

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 6, 2026

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, Joselyn, Koellen, McFarland, Rustik, Torguson and Tremolada.

Councilmember Torguson requested Item #2 – Payroll Vouchers be moved off of the Consent Agenda and on to the Main Agenda for discussion.

Councilmember Tremolada **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Rustik to approve the January 6, 2026 City Council meeting agenda as set forth with the exception of Councilmember Torguson's request to move Item #2 – Payroll Vouchers off of the Consent Agenda for discussion. The motion **PASSED 7-0**.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – City Council Meeting of December 2, 2025

Checks – December 16, 2025 – 78177 through **78236**, in the amount of **\$1,419,483.10**

December 26, 2025 – 78241 through **78243**, in the amount of **\$65,113.65**

December 30, 2025 – 78251 through **78299**, in the amount of **\$1,513,538.57**

January 6, 2026 – 78300 through **78302**, in the amount of **\$19,145.15**

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Tremolada to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED 7-0**.

Councilmember Torguson **MOVED**, seconded for the purpose of further discussion by Councilmember Rustik to approve the payroll vouchers listed on today's January 6, 2026 agenda with the following three conditions:

- Exclusion and Recategorization - Title 2.07 Violation: That the Council refuses to ratify any and all payments issued to the "Administrative Services Director" title, as this position was previously revoked/repealed and does not exist in NBMC Title 2.07. I move that these specific funds be immediately recategorized as "unrecognized/uncertified expenditures" in the City's financial records until a legal resolution is passed by this body.
- Limitations: The Council ratifies all vouchers only at the 2025 pay scales authorized by Ordinance 1823. We hereby reject and withhold any pay scale increases for 2026 that have not been legally adopted by ordinance, as required by RCW 35A.12.130.

- Directive to Cure: That the Council directs the Mayor to direct staff to provide the following to the January 20th Council Meeting or at the latest the January 2026 Workstudy:
 - The Finance Director will provide a certified report of all funds paid to the revoked Administrative Services Director title since the repeal of Title 2.07. This report will be retained for auditing purposes for the State Auditor's Office to ensure full transparency and the mitigation of Council liability.
 - The City Attorney will draft an ordinance to reconcile with the Municipal Code and with current staffing.
 - A formal plan to reallocate the "unrecognized funds" once – and only once – the full legal compliance is met.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Miller recessed the meeting for an Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency, pursuant to RCW42.30.110(1)(i). Action was anticipated as a result of the Executive Session, which was expected to last thirty minutes and videotaping of the meeting was paused.

City Attorney Rosenberg was present for the Executive Session.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:39 p.m.

The motion **FAILED** 6-1 (Elwood, Joselyn, Koellen, McFarland, Rustik, Tremolada).

Councilmember Tremolada **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Rustik to approval Item #2 – Payroll – **December 5, 2025 – 78171** through **78176**, in the amount of **\$377,195.29**
December 19, 2025 – 78237 through **78240**, in the amount of **\$334,549.59**
December 31, 2025 – 78244 through **78250**, in the amount of **\$528,047.27**

The motion **PASSED** 6-1 (Torguson).

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Debra Landers, North Bend Art & Industry, provided an update on the organization's activities and upcoming classes and invited all to attend the January 13th Tuesday Museday Artists Reception from 6 – 8 p.m. at their facility located at 1533 Bendigo Boulevard.

Jim Mayhew, Mayor, City of Snoqualmie, introduced himself and noted he looked forward to working with the City of North Bend on various goals for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley.

Jim Curtis, North Bend resident, expressed concern about the flooding near EJ Roberts Park and Thrasher Avenue and requested the City address the culverts and ditches in the area to alleviate the issue. Additionally, he requested the City consider changing the name of EJ Roberts Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

Proclamation – National Mentoring Month

Audio: 20:34

Mayor Miller read a proclamation declaring January 2026 as National Mentoring Month in the City of North Bend. Empower Youth Network Program Coordinator Kathy Hyland and Mentor Volunteer Michael Rosenow were on hand to accept the proclamation.

AB26-001 – 2026 Council Standing Committee Appointments

Audio: 29:08

Mayor Pro Tem Tremolada proposed the following 2026 Council Committee appointments for Council's consideration:

Community & Economic Development Committee:

Chair – Councilmember Torguson

Members – Councilmember Elwood, Councilmember Joselyn

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee:

Chair – Councilmember Rustik

Members – Councilmember Joselyn, Councilmember McFarland

Public Health & Safety Committee:

Chair – Councilmember Elwood

Members – Councilmember Koellen, Councilmember Torguson

Transportation & Public Works Committee:

Chair – Councilmember Koellen

Members – Councilmember McFarland, Councilmember Rustik

Councilmember Tremolada **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Joselyn to approve AB26-001 confirming the 2026 appointments to the Council's Standing Committees. The motion **PASSED 7-0**.

INTRODUCTIONS:

AB26-002 – Resolution 2175 Ratifying Proclamation of Emergency

Audio: 31:40

City Administrator Emery, Public Works Director Mohr, Community & Economic Director Henderson and Emergency Management Coordinator DeBerg provided the staff report.

Councilmember Tremolada **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Elwood to approve AB26-002, a resolution ratifying and confirming December 10, 2025, Proclamation of Local Emergency. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Mayor Miller, City Administrator Emery and Councilmembers welcomed new Councilmember McFarland and noted they looked forward to working with him.

Councilmember McFarland addressed community concerns about the City's future service levels and budgetary issues and noted he looked forward to supporting and assisting fellow Councilmembers in providing the policy and budgetary guidance so City staff can address those concerns. Additionally, he discussed the challenging times for the country and encouraged all to listen to the song "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield.

Councilmember Joselyn echoed Councilmember McFarland's concerns about the state of the country and expressed to residents that government does have a role in making their lives better and that he was honored to serve and work towards that end.

Councilmember Tremolada commented on the effects flooding had on local businesses and encouraged all to shop local. Additionally, he stressed the importance of mental health and encouraged all to reach out to family and friends to ensure they are well.

Councilmember Rustik extended new year's greetings and noted she looked forward to a successful 2026.

Councilmember Koellen thanked City staff for their efforts during the recent flood event and thanked members of the community for checking on the welfare of their friends and neighbors during the event.

Councilmember Torguson expressed concern about the lack of a 2026 Salary Schedule and requested an interim solution until a formal one could be put in place. Additionally, she requested financial reports be provided to Council.

Councilmember Elwood noted he was glad to say goodbye to 2025 and looked forward to 2026 and what the Council could achieve for the betterment of the community.

City Administrator Emery extended new year's greetings and noted she looked forward to working with Staff and Council to complete various projects in 2026.

Mayor Miller spoke regarding the following items:

- City's 2026 Designation of Tree City USA
- 2026 Snowplow Routes
- Next Workstudy on January 27th 7 p.m. @ City Hall

- City Offices Closed on January 19th for MLK Jr. Day

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Elwood **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Koellen. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mary Miller, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk