

**TOWN OF COUPEVILLE**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**February 24, 2026**  
**6:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:00pm, 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 and Public Works Director Joe Grogan

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda of the February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Hughes reported that 58 of the 60 Community Garden plots have been rented for 2026. Hughes thanked Deputy Clerk Jolly for his work managing the garden.
- Mayor Hughes has been working with Scott Price and the Price Sculpture Forest on their strategic planning process. The park is looking for more sustainable funding sources. The Town is looking at possibly connecting the Parker Road pedestrian path to the park.
- Mayor Hughes reported that the Port of Coupeville has completed its new boat dock, which was a much-needed improvement. The new boat dock is made of steel mesh, which allows sunlight to reach the eel grass and marine life below. Mayor Hughes commended the Port on all their work to repair and improve the Coupeville Wharf.
- Mayor Hughes reported that the Town has hired a new Utility Clerk, Robyn Sutton. The new Utility Clerk has been working hard to get up to speed and learn our utility billing software. Mayor Hughes and Public Works Director Grogan will be interviewing candidates for two openings on the public works team later in the week.
- Mayor Hughes reported that public works has begun maintenance on the Parker Road pedestrian path. They are already receiving a lot of 'thank yous' as they work.
- Mayor Hughes, Public Works Director Grogan, and Assistant Planner Lisa Walsh have been working on materials for the Parks & Recreation Council Workshop scheduled for March 5, 2026.
- Mayor Hughes reminded the Council that MusselFest is almost here and tickets are still on sale for all of the weekend's events.

### **PRESENTATION**

Mark Madison of Jacobs Engineering presented the findings of the Water Reuse Feasibility Study. The presentation laid out multiple scenarios for water reuse.

### **AUDIENCE INPUT**

Marshall English, and irrigation management expert, addressed the Council about the Water Reuse Feasibility Study. English said it opens up a great opportunity for the farmers on the prairie, and could save the viability of farming in our community. He commented that water reuse reduces risk and provides flexibility for farmers to try new crops. Mr. English also recommended seeking USDA grant funding for the design and implementation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Navy Right of Entry Agreement**

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Walti, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Right of Entry Agreement with the Navy for parcel #R13114-250-4610, our water plant property at 434 Wanamaker Rd, Coupeville WA. The motion passed unanimously.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### **Councilmember Henrich**

Councilmember Henrich reported that there will be a public meeting on March 7, 2026 at 9:30am, in the Island County Board of Commissioners Hearing Room, to discuss a new location for the Island County Jail.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **T-Mobile Cell Tower**

Mayor Hughes discussed possible plans for an addition to the T-Mobile Cell Tower located at 205 N. Main St. The plan is to add more equipment to the upper 12 feet of the tower and enclose it with a metal sheath. Under this plan, the tower would not be any taller than the current tower. Most of the Council did not take issue with the plan, however Councilmember Bright expressed distaste for the new design.

#### **America250 Revolutionary War Reenactment**

Councilmember Henrich read a statement expressing concerns about a proposed battle reenactment in the Town Green in celebration of America250. Lynn Hyde with Historic Whidbey answered questions and addressed Councilmember's concerns about the event.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:45pm, Mayor Hughes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR



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Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly



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Molly Hughes