

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
February 10, 2026
6:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:01pm, Mayor Hughes called the meeting to order and led the Council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Mayor Molly Hughes, Councilmembers Jenny Bright, Rick Walti, Kristo Allred, Evan Henrich, and Jackie Henderson

STAFF PRESENT

Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly, Community Planning Director Josh Pitts, Public Works Director Joseph Grogan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Hughes added a letter of support for a Public Works Assistance Account

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Bright, seconded by Councilmember Henderson, to approve the agenda of the February 10, 2026 Regular Council Meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Regular Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hughes reported that the Town will received \$300,000 in unexpected funds from IRTPO to work on two traffic studies. One traffic study is for the Broadway-SR20 intersection, and the second is for the addition of a right turn lane at N. Main St and SR20. WSDOT said their traffic engineers will assist with these two studies. These two studies were originally planned for 2028 but will now be completed in 2026.
- County Commissioner Melanie Bacon called a special meeting with all the municipalities and the sheriff's office to discuss what to do in the event of an ICE raid in our community. Sheriff Felici reinforced that the Island County Sheriff's Office will not facilitate or assist ICE in any way. If ICE is conducting a raid, call 911 and the Sheriff's office will respond to bear witness. If bystanders interfere with ICE, they will be arrested.
- The Town had a table of information at the Sound Water Stewards University on February 7. It was a very successful day, with over 200 students and instructors at the event.
- Public Works Director Grogan will be applying for a WCIA Risk Reduction Grant to replace the ADA pads on sidewalk intersections.

- Mayor Hughes is looking into adding an Automated External Defibrillator at the Rec Hall. Hughes is currently researching costs and will look for grants or a sponsor for the new AED.
- Historic Whidbey is working with an organization to put on a historically-accurate Revolutionary War reenactment and camp in the Town Green, in celebration of America250. The Town has a lot of preliminary questions and has been working with Historic Whidbey to sort those questions out. Historic Whidbey will be submitting a Special Event Permit application soon.
- Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026, in observance of Presidents Day.
- Councilmember Henderson commented that she appreciated the information about scams in the Town Newsletter, and believes it may need to be sent out more than once per year.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Dorte Callahan suggested doing a scam education class at the Island Senior Resources weekly Lunch and Learn.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 26-01 – Revision of Personnel Policies Section 3.3 Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance Benefits

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Allred, to approve Resolution 26-01 amending Town of Coupeville Personnel Policies, Section 3.3 Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance Benefits. The motion passed unanimously.

Historic Preservation Commission Appointment

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Walti, seconded by Councilmember Bright, to appoint Meg Olson to the Historic Preservation Commission as a Town of Coupeville representative. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Support for Older Americans Act

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Bright, to authorize the Mayor to send letters to Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Representative Larsen supporting funding for the Older Americans Act. The motion passed unanimously.

After discussion with the Council, it was determined that Mayor Hughes may write letters or communicate with our elected officials about legislation that impacts the administration of the Town without approval from the Council.

Parks and Recreation Workshop

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Bright, seconded by Councilmember Henderson, to set a Council Workshop to discuss Parks and Rec priorities on March 5th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Coupeville Library. The motion passed unanimously.

Payroll and A/P Voucher Approval

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Allred, seconded by Councilmember Henrich, to approve December 2025 (13th month) A/P Transactions and Checks #11577 - #11593 for a total of \$26,063.21; January 2026 A/P Transactions and EFT payments #11594 - #11632 for a total of \$558,490.46; and January 2026 Payroll EFT Transactions for a total of \$161,139.48. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS**Councilmember Henrich**

Councilmember Henrich reported that the Law and Justice Council met at the end of January. They discussed the behavior health program at the jail and its importance. Henrich also reported that the Sheriff's Office has a full slate of Deputies for the first time in 10 years, and that preliminary discussion was had about a new jail, or an expansion to the existing jail.

Councilmember Bright

Councilmember Bright will be serving as the Board Chair for Island Transit this year. Island Transit recently had a visit from Representative Rick Larsen. The Board will have its annual retreat in March.

DISCUSSION**Countywide Planning Policies**

Community Planning Director Pitts led a discussion with the Council about the Countywide Planning Policies update. Housing allocations for Coupeville did not rise, but the percentage of housing changed due to Island County taking on more allocations originally intended for Oak Harbor.

Sign Code Update

Community Planning Director Pitts led a discussion with the Council about updates to the Town's sign code as it pertains to portable signs. Councilmembers asked about business input and how the rules apply to non-profits, clarifying questions around placement language and best practices, and non-commercial language on signs. Councilmember Bright also commented that per the Council's direction, the sign code update should only be for A-Frame or Sandwich Board signs.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Dorte Callahan commented that she'd like to see "professional appearance" be a requirement for portable signs.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21pm, Mayor Hughes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR



Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly



Molly Hughes