

Oak Harbor City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 03, 2026

This was both a physical meeting location and a virtual meeting. Meeting was viewable via YouTube at www.youtube.com/cityofoakharbor, and on Facebook, following the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Call To Order and Native Lands Acknowledgement - Mayor Pro Tem Hizon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She included the acknowledgement that the meeting was being held on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people and paid respect to those past and present.

Invocation – Pastor Sam Giles, Living Faith Church.

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Mayor Pro Tem Hizon.

ROLL CALL

City Council Present:

Mayor Ronnie Wright - absent
Mayor Pro Tem Tara Hizon
Councilmember Bryan Stucky
Councilmember Eric Marshall
Councilmember Christopher Wiegenstein
Councilmember Barbara Armes
Councilmember James P. Marrow
Councilmember Sandi Peterson

Staff Present/Videoconference

City Administrator Sabrina Combs
Deputy City Administrator David Goldman
Public Works Director Steve Schuller
Police Captain Kevin Barton
Fire Chief Travis Anderson
Communications Officer Magi Aguilar
Executive Services Coordinator Macalle Finkle
City Clerk Julie Nester

Also in attendance: City Attorney
Hillary Evans of Kenyon Disend, PLLC

EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon greeted all in attendance and noted she was presiding at the request of Mayor Wright. Mayor Pro Tem Hizon noted Councilmember Wiegenstein was attending remotely.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon requested any changes to the regular agenda. Hearing none, she requested a motion for approval.

Motion: Councilmember Marshall moved to approve the regular agenda as presented. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Proclamation – Black History Month

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon introduced the proclamation, submitted in recognition and celebration of Black History Month. She observed that as noted in the agenda bill and proclamation, 2026 marks the centennial of the start of what today is known and celebrated as Black History Month, and thanked City Clerk Nester for her work in compiling the agenda bill and proclamation.

Councilmember Marshall read the proclamation.

b. Proclamation – American Heart Month

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon introduced the proclamation, submitted in awareness of American Heart Month.

Councilmember Stucky read the proclamation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon noted members of the public could comment on Consent Agenda items or subjects of interest not listed on the agenda at this time and there would be an opportunity to comment on the remaining Agenda items during the meeting as appropriate.

The public may also visit the City's website prior to meetings for methods to submit public comments, or contact the City Clerk, Julie Nester, by phone or email. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Public comments sent anonymously or from a non-verifiable address will be shared with the Mayor and Council but will not be displayed. Comments on public hearing items will be taken during the public hearings portion of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to speak to any other items not listed on the agenda or on the consent agenda. She noted the Clerk would call on speakers in the order in which they signed in to speak. Mayor Wright asked speakers to please step forward to the microphone and state their name and address, and to please limit comments to three minutes.

Hearing no one with a desire to address the Council, the public comment period was closed.

The City received four new public comments since the last regular meeting. Comments were received and displayed from:

1. Enrique Ilundain, Jr. of Oak Harbor, in favor of speed limit reductions on State Route 20.
2. Brit Kraner of Oak Harbor, in concern over Advisory Board, Commission, and Committee appointments and procedures regarding the nepotism discussion by the Council at their January 20, 2026 regular meeting.
3. Nancy Ewing of Oak Harbor regarding the conduct of the Mayor.
4. Frank Baker of Oak Harbor, requesting an update on Fire Station #82.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Items

- a. Approval of Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting of January 20, 2026 and City Council Workshop of January 27, 2026.
- b. Approval of Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers
- c. Appointment: Arts Commission, Position 1 – Jospeh Andrade
- d. City of Oak Harbor Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 2026-2030

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon called for any changes to the consent agenda. Hearing none, she requested a motion for approval.

Motion: Councilmember Marrow moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Armes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

a. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon provided the following comments on behalf of Mayor Wright:

- Wright Blend – Coffee and Conversation: Thank you to all who attended the Wright Blend on January 30th. Thank you to Deputy City Administrator David Goldman for his planned City budget and financial presentation, including the budget process and how budgets work. Mayor Pro Tem Hizon noted it was a great conversation and those attending provided great questions.
- Staff Highlight: City Human Resources Director Emma House serves as the Washington State Chapter President of the Public Sector Human Resources Association (PSHRA) Advisory Board. She recently was featured on a panel regarding how to become PSHRA Certified.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Feeding of the juvenile salmon takes place at the Oak Harbor Marina every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m.
 - Oak Harbor Main Street Association welcomes you to show your love for downtown by wearing red this weekend to receive discounts from participating merchants.
 - A community meal will be held this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Living Word Church to support Hearts and Hammers. See their website for details.
- Stay Connected: Stay connected to City information and activities at any time by visiting our website and our Facebook page.

b. Councilmembers

Councilmember Stucky provided his respective questions and comments. In light of the public comment received regarding an update on Fire Station #82, he asked Fire Chief Anderson to provide an update.

