

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 27, 2026

Mayor Carl J. Florea called the January 27, 2026 Leavenworth City Council meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Councilmember McMaster 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, Maggie Boles, Brantley Bain and Andrea Fischer.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. 2025 Claims EFT & Checks 71495-71577 = \$356,722.82
3. 2026 Claims EFT & Checks 71578-71593 = \$1,067,083.46
4. Mayor Committee Assignments
5. Mayor Pro Tempore Committee Assignments

Following discussion, Councilmember Hessburg stated she would like to change the Public Works Committee to monthly beginning in March 2026 as it was published with "Meets as Needed". The time and date has yet to be determined.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments were received.

6. Public Safety Reports:

CORPORAL RANDY LAKE, LIAISON OFFICER

Chelan County Sheriff Corporal Randy Lake provided the current Sheriff Report for the months of November and December 2025. 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 December. 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 Deputy Chief Mike Smith provided the current fire report for the month of December 2025, including the calls for service that have taken place around the City of Leavenworth and surrounding areas, as well as the number of incidents and Fire

Marshal Services for December. He reported on other items of interest and answered questions from the Council.

7. Presentation: Sheriff Mike Morrison and County Administrator Cathy Mulhall

Sheriff Morrison discussed the new 2026-2029 Interlocal Law Enforcement Service Agreement, that was approved by Council on November 25, 2025. He explained the 15% increase in cost was primarily due to collective bargaining agreements resulting in a 19% pay increase for deputies over the last three years, along with increased vehicle costs from Ford. He emphasized that 90% of his budget is associated with wages and benefits, with vehicles accounting for another 2%. Sheriff Morrison noted that the department is currently fully staffed with 59 positions, though several individuals are out in some form.

County Administrator Cathy Mulhall clarified that the cost increase in the agreement was not due to County cash shortfalls, but reflected actual cost increases, primarily in labor costs.

The Sheriff also addressed questions about Flock cameras in Chelan County and the extra weekends working for Village of Lights: Christmastown.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

8. Resolution 02-2026 – Adoption of the Tree and Vegetation Management and Removal Policy

After a lengthy discussion, Council focused on concerns regarding property owner responsibilities for maintaining vegetation in City right-of-way and did not feel the burden should be placed solely on property owners but rather make it a coordinated effort with the City. City Administrator Selby noted that the policy reflects existing City code 12.80.25, which makes property owners responsible for overhanging vegetation.

Several Councilmembers raised concerns about changing the language to include more clarity about how notifications and enforcement would work, particularly with absentee homeowners, while ensuring the policy wouldn't lead to unnecessary tree damage or removal, but other Councilmembers stated that primary responsibility should remain with the property owner who planted the vegetation, not with the City. City Engineer Brantley Bain noted that implementation would always include coordination with property owners.

The Council agreed to revisit the policy at a future Study Session to refine the language while allowing time to implement it for spring maintenance.

Councilmember Thayer moved to postpone this item to the February 24, 2026 City Council meeting. Councilmember Eaton seconded the motion and passed with a vote of 4-3 with Councilmembers McMaster, Reister and Bedard opposed.

9. Acceptance of the 2026 Planning Commission Docket

Councilmember Bedard moved to approve the 2026 Planning Commission Docket. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMaster and passed unanimously.

10. Partnership Agreement – WA State Autumn Leaf Festival

Councilmember Eaton moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the 2026 Partnership Agreement between the City of Leavenworth and WA State Autumn Leaf Festival Association in the amount of \$82,000, including a one-time capital reimbursement of \$40,000 for a new float. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hessburg and passed unanimously.

11. Water Service Ownership Agreement with Icicle Village Resort

Councilmember Thayer moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the Water Service Ownership Agreement with Icicle Village Resort. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reister and passed unanimously.

12. Chelan County Franchise Agreement for Domestic Water and Sanitary Sewer Facilities on County Rights-of-Way

Councilmember Reister moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Chelan County Franchise Agreement for Domestic Water and Sanitary Sewer Facilities on County Rights-of-Way. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hessburg and passed unanimously.

13. Discussion: Resolution XX-2026 – Updated Council Policy, Procedures and Rules

City Clerk Andrea Fischer presented the updated Council Policy, Procedures and Rules, focusing on the "three reads rule" discussed at the previous study session. The staff proposed language that would allow for more flexibility rather than requiring three formal readings for all items, suggesting that urgent matters could move faster while non-urgent items would receive more discussion time. Administrator Selby noted that other jurisdictions use "three touches" rather than three formal readings. The Council agreed with the proposed language, and the item will be presented at the next City Council meeting for approval.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Strand attended the Leavenworth Area Promotions Board meeting.

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

Councilmember Reister attended the Project Citizen High School presentations at Cascade High School, the Housing Advisory Committee meeting and the Downtown Steering Committee meeting.

Councilmember Thayer had no report.

Councilmember McMaster shared his experience at City Action Days and serving on the Small City Advisory Committee. He attended the Parking Advisory Committee meeting and the Leavenworth Area Promotions Board meeting.

Councilmember Bedard attended the Project Citizen High School presentations at Cascade High School, the Mosquito Control Board meeting and the Housing Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Eaton attended the Downtown Steering Committee meeting.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Florea attended the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) City Action Days and provided an update on House Bill 2559, which would provide a funding stream for affordable housing. He noted the bill needs to pass the house by February 17th to go to the senate, and that he had spoken with Governor Ferguson about signing it if it passes.

City Administrator Selby attended AWC City Action Days and a Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Board meeting.

He stated the Downtown Steering Committee has decided to replace wayfinding signs in both English and German along Highway 2.

He also reported on interviews for the Recreation Tourism Manager position, with 51 applicants narrowed down to 14 for interviews. He also discussed insurance claims related to storm damage and his election to the WCIA Executive Committee.

Finance Director Chantell Steiner announced that the Pool Fund ended the year with a positive balance of \$6,500, though January expenses have brought it to a negative \$35,000 due to insurance payments.

She also mentioned that the December finance report in the packet includes year-end data.

She will be in touch with the new Finance Committee to determine the best date and time for their monthly meeting.

Community Development Director Maggie Boles reported the boundary review board was meeting to determine if the Pfleeger/Willkommen annexation would be able to continue.

New comprehensive plan elements will be released soon with a completion date for the entire comprehensive plan by July 2026.

The Housing Advisory Board has received a complaint that the pre-approved Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) plans are being used for Bed & Breakfasts, taking advantage of the lower cost in permit fees for the plans while making money from the ADU.

She stated that the Decker Technologies software has been implemented for short-term rental enforcement.

She mentioned that Our Valley Our Future is planning their housing summit for Leavenworth at the Festhalle in 2026.

City Engineer Brantley Bain provided an extensive update on numerous projects planned for 2026, including the Front Street Plaza, parking garage, commercial street lift station, emergency generators, water system repairs, and sidewalk improvements.

INFORMATION ITEMS & FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- 14.** December 2025 Finance Report
- 15.** December 2025 Public Works Dept. Report
- 16.** December 2025 Planning Commission Minutes
- 17.** October and December 2025 Design Review Board Minutes
- 18.** 4th Quarter Festhalle Report
- 19.** Reminder: Community Engagement Night on February 3, 2026 at the Festhalle from 4:00-7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Councilmember Thayer moved to adjourn the January 27, 2026 meeting of the Leavenworth City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reister and passed unanimously.

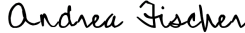
The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

APPROVED

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Carl J. Florea
Mayor

ATTEST

Signed by:

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Andrea Fischer
City Clerk