

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 26, 2026

Mayor Carl J. Florea called the May 26, 2026 Leavenworth City Council meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Councilmember Thayer led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Carl J. Florea, Clint Strand, Anne Hessburg, Zeke Reister, Shane Thayer, Travis McMaster, Mike Bedard and Rob Eaton.

Staff Present: Matthew "Selby", Chantell Steiner and Andi Zontek-Backstrum.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of April 28, 2026 Study Session Minutes
3. Approval of April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. 2026 Claims EFT & Checks 72122 – 72176 = \$673,690.29
5. Set Public Hearing for 2027-2032 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan on June 9, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
6. Re-Appointment of Kaylin Bettinger to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
7. Approval of Noise Variance for America 250 Celebration

Prior to the motion, Mayor Florea raised a question regarding Consent Agenda item 4, the setting of a public hearing for the 2027–2032 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan on June 9, 2026. He noted that the public hearing would be the sole action item at the June 9th meeting, and invited the Council to consider whether they wished to hold that meeting or move the public hearing to the second meeting in June. The Council agreed to re-schedule the Public Hearing to June 23rd.

Councilmember Bedard moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reister and passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Stuart Anderson, FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, addressed the Council to provide updated disaster assistance figures for the Leavenworth area. He reported that 51 households in the local ZIP code have registered with FEMA, with \$262,841 distributed. Statewide, 765 households have registered and over \$7 million in funds have been distributed. Mr. Anderson emphasized that June 10, 2026 is the registration deadline for disaster survivors, and encouraged the community to register via the FEMA app, website or the 1-800 number. He thanked the Council and staff for helping disseminate information and noted that a local media inquiry had been forwarded to FEMA's regional news desk.

8. Proclamation: June as Pride Month

Mayor Florea read a proclamation declaring June 2026 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, reaffirming the City of Leavenworth's commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equal protection for all individuals. The Mayor noted that a Pride flag would again be displayed at City Hall during the month of June.

9. Public Safety Reports: **CORPORAL RANDY LAKE, LIAISON OFFICER**

Chelan County Sheriff Corporal Randy Lake provided the current Sheriff Report for the month of April 2026. He supplied information on the calls for service that have taken place within the City of Leavenworth. He stated the number of incidents, citations, traffic accidents, alarm calls and arrests for April. He reported on other items of interest and answered questions from the Council.

DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE SMITH, FIRE DISTRICT #3

Chelan County Fire District 3 report was not presented as Deputy Chief Mike Smith presented at the Study Session held previously.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

10. Resolution 10-2026 – Pfleeger Sewer Exemption

Councilmember Bedard moved to approve Resolution 10-2026 – Pfleeger Sewer Exemption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hessburg and passed with a vote of 6-0 with Councilmember McMaster temporarily unavailable for the vote.

11. Bid Award – 2026 On-Call Dust Abatement

Councilmember Eaton moved to accept the bid and authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Lyman Dust Control, Inc. for the 2026 On Call Dust Abatement project in the amount of \$76,827.98 including Washington State sales tax. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hessburg and passed unanimously.

12. Cancel the June 9, 2026 City Council Meeting

Considering the earlier consent agenda modification, the Council voted to cancel the June 9, 2026 City Council meeting, as the sole remaining agenda item had been moved to the second June meeting.

Councilmember Thayer moved to Cancel the June 9, 2026 Study Session and City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Strand and passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Strand had no report.

Councilmember Hessburg attended the Link Transit Board meeting and the Parking Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Reister attended the Upper Valley Historical Society meeting.

He also shared a meaningful experience attending the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission forum, representing the Yakama, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribes. He described the presentation as eye-opening, particularly the tribes' deeply held cultural relationship with salmon and the significant restoration work accomplished since the Chinook run was nearly extinguished in 1990, including habitat restoration, stream modifications, and hatchery programs.