Fire Chief Anderson reported Fire Station #82 is on track and on budget with substantial construction scheduled for completion in mid-March, following which the City will complete the necessary finish work throughout April and May, with a grand opening planned for June 1st. Chief Anderson also reported that the Oak Harbor Fire Department has five new candidates in training currently that will graduate in May. He further noted the new engine and ladder truck have made their way to Washington and are being outfitted for delivery in approximately eight (8) weeks.

6. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

a. Ordinance No. 2038: Adopting Oak Harbor Municipal Code Section 2.65.140 (Nepotism) relating to Boards, Commissions, and Committees

City Attorney Evans reviewed the item for the Council, noting this was the Council's fifth discussion of this issue. She noted at the Council's January 27, 2026 workshop options within a potential ordinance were discussed with the Council requesting that the definition of "relative" mimic the definition found in

the City's Employee Policy Manual (EMP) in regard to nepotism. In researching the EMP staff found that the section regarding nepotism does not provide a definition of relative. However, the section that does provide a definition in the EMP is limited to compassionate care and is broader as a result. A more standard definition has been used in creating this proposed ordinance.

City Attorney Evans noted two options of the option favored by the Council at the January 27, 2026 workshop were included for Council consideration. A grammatical error in a draft that was in the meeting packet will be corrected.

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon thanked City Attorney Evans for her presentation. She opened the floor for any members of the public to provide comments. Hearing none, she called on the Council for their questions and comments.

Councilmembers Peterson, Marrow, Stucky, Armes, and Mayor Pro Tem Hizon provided their respective questions and comments. Discussion centered on the two options provided and on the change from "city councilmember" to "elected official" in subsections 2, 3, and 4 of the proposed Section 2.65.140.

Motion: Councilmember Peterson moved to approve Option #2 of Ordinance No. 2038 adopting Section 2.65.140 of the Oak Harbor Municipal Code related boards, commissions, and committees, with the change to "elected official" instead of "councilmember", as discussed. Councilmember Marrow seconded the motion. City Attorney Evans clarified that Option #2 was the first option included in the meeting packet, containing subsections 1-5.

With discussion concluded, the vote on the motion passed 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Hizon and Councilmembers Stucky, Marshall, Wiegenstein, Armes, Marrow, and Peterson in favor and Councilmember Armes opposed.

7. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. Re-Appointments: Parks and Recreation Commission, Positions 3, 5, and 7

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon observed those presented for re-appointment as listed in the meeting packet.

Ms. Natalia Talo was originally appointed to fill the Position 3 unexpired term vacancy from November 18, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The applicant has requested re-appointment. This appointment will fill Position 3 through December 31, 2027.

Mr. Tom Jones was originally appointed to fill the Position 5 unexpired term vacancy from May 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. He was reappointed and served a term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The applicant has requested re-appointment. This appointment will fill Position 5 through December 31, 2027.

Ms. Vicki Biggs was originally appointed to fill the Position 7 unexpired term vacancy from April 2, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The applicant has requested and has been recommended for re-appointment. This appointment will fill Position 7 through December 31, 2027.

Mayor Pro Tem Hizon called for any comments from the public. Hearing none, she called on the Council for their questions and comments.

Councilmember Stucky, Mayor Pro Tem Hizon, and Councilmember Armes provided their additional questions and comments.

City Administrator Combs responded to questions and comments from the Council. She noted Mayor Wright is planning to attend more of the advisory meetings this year and that more appreciation of those volunteers who are serving is planned.

Motion: Councilmember Peterson moved to confirm the Mayoral re-appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission of Ms. Talo - Position 3, Mr. Jones – Position 5, and Ms. Biggs – Position 7, for a term of January 2026 through December 2027. Councilmember Marrow seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Councilmember Marshall moved to adjourn the workshop meeting, seconded by Councilmember Marrow. The vote on the motion was unanimous; therefore the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Certified by Julie Nester, City Clerk