



City Council Study Session Meeting of the City Council
January 7, 2026 - 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, Nora Pederson, Allan Henderson, and Nick Lavacca.

d. Introduction of Special Guests and Presentation

e. Unfinished Business

f. New Business

1. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Julia Johnson requested nominations from the City Council to appoint Mayor Pro Tempore for the calendar year 2026.

A nomination was made by Councilmember Burns to appoint Councilmember Cocke to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for the calendar year 2026.

A nomination was made by Councilmember Kesti to appoint Councilmember Lavacca to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for the calendar year 2026.

A vote was taken by Mayor Julia Johnson; the city council's majority vote was to appoint Councilmember Lavacca as Mayor Pro Tempore for the calendar year 2026. The vote result was majority (4-3). Councilmembers Cocke, Burns and Pederson opposed.

2. Council Goals Submittal Template Briefing

City Administrator Charlie Bush gave a quick update and briefing regarding the 2026 City Council Goals and requested City Council submit any proposed goals they wish to move forward with for the year 2026.

3. City Council Governance Handbook - Council Committees

City Administrator Charlie Bush and Finance Director Kelly Kohnken spoke about

bringing back a revised version of the City Council Governance Handbook.

Motion made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Lavacca to add a line for the committee and put on every single council meeting.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion was made by Councilmember Henderson and seconded by Councilmember Cocke to add a line item on every City Council agenda as an open floor to add discussion items to future meetings by motion and majority vote by council as a hole in place of the current Council Committees. Motion carried (7-0).

4. Professional Service Contract - Azavar - Sales Tax Audit

Finance Director Kelly Kohnken shared information regarding the professional services contract, Azavar, sales tax audit.

Motion to bring a professional service agreement with Azavar Audit Solutions for the city sales tax audit back to council for a second read. Motion failed (7-0).

g. 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.

Karl De Jong made a public comment.

h. Closed Session

1. To Discuss a Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mayor Julia Johnson announced that the City Council, City Administrator Charlie Bush and City Attorney Nikki Thompson would be in closed session for ten minutes to return at 7:32pm.

Mayor Julia Johnson returned at 7:32pm and no decisions were made.

i. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

Kelly Kohnken

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Kelly Kohnken, City Clerk

DocuSigned by:

Julia Johnson

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Julia Johnson, Mayor