

Oak Harbor City Council  
Workshop Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2026

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**This was both a physical meeting location and a virtual meeting. Meeting was viewable via YouTube at [www.youtube.com/cityofoakharbor](http://www.youtube.com/cityofoakharbor), on Facebook, and following the meeting on Cable Channel 10/HD 1090**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wright called the workshop meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Council Present:

Mayor Ronnie Wright  
Mayor Pro Tem Tara Hizon - absent  
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  
Community Development Director Stacie Pratschner  
Parks and Recreation Director Brian Smith  
Police Chief Tony Slowik  
Fire Chief Travis Anderson  
Grants Administrator Wendy Horn  
Public Works Administration Manager Sandra Place  
Maintenance Foreman Ken Riley  
Executive Services Coordinator Macalle Finkle  
Communications Officer Magi Aguilar  
City Clerk Julie Nester

Also in attendance: City Attorney  
Joanna Eide of Kenyon Disend, PLLC

**MAYOR**

Mayor Wright welcomed all in attendance. He noted all members of the Council were present with Councilmember Wiegenstein participating remotely. Mayor Wright observed public comments are not normally taken at workshop meetings, although the Council may allow or request public participation on action items. There were no action items on the agenda today.

**CITY COUNCIL**

a. 2026 Joint Tourism Promotion Interlocal Agreement

Mayor Wright introduced Grants Administrator Horn to present the item. He noted Councilmember Stucky serves on the Joint Tourism Board and on the Executive Committee.

Grants Administrator Horn explained that the City has been part of an Interlocal Agreement with Island County, Langley, and Coupeville since 2000, which was amended in 2005, 2009, and 2011. The purpose of the agreement is to pool resources from the 2% Lodging Tax Funds across the County to promote tourism to increase overnight stays. A portion of those 2% funds are to be used for joint tourism marketing.

Past contributions were for \$20,000 to Island County Joint Tourism (previously Whidbey Camano Island Tourism). In August of 2023, the City Council approved an increase to \$50,000, however that agreement was never fully executed by all parties. The City continued to pay \$20,000 in 2024 and 2025.

Grants Administrator Horn provided an overview of the updated 2026 Interlocal Agreement. Under the newly proposed Agreement, an additional 2% Lodging tax revenues collected by all parties pursuant to RCW 67.28.181 would be forwarded to and retained by the Island County Treasurer as follows:

- 100% of lodging tax collected by Island County per RCW 67.28.18
- 25% of lodging tax collected by Oak Harbor per RCW 67.28.181
- 25% of lodging tax collected by Langley per RCW 67.28.181
- 25% of lodging tax collected by Coupeville per RCW 67.28.181

All funds shall be contributed quarterly to the Island County Treasurer.

The estimated revenue the City will receive in 2026 is \$177,316.82. 25% of that number is the estimated 2026 contribution for Oak Harbor of \$44,329, which is a difference of \$24,329 compared to 2025.

Mayor Wright and Grants Administrator Horn reviewed the makeup of the Joint Tourism Advisory Committee and Executive Board. The pooled funds are used to fund a Program Manager at Island County and marketing Island County, Oak Harbor, Langley and Coupeville as tourist destinations and promote overnight stays.

Mayor Wright thanked Grants Administrator Horn for her presentation. He called on the Council for any comments.

Councilmembers Stucky and Peterson provided their respective questions and comments.

This item will be brought forward for Council action at the February 17, 2026 regular meeting.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **a. Discussion Item: Pickleball Court Conversion**

Mayor Wright introduced Parks and Recreation Director Smith to present the item. Director Smith explained that pickleball has been named the Washington State sport.

Parks and Recreation Director Smith reviewed that the City had a project budgeted pre-COVID 19 for Neil Park that was not brought to fruition. Staff also revisited a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Oak Harbor School District for renovation of their courts located at Rotary Park which was also not enacted due to changes in priorities by the District. In 2023, staff brought information to the City Council on funding for potential new courts. The Council approved a contract with the firm RWD, reviewed potential sites, and selected Fort Nugent as the best location. The City applied for but did not receive a grant for construction of any new courts.

The North Whidbey Pickleball Association (NWPA) approached City staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) with a request to convert an existing sports court surface into multiple pickleball courts. The basketball courts at Windjammer Park, Fort Nugent Park, and Koetje Park and the tennis courts at Sumner Park were discussed. Public comments have been received regarding these locations and the existing amenities, with those who play basketball, tennis, and

pickleball weighing in with their comments. After several months of discussion and evaluating costs, the PRAC is recommending three (3) options for Council's consideration and direction.

Option 1 creates four (4) temporary pickleball courts, two (2) at Sumner Park within one (1) of the existing tennis courts and two (2) at Fort Nugent Park utilizing the existing basketball court surface. The project would use Chalk Paint, which lasts between six (6) to nine (9) months, to create two (2) temporary Pickleball Courts at each location for a total of four (4) temporary Pickleball Courts. Mobile nets and two sheds to store the nets when not in use would be purchased. The estimated cost is \$6,575 and can be absorbed by the Parks Operations Division operating budget.

Option 2 would resurface the sports courts at Sumner Park to include one (1) tennis court and four (4) permanent pickleball courts. The estimated cost for Option 2 is \$61,475. Because this amount would be considered a Capital Project, staff recommend budgeting for this project in the 2027-2028 budget.

Option 3 would be to take no action on a temporary measure at this time and instead budget for the grant match to construct the now completed Fort Nugent Pickleball Complex plans. The base bid for construction with tax and contingency is \$749,597. This is approximately half of the amount originally estimated. Staff will be applying for the Recreation Conservation Office's (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant with a maximum project funding of \$500,000. The grant application opens on February 11, 2026, and will be awarded at the end of year.

