

CITY OF GEORGE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
May 19, 2026

COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE: George Community Hall

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Clerk Amy Grace, City Maintenance Norm Holden, City Engineer Mike Meskimen, City Planner Alex Kovach; City Attorney Chuck Zimmerman.

Guests in attendance: Patric Connelly, Reece Leavitt

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Juan Villapando at 7:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

ROLL CALL: All present

ABSENT: None

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve the agenda with the following corrections:

- Add Agenda Item 8A: 2026-2028 Professional Engineering Service Agreement General Services
- Add Agenda Item 8B: Grant County Health District – Kratom Presentation

Council Member Julia Schooler seconded. Motion passed 5-0

Citizens wishing to speak under items 7 or 8: None

Public comment: None

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and approval of vouchers #19608 – 19655 in the amount of \$83,330.20, and electronic checks in the amount of \$27,301.87. Council Member Patty Neff seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business – Public Works – Sprinkler System Improvement Quotes

Under Old Business, the Public Works Superintendent provided an update on the request for quotes related to the sprinkler system improvement project. The Superintendent presented one quote and requested authorization in the amount of \$2,000 to proceed.

Council engaged in discussion regarding the proposed cost and the need for additional information. Following discussion, the Council requested that the Superintendent obtain an additional quote for comparison. The Council also directed the Clerk's Office to consult with legal counsel to determine

whether the existing agreement between JLD and Colonial Market requires updating in connection with the proposed improvements.

No action was taken pending receipt of the additional quote and legal review.

New Business – 2026-2028 Professional Engineering Services Agreement – Gray & Osborne, Inc.

City Engineer Mike Meskimen presented to Council the proposed 2026–2028 Professional Engineering Services Agreement – General Services between the City of George and Gray & Osborne, Inc. The City Engineer reviewed the scope of engineering services covered under the agreement and recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Council Member Debby Kooy moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2026–2028 Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Gray & Osborne, Inc. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. The motion passed 5–0.

New Business - Grant County Health District – Kratom Presentation

Reece Leavitt a representative from the Grant County Health District (GCHD) provided a brief presentation to the Council regarding kratom, including an overview of public health concerns and recent regional activity. GCHD reported that it has adopted a Resolution urging all Grant County cities, towns, and the Grant County Board of County Commissioners to consider restrictions on the sale and distribution of kratom products. Council discussion followed.

The Council directed the Clerk's Department to bring back sample ordinances from other jurisdictions for review and further consideration.

Council Comments and Questions

During Council comments and questions, a Council Member Melissa Maldonado inquired about the City's security officer, including current work hours and days of coverage. The Councilmember also noted concerns regarding unoccupied or inoperable vehicles in public areas and vehicles blocking community mailboxes.

Council Member Debby Kooy commented on the need for additional security presence during the Fourth of July celebration.

Council Member Julia Schooler requested that the Mayor contact the Grant County Sheriff's Office to ask for additional patrol within the city. The Mayor stated he would contact the Sheriff's Office to request the additional patrol.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to authorize the City Planner to proceed with preparing and submitting the RCO WWRP-Recreation grant application. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Patty Neff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Julia Schooler seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Approved by the City Council at
an Open Public Meeting the
16th of June, 2026.

Juan Villalpando, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Grace, City Clerk-Treasurer