

CITY OF GEORGE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
August 18, 2026

COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE: George Community Hall

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Clerk Amy Grace, City Deputy Clerk Sonia De La Rosa, City Engineer Mike Meskimen, City Planner Alex Kovach; City Attorney Chuck Zimmerman.

Guests in attendance: Gabe McKay, Robert Horst, Brent Dowlen, Patric Connelly, Curt Morris, Edward A. Seelbach, Timothy Kovach and Angel Diaz.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Juan Villalpando at 7:05 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

ROLL CALL: All Present

ABSENT: None

Public Hearing – 2026–2031 and 2027-2032 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The public hearing opened at 7:07 p.m. City Engineer Mike Meskimen presented the proposed 2026–2031 and 2027-2032 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Council member Debby Kooy requested that a W. Montmorency Island curbing project be added to the STIP.

Public comment was received from citizen Curt Morris inquiring about the N. Washington Way and Royal Anne connection. No other public comments were offered.

The public hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: During approval of the agenda, the City Clerk requested permission to add item 8b under OLD BUSINESS for the Growth Management Act (GMA) Periodic Update Grant Contract Number 27-63114-021 – FY 2027.

Council member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS 8 OR 9: Patric Connelly wished to speak on item 9d.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizen Edward Seelbach asked Council about animal control services for the City. Councilmember Julia Schooler stated she would contact the Quincy Animal Shelter to determine the current status of the contract between the City of George and the City of Quincy and bring back to the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Seelbach also asked whether the City has an emergency response system in place for natural disasters.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Kate Schooler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and approval of vouchers #19732-19733 in the amount of \$149.40; vouchers #19735-19765 in the amount of \$53,946.04 and electronic checks in the amount of \$26,481.94. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS – Travis Herring Farms, LLC Lease renewal

Council reviewed the farm lease for the wastewater lagoon field. Following discussion, Council member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve the six (6) year term lease commencing on January 1, 2027 and ending on December 31, 2032. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS – GMA Periodic Update Grant, FY 2027

City planner Alex Kovach presented the Growth Management Act Periodic Update Grant for FY 2027 in the amount of \$49,130 and recommended Council approval and authorization for the Mayor to sign the required document

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to accept the GMA Periodic Update Grant FY-2027 in the amount of \$49,130 and authorize the Mayor to sign the required documents. Council Member Kate Schooler seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS - Ratification of Mayor's Signature on Public Works Board Application

The City Engineer Mike Meskimen briefly updated Council on the City's Water System Plan, noting that the current plan has expired and requires an update. He explained that the Public Works Board application deadline was July 31, 2026, and recommended that Council approve ratification of the Mayor's signature on the application in the amount of \$100,000.

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to approve ratification of the Mayor's signature on the Public Works Board funding application in the amount of \$100,00. Council Member Kate School seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS – Special Event Application – Community Hall – 2026 Blue Grass Festival

The City Clerk presented the Special event Application submitted by the George Community Hall, requesting that Council waive the business license requirement and the damage deposit fee. The

application amount was \$11,300.

Council Member Melissa Maldonado made a motion to approve the Special Event Application submitted by the George Community Hall in the amount of \$11,300 and to waive the business license requirement and the damage deposit fee. Council Member Patty Neff seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1, with Council Member Debby Kooy abstaining due to her role on the Community Hall Board.

NEW BUSINESS – City Attorney Discussion – Remote Attendance and Virtual Meeting Technology

Council discussed remote attendance at Council meetings for legal counsel. Councilmembers were in agreement that virtual participation by the City Attorney's Office is acceptable. Council also expressed support for the Attorney's Office providing the audio and visual technology needed for virtual meeting access. **No action was taken.**

NEW BUSINESS – Port Discussion – M&I Water Application

The Port presented information on its Municipal & Industrial (M&I) Water application and asked whether the City of George would have interest in participating in the application. Council discussed the request and expressed support for being part of the Port's M&I water application. **No action was taken.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Council Member Melissa Maldonado announced that the Chamber of Commerce will hold a Membership Appreciation Social recognizing current members and welcoming new members. The event will be hosted by the Holiday Inn Express on August 20, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Julia Schooler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Melissa Maldonado seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Approved by the City Council at
an Open Public Meeting the
15th of September, 2026.

Juan Villalpando, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Grace, City Clerk-Treasurer