



Regular Meeting of the City Council
August 27, 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 to approve the agenda with the addition of an executive session and to move the Stormwater Management Plan from information only to unfinished business made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Diamond. 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 the consent agenda made by Councilmember Lavacca and seconded by Councilmember Cocke. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - July 23, 2025
2. Minutes - Regular City Council Meeting - August 13, 2025
3. Check Register - Regular
4. 2025-211-SA - Purdue/Sackler, Alvogen, Inc. Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Apotex Inc., Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Indivior Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc., Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries, Inc., Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA), Inc. - Opioid Settlement Agreement
5. Appointment to Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority Commission - Danielle Fontaine
6. Grant Application Approval - WA Ecology – SR 9 Water Quality Improvements

f. Introduction of Special Guests and Presentation

1. Swearing in Officer Noah Cook

Mayor Julia Johnson swore in Officer Noah Cook.

2. Children of the Valley - Jessica Rodriguez, Star Torres, and Renata Maybruck

Jessica Rodriguez, Star Torres, and Renata Maybruck shared a PowerPoint about the Children of the Valley.

3. Skateboard Competition Recap

Former Councilmember Karl DeJong shared a PowerPoint and gave updates on the recent Skateboard Competition. He sent thanks to all the participants and volunteers for their efforts, and then thanked Councilmember Loy, the co-producer of the Skateboard Competition Event.

g. City Administrator Report

1. SR9 Roundabout Project – Project Update

City Administrator Charlie Bush passed the report to Public Works Director Bill Bullock, City Engineer Peter Lane, and Assistant Engineer Kyle Anderson to give updates on the SR9 Roundabout Project.

h. Councilmember and Mayor's Report

Councilmember Loy mentioned his interest in getting an American Flag placed at Hammer Heritage Square and congratulated Councilmember Burns on his new job at Sedro-Woolley High School.

Councilmember Cocke suggested our code needs to be brought back to include some of these new motorized devices, such as scooters and electric bikes. He also attended the Business and Planning Development meeting. There was discussion regarding mobile food vendors and how to improve the code to protect our existing business and promote new businesses and discussion about murals at the committee meeting.

Councilmember Cocke passed around a press release that Janicki would be opening a new plant in Hamilton to hire 350 new people, providing well-paid, stable jobs. He also gave kudos to the positive stories in the Skagit Valley Herald regarding the new Public Works Building, then mentioned the fire command vehicle.

Councilmember Kesti spoke about the Joint City Council Study Session and Planning Commission held on August 19, 2025, and requested information about the comp plan, what is required to be in it and what is elective, regarding the land acknowledgment in support of the Upper Skagit Tribal Community, and with the light agendas she requests we discuss the closure of the Community Center sooner than later.

Councilmember Henderson reviewed the comp plan in greater detail and has requested any requirements by the GMA remain and that optional items be brought back to the council for further discussion.

Councilmember Henderson made a comment on the electric scooters and electric bikes seen on the road and asked if they must follow the same road laws as vehicles, and encouraged council to see the progress of the pavement projects on Township St.

Councilmember Diamond attended the Planning and Business Development Committee Meeting. There was good discussion on mobile food vendors.

Councilmember Diamond spoke about the social media requests that parents should not take their children to school on the first day due to traffic issues, although she received comments and understanding of the long-term goal, to alleviate traffic.

Councilmember Diamond thanked the directors for the update of the Reed St traffic control, and made note that, about the proposed BESS project, she wanted to speak publicly and stated that she is not in support of this project and has not received any new information that would change her or the council's viewpoint.

Councilmember Burns thanked Councilmember Loy for the congratulations regarding his new position at Sedro-Woolley High School as the new auto shop teacher, shared a positive call that wanted to thank the city for the crosswalks on Township and Ferry St.

Councilmember Lavacca shared the positive feedback received for Township Street and the new paint for the crosswalks and also mentioned the new building. Janicki is building a new shop in Hamilton to employ people in a destitute community and shared great comments about our new parks, including the Olmsted Park offered to the community.

Councilmember Lavacca continues to request information about the Community Center shooting and is looking forward to hearing about that and has been asked when we will be getting the SRO Officer in there. Councilmember Lavacca will be mentioning these items for discussion at the Safety Committee Meeting.

Mayor Julia Johnson mentioned safety concerns regarding electric motorcycles, bikes, and scooters on the roadway.

Mayor Julia Johnson shared the completion of our audit results and complimented Finance Director Kelly Kohnken for her hard work and due diligence in getting the auditors the information requested in a timely fashion. The report came back with no deficiencies, considerations, or any weaknesses, with lots of positive feedback, and the city received a letter from the auditors stating how well the report was written.

Mayor Julia Johnson shared an update regarding the comp plan, which is scheduled for September 24, 2025, with a Joint City Council and Planning Commission. The next step for the council will be setting up a day and time for a public open house to present the draft to the residents with a formal public hearing with the Planning Commission.

Mayor Julia Johnson shared the city is moving toward completion of Olmsted Park, with a ribbon cutting scheduled for October or November with Representative Larsen.

Mayor Julia Johnson shared that the Jones and BNFS undercrossing is set for completion in February 2026 and then reminded the council of the building and future housing crisis, a thriving community forum and the Mount Vernon Library Commons with Paul, the previous speaker, from the Summit and hoped the entire council could attend that forum.

Mayor Julia Johnson reminded the council of the next joint meeting with other cities and commissioners scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th, 2025, from 6pm to 8 pm and Thursday, November 6th, 2025.

i. Proclamation(s)

j. Public Hearing(s)

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.

l. Unfinished Business

m. New Business

1. Ordinance 2102-25 - CHIP Grant Reimbursement for Eligible Fees - 1st Read

City Administrator Charlie Bush shared information about the Chip Grant reimbursement for eligible fees, Ordinance 2102-25.

No action was taken.

n. Information Only Items

1. Stormwater Management Plan Update

Assistant City Engineer Kyle Anderson introduced the presenters of the Stormwater Management Plan, P. E. Stormwater Group Leader, Stacey Clear and Consulting Engineer, Curt Iffrig from Gray & Osborne Inc along with Karyn Johnson, from KLJ Financial Consulting. As part of our update that hasn't occurred since 1997, they shared a PowerPoint regarding issues for Stormwater Utility, Drainage Area Characteristics, Water Quality, Regulatory Requirements, Operations and Maintenance, Identified Issues, Capital Improvement Projects, 10-Year Capital Improvement Projects and the Financial Review with a cost estimate of \$7.78 million including inflation, along with the Capital Funding Scenarios.

Motion made by Councilmember Diamond and seconded by Councilmember Kesti to move forward with Scenario 2: Grants and loans and a 6.5/8.5/4% increase regarding the Stormwater Management Plan. Motion carried (6-1). Councilmember Loy opposed.

2. 2025-2026 Budget and Master Fee Schedule Timeline

o. Executive Session

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

At 8:40pm, Mayor Julia Johnson announced the City Council, City Administrator Charlie Bush, along with City Attorney Nikki Thompson would be in executive session for 15 minutes to discuss current and potential litigation to return at 8:55pm.

At 8:56pm, the council returned. No action was taken.

p. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

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