At their November 10, 2025 meeting the PRAC voted to forward two (2) options to the City Council to consider:

- (1) Temporary pickleball courts at Sumner Park and Fort Nugent Park which allows the City to maintain the tennis court at Sumner Park and basketball court at Fort Nugent Park; and
- (2) Install four (4) permanent pickleball courts at Sumner Park; as proposed by Parks Supervisor Cable.

Mayor Wright called on the Council for their questions and comments.

Councilmembers Marrow, Stucky, Armes, Marshall, Peterson, and Wiegenstein provided their respective questions and comments. Parks and Recreation Director Smith, Deputy City Administrator and Finance Director Goldman, City Administrator Combs, and Mayor Wright responded to questions. Mayor Wright encouraged staff to review both short and long-term options. City Administrator Combs noted staff will bring an evaluation for costs and potential revised drawings for both courts to a future Council workshop or meeting.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **a. Purchase Authorization Discussion: Oak Harbor Police Department Fleet**

Mayor Wright introduced Police Chief Slowik who provided a presentation regarding two items for the vehicle fleet for the Oak Harbor Police Department (OHPD).

- 1) Scheduled Fleet Replacement; Vehicle P-21, 2005 Dodge Caravan
- 2) Purchase Authorization: Approved Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment No. 2 to the 2025-26 Biennial Budget included \$72,500 for a new police vehicle to be purchased in 2026 (plus \$11,000 to transfer to the reserve for replacement fund).

OHPD provides vehicles for department-related business and may assign fleet vehicles based on a determination of operational efficiency, economic impact on the Department, requirements for

tactical deployments, and other considerations. OHPD began discussions regarding long-range planning and a proposal to shift from a pooled fleet to assigned take-home vehicles in 2024. In 2025, OHPD worked with the Office of the Mayor, Central Services, and the City Council to add officers and launched the Assigned Take Home Vehicle program. The OHPD fleet currently consists of 29 vehicles. Five (5) additional vehicles are needed to support the full staffing of 34 officers.

Chief Slowik explained the intent and goals of the Take Home Vehicle Program:

- Enhance community awareness of law enforcement.
- Increase visibility of police vehicles, resulting in greater added security to the community.
- Deter crime by an increased visual presence of marked patrol vehicles in and around the City of Oak Harbor.
- Decrease response time to emergency calls and officer requests for assistance and increase the opportunity for apprehending known criminals.
- Reduce the maintenance costs of vehicles and increase the service life of vehicles.
- Provide quicker response from off-duty personnel when called back to duty because of an emergency.
- Increased recruitment and retention of professional police officers.

Chief Slowik reviewed the challenges of acquiring additional vehicles within budgetary limits and the need to extend the life of the current fleet, and benefits of providing quicker in-service response in staffing shortages and during critical events, as well as maintenance benefits.

Scheduled Fleet Replacement – 2005 Dodge Caravan. Fleet Vehicle #P-21

Chief Slowik reported a local police agency is replacing two (2) Ford Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) police vehicles. On January 27, 2026, the vehicles were inspected by Deputy Chief Barton and Maintenance Foreman Ken Riley. OHPD is proposing purchasing both vehicles. One is a direct replacement of the 2005 Dodge Caravan, P-21, and the second adds a new vehicle to the police fleet. The asking price of the vehicles is \$10,000 each. 85% of the vehicle outfitting is complete for each, and both have an estimated remaining service life of five or more years. Work that will need to be completed includes new markings, radios, computer mount installations and locking storage.

Funding for these vehicles will come from the 502 Equipment Rental Replacement Fund as follows:

Budgeted \$45,000

Funds available \$32,899

Funds needed for the two (2) police interceptor vehicles:

\$20,000 for two (2) vehicles

\$15,000 for outfitting

Additional Funds Needed:

\$2,101 for the vehicle purchase, which will be funded by OHPD operations.

This request will be brought back to Council for approval at the February 17, 2026 regular meeting.

New Vehicle Purchase Authorization

Chief Slowik explained the approved Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment No. 2 to the 2025-26 Biennial Budget included \$72,500 for a new police vehicle to be purchased in 2026 (plus \$11,000 to transfer to the reserve for replacement fund). OHPD is requesting approval to place a new vehicle for a 2026 Ford Hybrid Interceptor Utility Vehicle under state contract #28423.

Chief Slowik reviewed the costs involved for the proposed expenditure:

\$50,000 for vehicle

\$30,000 for outfitting, including light bar and markings  
\$80,000 total

A request for Council approval of the purchase of the new vehicle will be included for the February 17, 2026 regular meeting.

Mayor Wright thanked Chief Slowik for his presentation and called on the Council for their questions.

Councilmembers Stucky, Peterson, Marrow, and Marshall provided their respective questions and comments. Chief Slowik and Maintenance Foreman Riley responded to questions.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Wright requested any additional comments from the Council.

Councilmember Stucky noted he was looking forward to serving as the ex-officio for the Planning Commission and their upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Marrow provided additional remarks regarding expediency regarding pickleball facilities.

Mayor Wright praised the work of staff and in particular Grants Administrator Horn, City Administrator Combs, Public Works Administration Manager Place, Maintenance Foreman Riley, Public Works Director Schuller, and Deputy City Administrator and Finance Director Goldman, in searching for and obtaining grants wherever possible and for working together collaboratively to affect positive change.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mayor Wright adjourned the workshop at 2:17 p.m.

Certified by Julie Nester, City Clerk