TOWN OF COUPEVILLE
Regular Council Meeting
October 27, 2026
6:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:02pm, 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

Public Works Director Joe Grogan, Clerk-Treasurer Corine Jackson, and Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda of the October 27, 2026 Regular Council Meeting was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, and minutes of the October 20, 2026 Council Budget Workshop were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hughes reported that the landscaping of the new Volunteer Park, donated by the Coupeville Festival Association, is complete. The Town has also installed two new public restrooms at the park.
- Mayor Hughes reported that the Town did not receive the $200,000 parks and recreation grant for repairs to the Boat Launch. Out of 75 applications, 9 were funded, and the Town's ranked 13th.
- Mayor Hughes reported that all of the Halloween events for the Town are over and mostly went well. There were hiccups that need to be worked on for next year, but overall things went well with all the events.
- Mayor Hughes reported that the annual Community Potluck at the Crocket Barn will be on November 6th, the Pacific Northwest Art School's 40th Anniversary celebration will be on November 7th, and the Town's Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony will be at 11:00am on November 11th. Town Hall will be closed that day.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Hughes gave the annual State of the Town presentation for the Council and public.

PUBLIC HEARING

Property Tax Levy – Ordinance 811

At 6:45pm, Mayor Hughes opened the Public Hearing and turned the floor over the Clerk-Treasurer Jackson to present on the Property Tax Levy. After the presentation, Mayor Hughes opened the floor to public comments. There being no public comments, Mayor Hughes opened the floor to Councilmembers for discussion with each other and staff. Mayor Hughes closed the Public Hearing at 6:50pm.

NEW BUSINESS

2027 Legislative Priorities

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Bright, to approve the Town of Coupeville's 2027 Legislative Priorities, as amended, and authorize the Mayor to send them to our Representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

2% Lodging Tax Grants

Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Henderson, seconded by Councilmember Walti, to award 2% Lodging Tax Grant Funds for the 2027 Funding Year as follows: Pacific Northwest Art School in the amount of $3,000, Coupeville Chamber of Commerce in the amount of $25,000, Sound Water Stewards in the amount of $2,000, Whidbey Island Maritime Heritage Foundation in the amount of $5,000, Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association in the amount of $6,000, Penn Cove Water Festival in the amount of $3,000, and Whidbey Island Arts Council in the amount of $1,000. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

COLA Raise for Mayor

Councilmember Walti led a discussion with the Council about giving the Mayor a COLA raise when the rest of Town staff receive theirs. The Mayor is paid a stipend and has not received COLA raises throughout her tenure. The combined percentage of COLA raises for staff over the past 8 years is 23%. The Council agreed that the Mayor should receive a 23% COLA raise effective January 1, 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:01pm, Mayor Hughes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Chris Jolly

MAYOR

Molly Hughes