council at
an Open Public Meeting the
20th of January, 2026.

Juan Villalpando, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Grace, City Clerk-Treasurer