



Regular Meeting of the City Council
June 11, 2025 - 6:00 PM Hybrid Meeting

a. Call to Order

Mayor Julia Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Julia Johnson, Councilmembers JoEllen Kesti, Paul Cocke, Kevin Loy, Joe Burns, Sarah Diamond, Allan Henderson, and Nick Lavacca.

d. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Diamond to approve the agenda with the removal of Consent Agenda item e3. Motion carried (7-0).

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 to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2 made by Councilmember Burns and seconded by Councilmember Lavacca. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - May 28, 2025
2. Check Register - Regular
3. Memorandum of Understanding - Northwest Educational Service District 189 - School Safety and Violence Prevention

f. Introduction of Special Guests and Presentation

g. City Administrator Report

Public Works Director Bill Bullock provided an update on plans to correct the pavement defect on 4th and Warner, and the City hired an Engineering Intern who will be setting up a speed counter.

Director Bullock also noted a belt press in the Waste Water Treatment Plant is no longer functioning. The City intends to go out for a request for proposals to replace this belt press with a fan press.

h. Councilmember and Mayor's Report

Councilmember Loy noted himself, Councilmembers Diamond, Councilmember Henderson, and Mayor Johnson attended the North Star Connect Symposium on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Councilmember Kesti congratulated the Sedro-Woolley High School graduates. Councilmember Kesti also noted that she had received several comments regarding the conditional use permit for the property behind the church and the surrounding residents' lack of notification.

Councilmember Diamond noted the success of the Blast from the Past the prior weekend, and restaurants reporting record sales. Councilmember Diamond attended the North Star Connect Symposium and stated there was discussion between multiple jurisdictions but no action was taken. Councilmember Diamond also noted she met with a member of Family Promise.

Councilmember Henderson noted the American Legion Car Show that took place in town on Sunday, June 8, 2025. He thanked the Police and Public Works departments for their work on the event. Councilmember Henderson noted he had a discussion with Audrea Woll of Family Promise, attended the North Star Connect Symposium, and highlighted road and sidewalk improvements needed in Ward 4.

Councilmember Cocke reminded the community that it was the end of school and to watch for kids while driving. Councilmember Cocke also thanked the Police Department and city workers for the Blast from the Past event, was thankful for a Judge's pause on the closure of Job Corp, and attended the North Star Connect Symposium.

Councilmember Lavacca attended the Push-In Ceremony for the new Fire Department engine earlier that evening (June 11, 2025). Councilmember Lavacca also made comment on Jones / John Liner project, the success of Blast from the Past, and discussions regarding Family Promise.

Mayor Johnson thanked the Chamber of Commerce and volunteers for the Blast from the Past event. Mayor Johnson attended and congratulated the graduates from Sedro-Woolley State Street High School. Mayor Johnson also noted her attendance at the North Star Symposium, thanked volunteers for donating bags to Job Corp, and that Sedro-Woolley's 2025 population was estimated to increase from 12,400 to 13,360.

i. Proclamation(s)

j. Public Hearing(s)

1. Amendments to Title 17 SWMC Off-Street Parking and Loading - Ordinance 2096-25 - 3rd Read

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Assistant Planner Ashton Sandoval Oaks presented proposed amendments to Title 17 of the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code related to off-street parking and loading.

A public comment period was held; Paul Woodmansee made public comment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to table this ordinance until the council can have a further discussion, and revise/include the following:

- Revise minimum residential park requirements to 1.2 for studio apartments and 1.5 for a one-bedroom apartments
- Required parking minimum may be reduced by up to 20% if the proposed development is within one-quarter mile of a major public transit stop or incorporates 50% of the required parking in a structured garage or underground, be revised to 10%
- Remove loading facility requirements
- Discussion with developers on proposed changes
- Discussion with code enforcement to include enforcement mechanisms

Motion carried (7-0). The public hearing was closed.

2. 2026-2031 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program - Resolution 1164-25 - 1st Read

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bill Bullock presented the 2026-2031 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program and summarized the major projects.

Director Bullock noted that federal and state funding is available for arterial streets, however, this funding is infrequently available for local streets. This results in local street projects being funded primarily from local dollar from the General Fund.

A public comment period was held; the following individuals made public comments: Judy Haugness, David Miller, Dorothy Defremery, Sally Carlson, Chester Allshouse, Philip Murray, and Larry Hedgeman.

No action was taken. The public hearing was closed.

k. 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 Attn: 'Public Comment' until 4:30pm the day before the meeting.

A public comment period was held; the following individuals made public comment: Becky Bunky, Audrea Woll, Raymond Faber, Dan Simmons, Wilma Reyes, Amber Lane,

Mandy Fare, Nikki Levy, Amy Wood, Sally Carlson, Judy Haugness, Elizabeth Freidl, Dorothy Defremery, Scott Hiner, Judy Lemley, Robert Lemley, Larry Hedgeman, Philip Murray, Xavi Thorne, Norma Saurez, and Sheila Clevents.

l. Unfinished Business

m. New Business

1. Comprehensive Plan Update - DRAFT Climate Element - 1st Read

Community Development Director Tom Glover introduced Alex Plumb and Heidi Rouse from Facet to present the Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

No action was taken.

2. Business License Endorsement Municipal Code Update - Ordinance 2100-25 - 1st Read

Finance Director Kelly Kohnken provided an overview of the business license municipal code re-write.

Council members requested additional information on how other cities handle business licenses for residential house rentals.

No action taken.

3. Property Tax Increase Limit - Resolution 1163-25 - 1st Read

Finance Director Kelly Kohnken presented information on the state proposal to modify the property tax increase limit from 1% to 3%. This modification was removed from House Bill 2049 before its passage. Current state law limits property tax increases to 1%. City Council had previously requested an ordinance capping the City's property tax increase to 1%. After discussion at the Finance and IT Committee meeting, staff presented Resolution 1163-25.

Motion made by Councilmember Cocke and seconded by Councilmember Burns, to approve as written, Resolution 1163-25 Property Tax Increase Limit, recommended by the Finance and IT Committee. Motion carried (6-1), Councilmember Lavacca opposed.

4. 2025 Budget Amendment No. 2 - Ordinance 2101-25 - Action Requested

Finance Director Kelly Kohnken presented the second amendment to the 2025 budget, including replacing the 0.5 FTE part-time HR Analyst position with a 1.0 FTE full-time HR Manager.

Motion by Councilmember Kesti and seconded by Councilmember Henderson to approve Ordinance 2101-25 amending the 2025 budget. Motion carried (4-3), Councilmembers Loy, Kesti, and Henderson opposed.

n. Information Only Items

o. Executive Session

1. Discussion with Legal Counsel About Current or Potential Litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i))

At 11:00pm, Mayor Johnson announced the City Council, with City Attorney Nikki Thompson and Community Development Director Tom Glover, would be in executive session to discuss current or potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 10 minutes to return at 11:10pm.

The executive session was extended on three occasions by a total of 30 minutes to return at 11:30pm.

At 11:31pm, the council returned. No action was taken.

p. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:31pm.

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Kelly Kohnken

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Kelly Kohnken, City Clerk

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

Julia Johnson

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Julia Johnson, Mayor