



Regular Meeting of the City Council  
March 11, 2026 - 6:00 PM Hybrid Meeting

**a. Call to Order**

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**c. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers JoEllen Kesti, Paul Cocke, Nora Pederson, Allan Henderson, and Nick Lavacca. Councilmember Loy was absent.

**d. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Pederson to approve the agenda. Motion carried (5-0).

**e. Consent Agenda**

Note: Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature and may be adopted by the Council by a single motion, unless any Councilmember wishes an item to be removed. The Council on the Regular Agenda will consider any item so removed after the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Lavacca to table item 6 the purchase of city hall fleet vehicles. Motion carried (4-1). Councilmember Cocke abstained.

Motion made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Lavacca to approve the consent agenda, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Motion carried (5-0).

Mayor Johnson noted corrected contract dates for item 4, the lease agreement with Sedro-Woolley Youth Football & Cheer, as May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2031.

1. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - February 25, 2026
2. Check Register - Regular
3. Out-of-State Training - Negotiator Team
4. Lease Agreement - Sedro-Woolley Youth Football & Cheer
5. Contract Renewal - Smarsh Professional Archiving
6. Purchase - City Hall Fleet Vehicle
7. Purchase- 12-Lead ECG Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators

8. 2024-177-ILA - Skagit County - Amendment 1 Senior Services - 2nd Read

**f. Introduction of Special Guests and Presentation**

1. Helping Hands Food Bank

Director of Helping Hands Food Bank Rebecca Skrinde spoke about updates, funding, donors and upcoming programs.

**g. City Administrator Report**

1. Draft 2027-2028 Strategic Plan (Council Goals) - 1st Read

City Administrator Charlie Bush shared a quick update regarding the senior services nutrition situation.

City Administrator Charlie Bush introduced the draft of the 2027-2028 Strategic Plan along with Council Goals, and asked city council members for clear direction for edits of the draft. Council requested further discussion on the Strategic Plan at the May 2026 study session. They also noted that notes from council members could be provided ahead of that meeting.

**h. Councilmember and Mayor's Report**

Councilmember Loy was absent.

Councilmember Henderson attended the senior services meeting last week on March 6th and wanted to let the seniors of Skagit County know the City of Sedro-Woolley Councilmembers are taking this incredibly seriously.

Councilmember Kesti had nothing to report.

Councilmember Pederson attended a walk / roll event, and noted the Skagit County Non-Motorized Advisor Committee are looking for a representative from Sedro-Woolley to sit on the committee. Councilmember Pederson asked council if anyone was interested, she would be happy to get them in touch with the lead.

Councilmember Cocke mentioned how fast the restoration work at Riverfront Park had taken place after the flood damage, asked about ball field switches, and noted the alarming scare caused by a truck at the roundabout concerning Mr. Lavacca's wife. He wants more speed controls at the roundabout and spoke about the need for more signage.

Councilmember Lavacca wished everyone a great spring, and he commented on how clean the town looks. He really enjoys seeing people out and about in town.

Mayor Julia Johnson gave a weekly update on receiving an award, regarding Climate Element, for the comprehensive plan, and she gave thanks to Building Inspector Lowell Ausmus for teaching workshops at schools to show children how the community works

and to give them safety tips as well as show them safety within buildings.

Mayor Julia Johnson wanted to thank the legislature for the funding received by the City of Sedro-Woolley for the Northern State Cemetery, and thanked Representative Eslick, Representative Lowe and Senator Wagoner for their help to achieve this goal.

Mayor Julia Johnson shared that we have started to move forward with four items, beginning with tribal consultation letters. The city is waiting to hear back from them and working on the permits from the Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation. Skagit County Commissioners to approve the comprehensive settlement agreement the FERC licensing for the hydroelectric plant on March 10, 2026.

Mayor Julia Johnson stated she submitted a letter to Governor Ferguson regarding BESS. She does not have an update yet. She read the letter to the City Council.

**i. Proclamation(s)**

**j. Public Comments**

Please keep comments to three minutes or less. Because State law prohibits the use of city facilities for the purpose of supporting or opposing a campaign or ballot proposition, we respectfully request that public comment not make reference to such matters.

Written comments will be accepted by letter or via email at [finance@sedro-woolley.gov](mailto:finance@sedro-woolley.gov) Attn: 'Public Comment' until 4:30pm the day before the meeting.

A public comment period was held.

Ian Larson and Karl deJong made public comment.

**k. Public Hearing(s)**

**l. Unfinished Business**

**m. New Business**

1. Review Applicants - Ward 6 Vacancy

City Administrator Charlie Bush shared the process of the vacant Ward 6 council position.

Councilmember Kesti requested Mayor Julia Johnson call a vote on which one of the 3 candidates would be interviewed for the Ward 6 Councilmember position.

A vote was taken to interview Karl deJong. The vote was taken (3-2). Councilmembers Pederson and Cocke opposed.

A vote was taken to interview Elizabeth Anne Laue. The vote was taken (3-2). Councilmembers Henderson and Kesti opposed.

A vote was taken to interview Elysia Stout. The vote was taken (3-2). Councilmembers

Henderson and Kesti opposed.

All three candidates will be moving forward with interviewing for the Councilmember position in Ward 6.

**n. Information Only Items**

**o. Good of the Order**

Councilmember Lavacca requested future discussion on the available parking at the veteran's park and re-initiate discussion of drones for police and fire departments previously brought up by Councilmember Henderson.

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to bring the discussion about the mayoral appointment to the April 8th, 2026, meeting along with the City Council Governance Handbook. No formal vote took place.

**p. Executive Session**

**q. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

ATTEST:  
DocuSigned by:

*Kelly Kohnken*

2C53B290694B4A9...  
Kelly Kohnken, City Clerk

APPROVED:  
DocuSigned by:

*Julia Johnson*

EBB2DA0D1582408...  
Julia Johnson, Mayor