

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 2, 2025

City Hall, 920 SE Cedar Falls Way, North Bend, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Miller called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Elwood, Gothelf, Joselyn, Koellen, Rustik, Torguson and Tremolada.

Mayor Miller announced the December 16, 2025 City Council Meeting and the December 23, 2025 City Council Workstudy were cancelled.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Miller administered the oath of office to Councilmembers Mark Joselyn and Errol Tremolada.

Mayor Miller recessed the meeting at 7:06 p.m. for a ten-minute break. The meeting was called back to order at 7:15 p.m.

Councilmember Torguson requested AB25-136 – Motion Regarding 2026 General Fund Appropriations be moved up on the agenda to be discussed before AB25-135 – Ordinance Adopting 2026 Salary Schedule.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – Special City Council Workstudy of October 14, 2025, City Council Workstudy of October 28, 2025 & City Council Meeting of November 18, 2025

Payroll – November 20, 2025 – 78111 through 78113, in the amount of **\$287,504.32**

Checks – December 2, 2025 – 78114 through 78170, in the amount of **\$2,681,414.17**

AB25-130 – Motion Authorizing Contract with Eastside Transportation Partnership

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Koellen to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Debra Landers, North Bend Art & Industry, reported on recent events and noted the organization had a ribbon cutting event scheduled for Monday, December 8th at 4 p.m. at their new facility located at 1533 Bendigo Blvd N.

Robyn Balcom, North Bend resident, expressed a desire to learn more about City finances,

the budgeting process, costs associated with the new police services contract with the King County Sheriff's Office, and where the City could cut spending to reduce the tax burden on citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

AB25-131 – Appointments to Parks Commission

Audio: 13:28

Mayor Miller recommended the reappointments of Matt Miller to Position No. 1, Kyle Braun to Position No. 2, Eric Thompson to Position No. 3 and Tim Talevich to Position No. 4 on the Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission.

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Tremolada to approve AB25-131, confirming the reappointments of Matt Miller to Position No. 1, Kyle Braun to Position No. 2, Eric Thompson to Position No. 3 and Tim Talevich to Position No. 4, on the Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission, terms expiring December 31, 2029. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AB25-132 – Selection of 2026 Mayor Pro Tem

Audio: 19:38

Mayor Miller called for nominations for 2026 Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED** to nominate Councilmember Tremolada to serve as the 2026 Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilmember Rustik.

There were no further nominations. The motion **PASSED** 7-0, and Councilmember Tremolada was selected as the 2026 Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilmember Torguson **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Gothelf to move AB25-136 – Motion Regarding 2026 General Fund Appropriations before AB25-135 – Ordinance Adopting 2026 Salary Schedule on tonight's agenda. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

MAIN AGENDA:

AB25-133 – Motion Authorizing Lease with DFW for CED Annex Building

Audio: 27:42

Administrative Services Director Escobar provided the staff report.

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Elwood to approve AB25-133, authorizing the Mayor to execute and administer a Lease Agreement with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife for use of the City's former CED Annex Building, in a form and content approved by the City Attorney. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AB25-134 – Public Hearing Only, 2025-2026 Mid-Biennial Budget**Audio: 34:24**

Finance Director Chaw provided the staff report.

Mayor Miller opened the Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Mid-Biennial Budget at 7:44 p.m.

There was no public comment and Mayor Miller closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

AB25-136 – Motion Regarding 2026 General Fund Appropriations**Audio: 36:26**

Councilmember Torguson discussed the agenda item.

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Torguson to approve AB25-136, directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance with staff to recall \$600k from the 2026 appropriations within the general fund and re-direct to the spending authority for police services.

Councilmember Torguson **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Joselyn to amend the pending motion and direct City staff to earmark \$685,000 of the 2025 General Funding ending fund balance for public safety services in 2027 as part of Budget Amendment No. 1 in 2026. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

The main motion then **PASSED AS AMENDED** 7-0.

AB25-135 – Ordinance Adopting 2026 Salary Schedule**Audio: 57:40**

Finance Director Chaw provided the staff report.

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Elwood to postpone AB25-135, an ordinance adopting the 2026 Salary Schedule, to the next City Council Workstudy of January 27, 2026. The motion **PASSED** 5-2 (Gothelf, Torguson).

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilmember Gothelf noted it was his last night on the City Council and thanked past and present City Councilmember and staff he worked with during the last nineteen years for their efforts. He expressed his concern regarding stewardship of the City finances, funding deficits and staff salary schedules and concluded by thanking everyone for allowing him to serve as a Councilmember.

City Councilmembers thanked Councilmember Gothelf for his dedication and service to the community, his fellow Councilmembers and Eastside Fire & Rescue. Additionally, they acknowledged the service of outgoing Mayor Pro Tem Joselyn and noted they looked forward to working with incoming Mayor Pro Tem Tremolada in 2026.

Councilmember Rustik congratulated Councilmember Joselyn and Tremolada on their recent re-election to the City Council and thanked staff for their efforts this past year. She concluded by wishing everyone a “Happy Holidays”.

Councilmember Joselyn echoed Councilmember Rustik’s comments by acknowledging the efforts of City staff.

Councilmember Tremolada thanked fellow Councilmembers for their trust in nominating him as 2026 Mayor Pro Tem and thanked and acknowledged the efforts of City Directors and staff during 2025. Additionally, he reminded everyone of the December 6th Holly Days event from 5 – 8 p.m. in Downtown North Bend.

Councilmember Torguson commented on earlier agenda items related to the City’s finances, the efforts of City staff during the year, and concluded by extending holiday wishes to everyone.

Councilmember Elwood echoed fellow Councilmember’s thoughts regarding City staff and Councilmembers accomplishments and noted Valley Center Stage’s production of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” would be running December 5th – 21st at Sallal Grange.

City Administrator Emery thanked outgoing Councilmember Gothelf for his service and dedication to the citizens of North Bend and acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Pro Tem Joselyn in 2025.

Mayor Miller spoke regarding the following items:

- Outgoing Councilmember Gothelf and Mayor Pro Tem Joselyn
- Light Up North Bend Holiday Lighting Registration Deadline on December 4th.
- Holiday Events in the City including the Holly Days Festival – Saturday, December 6th 5 – 8 p.m. @ Downtown
- Meet up with the Mayor – December 10th 11 a.m. to Noon @ Bread & Bone

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Joselyn. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mary Miller, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk