

**Agenda of the Legislative Meeting of the
Mayor and City Council
City of Mount Rainier, Maryland
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 7:00PM**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review of Agenda (5 minutes)

The Mayor and Council will review the agenda for the meeting, adding or deleting topics of interest or discussion.

3. Mayor and Council Members Event Announcements

4. Presentation and Discussion on Legislative Update from Greenwill Consulting Group (20 Minutes)

The Mayor and Council will receive a legislative update from Mr. Jonathan Carpenter and Ms. Lesly Feliz.

5. City Manager's Report

City Manager Kourosch Kamali will present his report to the Mayor and Council.

6. Proclamation in Recognition and Celebration of Black History Month (10 Minutes)

Mayor Celina Benitez will present a proclamation for Black History Month.

7. Public Comment

Please see page 4 of the agenda, where the rules for Public Comments are listed. If you wish to speak, please advise during the virtual meeting.

Old Business

8. Second Reading and Adoption of Resolution No. 01-2026, Authorizing Participation in the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Strategic Action Plan Project (10 Minutes)

The Mayor and Council will have the second reading and adoption of Resolution No. 01-2026.

Vote: _____

9. Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 07-2025, Vice Mayor Rotation (15 Minutes)

The Mayor and Council will discuss and vote on Resolution No. 07-2025.

Vote: _____

New Business

10. Vote on Approval of Minutes (5 Minutes)

The Mayor and Council will vote on approving the minutes for:

- *December 16, 2025, Work Session*
- *January 6, 2026, Legislative Meeting.*

Vote: _____

11. Presentation of Minutes (5 Minutes)

The City Clerk will present the January 20, 2026, Work Session Minutes to the Mayor and Council.

12. Adjournment

Upcoming Events

Presentation of the Proposed FY2027 Budget – Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Thomas S Stone Elementary School in Partnership with the City of Mount Rainier Black History Month Showcase – Thursday, February 26, 2026 - Thomas S Stone Elementary School – 6 PM

Budget Public Hearing – Saturday, March 21, 2026, Potts Hall/Welcome Center

Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 11 AM – 1 PM – Mount Rainier Nature Center

Mount Rainier Day – Saturday, May 16, 2026, 11 AM – 4 PM- Mount Rainier Nature Center

Rules for Public Comment

The Mayor and City Council invite and welcome comments at public meetings. The Mayor or presiding officer will recognize you. Please introduce yourself (first and last name, for recording purposes) and give the name of your street and block number (e.g., 4300 block of 34th St.). Please indicate in the chat whether you would like the Mayor to read your comment or you will speak on your comment. If the Mayor reads your comment, that will serve as your allotted speaking time. Public Comment has a time limit of 3 minutes per speaker, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Mayor.

While speaking, please maintain a courteous tone and avoid personal attacks. If you wish to lodge a complaint about the performance or conduct of any City employee, please bring your concern to the attention of the City Manager, who will look into the matter and respond to you.

As a courtesy to other residents and businesses, the Council requests that speakers not use specific addresses or names of individuals when describing a situation or making a complaint. Noting the block is preferred over a specific address.

Please Note:

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article Section 10-508(a), the Council by majority vote may retire to executive or closed session at any time during the meeting. Should the Council retire to executive or closed session; the chair will announce the reasons, and a report will be issued at a future meeting disclosing the reasons for such session.



City of Mount Rainier – Legislative Update Meeting

1. Overview of the 2026 Maryland Legislative Session

- Key themes and early developments
- Budget outlook and anticipated impacts on local governments
- Important deadlines and process reminders

2. Legislative Priorities

- Protecting the **FY27 \$700,000** allocation for Potts Hall
 - Prior State investments:
 - \$250,000 (FY23)
 - \$750,000 (FY24)
- Bill advocacy updates:
 - **SB 245/HB 444** Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
 - **SB 1/HB 155** Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
 - **SB 342/HB 331** Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

3. Questions & Discussion

City Manager Biweekly Report 2/3/26

Status Key			
Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk	High Risk

<u>Key Activities/ Milestones</u>	<u>Target/Status</u>
<p><u>Weekly Meeting:</u> One-on-one meeting with all department heads to receive an update and resolve any issues they may have.</p>	Ongoing
<p><u>Proposed FY27 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the proposed budget with Department Heads. Working with the Finance team to complete the proposed budget and submit it to the Mayor and Council on February 13th. The proposed FY27 budget will be presented to the Mayor and Council at the Work Session on February 17th. 	Ongoing
<p><u>Potts Hall (Welcome Center):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council Chamber’s Recording and Streaming are complete, and we are awaiting the new furniture. We are planning to use the old furniture and have the February 17th Work session in person. 	Ongoing
<p><u>Installation of Stop Sign Enforcement Cameras, SS4A Grant Funding Project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized the installation and service contract with the City attorney last Friday and sent it back to the City vendor(RedSpeed) for final review. 	Ongoing

City Manager Biweekly Report 2/3/26

Status Key			
Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk	High Risk

Key Activities/ Milestones

Target/Status

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - US Department of Transportation, 80% Federal Funding, \$ 9.76 million, and 20% City match \$2.25 million:

Toole Design activities:

- Reviewed the final design with the Toole Design Group for the **Levee Trial Crossing, Bunker Hill Rd and 35th Street, and Bunker Hill Rd and 36th Street.**
- Will start working with the City attorney to prepare the bid documents to select the contractor and start the construction next Spring, weather permitting.
- Submitted the quarterly report and annual report to FHWA.
- **31st Street and Food Forest** final design is scheduled for the end of February.
- Continued to develop and identify next steps for the design of Safe Road to School(SRTS) for both Thomas Stone and Mount Rainier elementary Schools.

Ongoing

High Visibility Crosswalks, Curb Ramp improvements, Speed Humps, Traffic Coming Devices, SS4A Grant Funding Project:

- Will continue the project next Spring, weather permitting.

Paused

Sidewalk Maintenance, SS4A Grant Funding Project:

- Will continue the project next Spring, weather permitting.

Paused

City Manager Biweekly Report 2/3/26

Status Key			
Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk	High Risk

<u>Key Activities/ Milestones</u>	<u>Target/Status</u>
<p><u>Parking Enforcement Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Perez and her team are in the process of completing training with the vendor (Cardinal). • Citation Ticket Stock has been updated by Chief Perez and the team and forwarded to the vendor (Cardinal) • Ron and I worked with the E Commerce Cardpointe credit card vendor and set up an account to receive parking enforcement fees. • Notification Templates: Cardinal is working with Penn Credit to set up a process for printing and mailing notices to violators. • Cardinal and the Police Department are working together to expedite system operation within 30 days. 	Ongoing
<p><u>31st Street and Perry Street Green Street Project, State of Maryland Department of General Services Grant Funding \$530,000:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the City attorney to prepare the bid documents to select the contractor and start the construction next Spring, weather permitting. 	Ongoing
<p><u>Installation of Solar panels on the Five Cities' Buildings, State of Maryland Department of Energy Grant Funding \$410,000:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received reimbursement from the Maryland Energy Department for the Police Department, Public Works, Code Enforcement, and the Melinda building. • Installation and mechanical inspection on Potts have been completed and are awaiting Pepco's operation permit. 	Ongoing
<p><u>Faced Improvements and Mural projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the canopy for Nipsey's Store is completed • Processing the final invoice and closing out the project. • Working with the City attorney to draft the 34th Street Mural contract for Artist Jay Coleman to start the project. 	Ongoing

City Manager Biweekly Report 2/3/26

Status Key			
Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk	High Risk

Key Activities/ Milestones

Target/Status

Newton Street Green Infrastructure Improvements (Between 34th St. and 37th St.) ARPA Funding \$879,000:

- The project is 80% complete, including Concrete, Flexi Sidewalks, Aprons, Curbs, Gutters, Traffic Calming measures (such as the Islands, Chokers, and Bump-outs), topsoil, seed, and mulch.
- Remaining items are the resurfacing, Speed Humps, landscaping, and Signage scheduled for next spring, weather permitting.

Paused

Grant Writer activities:

SS4A Quarterly and Annual Report:

- Submitted Quarterly and Annual Reports.

DHCD Facade improvements and Mural grants:

- Processing the final invoice to get the reimbursement.

PACT grant for body cams, etc.:

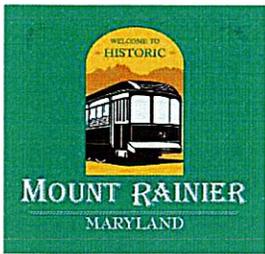
- Submitted financial report, requesting \$5,180.14.

Congressional Earmarks:

- Researched proposal to upgrade MRPD patrol vehicles.

Continue search for new grant opportunities.

Ongoing



City of Mount Rainier

*Proclamation in Recognition and Celebration of
Black History Month*

WHEREAS, the African American community have made a meaningful and significant contributions to the City of Mount Rainier, State of Maryland, the United State and the world; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is nationally recognized as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS: In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS: Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by Black peoples in the United States, and

WHEREAS: In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America, Canada and Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, many Black people have made the City of Mount Rainier their home in spite of the abhorrent attempts to exclude them, and have made significant contributions to this city, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Black History is American History and should be taught to students since elementary along with Ethics Studies; and

WHEREAS, The African American Community has served in the US Armed forces since the first war even though back home they had no rights and segregation was at its peak, we honor their sacrifices and we celebrate our Veterans.