Councilmember Thayer attended the Parks & Recreation Service Area (PRSA) Board meeting and noted the Upper Valley Aquatic Booster (UVAB) has a splash bash at the City Pool on June 11th from 1-6 PM.

Councilmember McMaster had no report.

Councilmember Bedard attended the Mosquito Control Board meeting and the Downtown Steering Committee meeting.

Councilmember Eaton attended the Downtown Steering Committee meeting. He had recently had a discussion with a former Microsoft employee who now operates a cybersecurity consulting firm and is seeking municipal clients. Given the timing of the Chelan County cyberattack, he indicated the consultant was interested in offering a reduced-cost cybersecurity evaluation in exchange for using the engagement as a reference. He stated he would forward the proposal to administration for consideration.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Florea had no report.

City Administrator Selby reported that at the Downtown Steering Committee, the planters around town in the right-of-way belong to the store owners and not the City. The Committee has suggested that the City purchase and set planters for continuity but would be maintained by the businesses that requested them.

He reported an upcoming meeting with the Chelan County Regional Justice Center to discuss a new jail services contract. Under the proposed new formula, the City would pay per night-stay rather than a flat monthly retainer, which the county estimates could save the City money. The Administrator indicated he would invite CCRJC representatives to a July meeting to present the new contract formally, avoiding the need to bring a last-minute agreement to Council for approval.

He also noted that he and Recreation & Tourism Manager Steven Rubinstein attended a UVAB meeting and have been invited to attend the Peshastin Community Council meeting on June 17th at 7:00 PM, and encouraged Councilmember Thayer, as PRSA chair, to attend. He updated the Council on a site visit to the Peshastin Mill property, where he has been

exploring the feasibility of a disc golf course, having previously been unable to pursue one at Ski Hill due to U.S. Forest Service objections. He noted the site may be viable using PRSA funds and County lodging tax and intends to raise the concept at the Peshastin Community Council meeting.

He also updated the Council on the Trout Unlimited fishing pond letter that the Council received, noting that the organization may be winding down and that Wenatchee River Institute may be a candidate to take over management of the pond. Director Steiner noted there is \$49,500 in the general fund restricted for public viewing and access, stemming from a prior right-of-way sale, that could potentially be applicable. It was suggested to schedule a study session with relevant parties to discuss the pond's future and Councilmember Eaton noted a fundraiser for the pond would take place the following evening at Stein from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Finance Director Chantell Steiner identified a deposit of \$294,028.51 into the City's bank account that she initially flagged as a potential error. Upon investigation, she confirmed it was not an error but rather the City's share of a one-time, unusually large real estate excise tax (REET) transfer originating from a \$58.8 million living trust at the state level. She noted that these REET funds are restricted to transportation and public utility uses.

She announced the successful submission of the City's annual report to the State Auditor's Office, with a final review checklist to be completed on Thursday. Additionally, she confirmed that a \$260,000 PRSA property tax check had been received, providing funding for pool operations through at least the first half of the year.

Public Works Director Andi Zontek-Backstrum announced that beginning June 1st she would be increasing her hours with the City. She noted that at the upcoming Council retreat on May 29th, she planned to present information on water and sewer system capacity, specifically walking the Council through the nuanced process of how capacity is evaluated, beyond a simple count of available connections. In preparation, she invited Council members to share specific questions they hoped to have answered.

INFORMATION ITEMS & FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

13. April 2026 Finance Report

14. April 2026 Public Works Dept. Report

15. April 2026 Planning Commission Minutes

16. April 2026 Design Review Board Minutes

17. Reminder: City Council Retreat on May 29, 2026 in the Council Chambers from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

18. Reminder: Joint Planning Commission Meeting on June 3, 2026 in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Councilmember Thayer moved to adjourn the May 26, 2026 meeting of the Leavenworth City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bedard and passed unanimously.

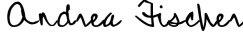
The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

APPROVED

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Carl J. Florea
Mayor

ATTEST

Signed by:

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Andrea Fischer
City Clerk