

CITY OF GEORGE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
July 21, 2026

COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE: George Community Hall

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

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

Guests in attendance: Patric Connelly, Brent Donlen, David Durfee, Travis Herring

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Julia Schooler at 7:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to excuse Mayor Juan Villalpando. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

ABSENT: Mayor Juan Villalpando

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS 7 OR 8: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Patric Connelly asked City staff for an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. City Planner Alex Kovach stated the project is currently in SEPA review. City Engineer Mike Meskimen added that the Wastewater Facility Plan Feasibility Study is under review with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Port of Quincy Security Officer Angel Diaz commented on speeding concerns within the school zone area and noted that the Grant County Sheriff's Department is unwilling to enforce speed violations because the flashing school lights remain activated 24 hours a day. He stated that the speed limit is 20 mph throughout the City limits regardless of school hours. Council discussed the matter and agreed City staff should turn off or remove the flashing school lights and update City signage so the Sheriff's Department will enforce speed violations.

Grant County Fire District 3 Chief Durfee informed the Council that the Fire District intends to resubmit the parking lot paving project plans for the George Fire Station.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and approval of vouchers #19692-19731 in the amount of \$104,542.24 and electronic checks in the amount of \$45,361.61. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS – Ordinance 2026-01 – Prohibition of Kratom Products

Council reviewed Ordinance 2026-01 adopting GMC Chapter 6.06 relating to the prohibition of the sale, advertisement, and distribution of kratom products.

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS - George Climate Planning Grant – Policy Audit Deliverable 3

City Planner Alex Kovach presented Deliverable 3 of the Climate Planning Grant Policy Audit. Council discussed recommended policy updates and next steps. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS - Travis Herring Farms, LLC Lease Renewal – Discussion with Lessee Regarding Proposed Amendments to Existing Lease Expiring 12/31/2026

Travis Herring addressed the Council regarding proposed amendments to the existing lease. He requested that the amended contract reflect an annual rent amount of \$500, that **cattle grazing be permitted** on the leased property, that the **Lessee be responsible for minor repairs up to \$1,000**, and that **all power-related utilities** associated with the leased premises be paid by the City. Council discussed the requested changes and provided direction to staff and legal counsel to incorporate the proposed amendments into a draft lease for future Council review.

NEW BUSINESS - Grant County Economic Development Council – 2026 Municipal Service Agreement

Council considered the 2026 Municipal Service Agreement with GCEDC.

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a Motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - Ordinance 2026-02 – Complete Streets Program

Council reviewed Ordinance 2026-02 adopting GMC Chapter 11.15 establishing a Complete Streets Program.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - Pathway Illumination TIB Application

City Engineer Mike Meskimen presented the proposed TIB application for pathway illumination along Royal Anne Drive/Washington Way South and Frontage Road to Parkhill Ave. and recommended Council approve.

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve submission of the TIB application Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - Set Public Hearing Date – 2026–2031 and 2027-2032 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

Council Member Patty Neff made a motion, Council Member Debby Kooy seconded to set a public hearing for the City's 2026–2031 and 2027-2032 STIP for the next scheduled Council Meeting, August 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - Public Works Board (PWB) Award Letter – Acceptance of Award and Authorization for Mayor to Sign

City Engineer Mike Meskimen presented an award notification letter from the Public Works Board for the Lift Station and Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades project. The PWB conditionally approved the City's pre-construction application at its May 15, 2026 board meeting and awarded a total of \$980,000, consisting of \$490,000 in loan funding and \$490,000 in grant funding. The loan carries an interest rate of 0.53% with a five year term. The letter states that eligible project costs incurred from the date of board approval are reimbursable. Threshold checks and underwriting have been completed, and the PWB will issue the contract electronically. The City is required to complete its internal review and return an executed contract within six months of receipt to avoid withdrawal of the award. Mr. Meskimen recommended the Council accept the award from PWB and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to accept the PWB award with a total of \$980,000, consisting of \$490,000 in loan funding and \$490,000 in grant funding with the loan carrying an interest rate of 0.53% with a five year term and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Council Member Debby Kooy updated the Council and the public on the 2026 4th of July event. She stated that the event had over 8.2K visitors this year. Mrs. Kooy also wanted to share with the Council that 4th of July 2027 will be the City's 70th fourth of July Celebration.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Patty Neff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Debby Kooy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Approved by the City Council at
an Open Public Meeting the
18th of August, 2026.

Juan Villalpando, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Grace, City Clerk-Treasurer