WHEREAS, today, we celebrate and affirm the importance of Black Health and Wellness to our community, throughout our state and the nation.

WHEREAS, we celebrate the diversity of Black people in The City of Mount Rainier and our nation and the Black diaspora, whether they self-identify as African, African-American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Asian, or Black; and

WHEREAS, we recognize this year's Black History Month theme of "A Century of Black History Commemorations,"; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge systemic racism has led to African Americans being more likely to die at an early age from all causes, more commonly misdiagnosed, and impacted by health inequities throughout the health care system that have traumatized the Black community; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate Black health and wellness, including the legacy of Black scholars, midwives, nurses, doctors, and practitioners of not only Western medicine, but all the other indigenous ways of promoting health and healing throughout the Black diaspora; and

WHEREAS, During the Black History Month, we elevate the achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political; and

WHEREAS, the observance of black history month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism, stand up and be an ally and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier is proud to Honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, throughout Maryland and our nation; and

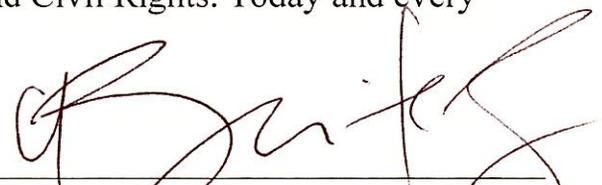
WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier will continue to work towards becoming an inclusive city in which all the community—past, present and future—are respected and that the African American community is recognized for their contributions to our city, country and the world; and

WHEREAS, the African Americans have played a key role in the advancement of this City and world in the multiple field of studies including and not limited to the Arts, Culture, Science, Math, Politics, History, Business, Music, Sports, Medicine, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture, Literature, Dance, High Technology and Human and Civil Rights, including LGBTQAI+ rights. There is no field that the African American community have not positively impacted and have advanced; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier commits to doing everything in our power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding and implement changes to ensure that racism and the unjust treatment of any person is not tolerated in any way or form within the City of Mount Rainier; and

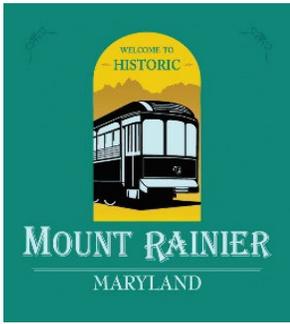
WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Citizens of Mount Rainier to remember the contributions and legacy of those who helped build our nation, fought against prejudice to secure lives of dignity and opportunity for all of our citizens, advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans, and strengthened our families and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Celina Benitez, Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier do hereby proclaim February as Black History Month in the City of Mount Rainier and every year from today on. The City of Mount Rainier will display the Pan-African flag at City Hall in the Month of February celebrating National Black History Month; and urge all our citizens to celebrate African American Community heritage and culture and continue our efforts year around to create a world that is more just, peaceful, equitable and prosperous for all and stand up for injustice, voting rights, oppression and protection of Human and Civil Rights. Today and every month is Black History Month.



Honorable Mayor Celina Benitez
City of Mount Rainier, MD

February 1, 2026



CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION No. 01-2026

Introduced by: The Mayor and City Council

A Resolution of the City of Mount Rainier Authorizing Participation in the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Strategic Action Plan Project

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier is committed to promoting Economic Development & Job Growth, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action, Infrastructure & Transportation, Good Governance & Citizen Engagement, and enhance the quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the need to develop a Strategic Action Plan that provides actionable strategies to advance these goals and aligns with the City's mission and vision; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) program provides an opportunity for municipalities to engage in planning projects that foster sustainable growth, transportation alternatives, and community-focused initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier intends to build upon prior plans and studies conducted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), as well as other initiatives undertaken by the City to support community development and regional interconnection; and

WHEREAS, participation in the PAMC Strategic Action Plan project will result in a set of actionable strategies and recommendations that the City can implement to achieve its identified goals and priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND, that:

1. The City of Mount Rainier hereby expresses its support for and authorizes participation in the PAMC Strategic Action Plan project.
2. The City Manager, or their designee, is authorized to execute any documents, applications, or agreements necessary to participate in the project.
3. The City shall actively collaborate with PAMC representatives, consultants, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful development of the Strategic Action Plan.

4. The City shall use the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Action Plan to guide future projects and initiatives that promote Economic Development & Job Growth, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action, Infrastructure & Transportation, Good Governance & Citizen Engagement, and enhance the quality of life within Mount Rainier.

