



Regular Meeting of the City Council  
May 27, 2026 - 6:00 PM Hybrid Meeting

**a. Call to Order**

Mayor JoEllen Kesti called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**c. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor JoEllen Kesti, Councilmembers Paul Cocks, Kevin Loy, Nora Pederson, Allan Henderson, Karl de Jong and Nick Lavacca.

**d. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to approve the agenda. Motion carried (6-0).

**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 de Jong and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to approve the consent agenda with a minor revision to the April 22nd, 2026 Regular City Council minutes. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - April 22, 2026
2. Minutes - Study Session City Council Meeting - May 6, 2026
3. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - May 13, 2026
4. Check Register - Regular
5. Grant Acceptance - AARP - SWFD Home KnoxBox Program

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

**g. City Administrator Report**

1. City of Sedro-Woolley Strategic Plan (Council Goals) Review

City Administrator Charlie Bush shared the next iteration of the City's draft regarding the 2027-2028 Strategic Plan Council Goals and then requested feedback from the City Council.

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

Councilmember Cocke attended the NorthStar Symposium and shared information regarding addiction and homelessness with the Council. He also attended a breakout session with Snohomish County Housing Authority, Chris Collier, who dug into some census data. He shared that in 2024, almost 8000 households qualified for housing assistance, but there was not enough funds to help all of them.

Councilmember Loy mentioned to the City Council when the Pawn Shop was given an extension to change its colors on the outside of the building. He complimented the council and said it looks good.

Councilmember Henderson attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and said the speakers were fantastic. He said he was invited by the American Legion to help set up flags and said it was very organized and has been throughout the years, and it looked great!

Councilmember Lavacca mentioned the collision with the city's ambulance. He also spoke about the Olmsted Park activities and gave a compliment to the SWIFT Center. He spoke about some upcoming activities: the 250th anniversary of the Blast from the Past, Log Jam, Skateboard Competition and other county events.

Councilmember de Jong attended and participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Union Cemetery and said he was moved by Mayor Kesti and State Senator Wagoner's speeches. He also shared that he attended the shoot, no-shoot exercises with our fellow Police Officers. He attended and participated in the Skagit Transit Board Meeting and shared updates with the City Council, and mentioned that the Friends of Central Skagit Library have volunteer opportunities available from June 4th through June 7th, 2026.

Councilmember Pederson attended a housing mini-academy hosted by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the purpose was to educate elected leaders on innovative approaches to addressing the housing gaps, and also attended the NorthStar Symposium.

Councilmember Pederson said she has received several questions from constituents regarding the Arts Commission and why it is being written out of the code and was hoping to gain some clarity this evening so she can relay the message back to residents.

Mayor JoEllen Kesti shared the Veterans of America George Baldrige post 43, placed flags on every Veterans Headstone in honor of Memorial Day, and they organized a beautiful ceremony to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Mayor Kesti thanked Councilmember Henderson for volunteering alongside her and others who helped place the flags.

Mayor Kesti said it was truly an honor to speak alongside State Senator Wagoner, who gave a beautiful and heartfelt speech. She was honored to have the gold-star family of Nathan Nakis, a fellow Sedro-Woolley High School graduate, attend the ceremony.

Mayor Kesti announced Sedro-Woolley High School's graduation is next Friday and congratulated all the SWHS class of 2026 and wished them all the best in their future endeavors.o

**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.

Andrew Shamp, Randy Collins, Jane Zillig, Beverley Laudermilk, Mary Adtkins, Dave Jellison, Chester Allhouse, Sally Carlson, Germaine Kornegay and Joe Kunzler made public comments.

**k. Public Hearing(s)**

**l. Unfinished Business**

1. Ordinance 2117-26 - Repealing SWMC Chapter 2.44 "Arts Commission" and amending Chapter 2.92 "Gifts, Loans and Donations of Works of Art" - 2nd Read

City Administrator Charlie Bush and City Attorney Dan Curtis spoke about Ordinance 2117-26, repealing SWMC Chapter 2.44" Arts Commission" and amending Chapter 2.92 "gifts, loans and donations of works of art.

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to approve Ordinance 2117-26 repealing SWMC Chapter 2.44" Arts Commission" and amending Chapter 2.92" gifts, loans and donations of works of art. Motion carried (4-2). Councilmember Cocke and Pederson opposed.

2. Ordinance 2116-26 - Amending Chapter 12.36 "City Parks, Recreational Vehicle Facilities and Community Center" - Action Requested

City Attorney Dan Curtis and Police Chief Dan McIlraith spoke about Ordinance 2116-26, amending Chapter 12.36:" City parks, recreational vehicle facilities and Community Center.

Motion made by Councilmember de Jong and seconded by Councilmember Lavacca to approve Ordinance 2116-26 amending Chapter 12.36" City Parks, Recreational Vehicles Facilities and Community Center" of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code with the two mentioned changes regarding language correction from code enforcement to law enforcement. Motion carried (6-0).

3. Procurement Policy - Amendment to Chapter 15.1

Public Works Director Bill Bullock spoke about the Procurement Policy, an amendment to Chapter 15.1.

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Cocke to authorize the Mayor, or designee, to sign Resolution 1183-26, amending chapter 15.1 of the City Procurement Policy to allow staff to apply for project grant opportunities on their own reconnaissance and engage council approval for acceptance before entering into grant agreements or contracts, Motion carried (6-0).

**m. New Business**

1. Ordinance 2118-26 - Amendments to Title 15 and Chapters 12.32 and 17.100 SWMC to Add Address and Street Naming Standards - 1st Read

Community Development Director and Assistant Ashton Sandoval Oaks spoke about Ordinance 2118-26, amendments to Title 15 and Chapters 12.32 and 17.100 SWMC to add address and street naming standards.

No action was taken.

2. Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 3 - WWTP Upgrade – Phase I Design

Public Works Director Bill Bullock shared the professional agreement amendment No. 3, Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade, and phase 1 design, with council.

Motion made by Councilmember Cocke and seconded by Councilmember de Jong to approve authorization for public works to execute contract amendment No. 3 with RH2 Engineering Inc for professional services required to move into the first design phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project for an amount not to exceed \$559,938.00 increasing total contract amount not to exceed \$1,241,638.00. Motion carried (6-0).

3. Candidate Review, Interview, and Appointment - Ward 2

Finance Director Kelly Kohnken shared a quick summary of the procedures for the interview and appointment of the Ward 2 Councilmember. It was the consensus of the council that all 3 candidates would be interviewed.

Interviews took place live within the council chambers.

Motion made by Councilmember Pederson and seconded by Councilmember de Jong to nominate James Cox as the new Ward 2 City Councilmember. Motion carried (5-1). Councilmember Loy opposed.

Mayor JoEllen Kesti swore James Cox in as the Ward 2 Councilmember.

**n. Information Only Items**

- o. Good of the Order**
- p. Executive Session**
- q. Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilmember de Jong to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:59pm.  
Motion carried (7-0).

**ATTEST:**  
DocuSigned by:

*Kelly Kohnken*

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Kelly Kohnken, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**  
Signed by:

*JoEllen Kesti*

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JoEllen Kesti, Mayor