THIS REOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Attest:

Melissa Sam, City Clerk

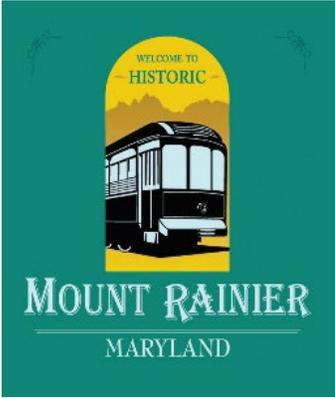
Celina R. Benitez, Mayor

Danielle Carter, Councilmember Ward 1

Jennifer Hoffpauir, Councilmember Ward 1

Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2

Joseph Jakuta, Councilmember Ward 2



First Reading: September 2, 2025

Second Reading and Adoption: _____, 2025

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION No. 07-2025

Introduced by: Mayor and City Council

Upcoming Vice Mayor Rotation

WHEREAS, Section 303(B) of the City of Mount Rainier Charter calls for the appointment of a Vice Mayor who shall perform the duties of the Mayor during the absence or disability of the Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mount Rainier that:

1. Commencing at the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on November 4, 2025, and continuing until the last Council Meeting prior to November 3, 2026, Councilmember Danielle Carter, Ward 1, shall serve as Vice Mayor.
2. Commencing at the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on November 3, 2026, and continuing until the last Council Meeting prior to November 2, 2027, Councilmember Joseph Jakuta, Ward 2, shall serve as Vice Mayor.
3. Commencing at the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on November 2, 2027, and continuing until the last Council Meeting prior to November 7, 2028, Councilmember Jeniffer Hoffpauir, Ward 1, shall serve as Vice Mayor.

THIS REOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS __ DAY OF _____, 2025.

Attest:

Melissa Sam, City Clerk

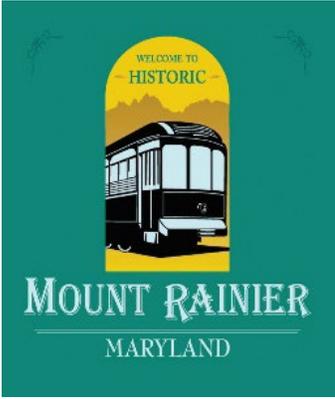
Celina R. Benitez, Mayor

Danielle Carter, Councilmember Ward 1

Jennifer Hoffpauir, Councilmember Ward 1

Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2

Joseph Jakuta, Councilmember Ward 2



First Reading: September 2, 2025

Second Reading and Adoption: _____, 20256

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION No. 07-2025

Amendment 1 – Redline/Strikeout

Upcoming Vice Mayor Rotation

WHEREAS, Section 303(B) of the City of Mount Rainier Charter calls for the appointment of a Vice Mayor who shall perform the duties of the Mayor during the absence or disability of the Mayor; **and**

WHEREAS, Rule XLG of the Mount Rainier City Council’s Rules and Procedures, as reaffirmed unanimously by this Council on May 12, 2025, states that the practice of the Mount Rainier City Council is to allow every Council Member to serve as Vice Mayor and that this rotation be adopted by resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mount Rainier that:

1. Commencing ~~at~~**after adjournment of** the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on ~~November 4, 2025~~**February 3, 2026**, and continuing until the ~~last adjournment of the~~ Council Meeting ~~prior to~~**on** ~~November 3, 2026~~**February 2, 2027**, Councilmember Danielle Carter, Ward 1, shall serve as Vice Mayor.
2. Commencing ~~at~~**after adjournment of** the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on ~~November 3, 2026~~**February 2, 2027**, and continuing until the ~~last adjournment of the~~ Council Meeting ~~prior to~~**on** November 2, 2027, Councilmember Joseph Jakuta, Ward 2, shall serve as Vice Mayor.
3. Commencing ~~at~~**after adjournment of** the Legislative Meeting of the City Council on November 2, 2027, and continuing until the ~~last adjournment of the~~ Council Meeting ~~prior to~~**on** November 7, 2028, Councilmember Jenniffer Hoffpauir, Ward 1, shall serve as Vice Mayor.

THIS REOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS __ DAY OF _____, 20256.

Attest:

Melissa Sam, City Clerk

Celina R. Benitez, Mayor

Danielle Carter, Councilmember Ward 1

Jennifer Hoffpauir, Councilmember Ward 1

Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2

Joseph Jakuta, Councilmember Ward 2

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier
Mayor and City Council Work Session
December 16, 2025, Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

7:00 pm

Presiding Officer

Mayor Celina Benitez

Officials Present

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall

Councilmember Danielle Carter

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta

Staff Present

City Manager Kourosch Kamali

Chief of Police Katherine Perez

City Clerk Melissa Sam

Media Production Coordinator Jared Alindogan

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Reading of Agenda

The agenda was read by Councilmember Valerie Woodall and was accepted with the removal of number 7, the closed session.

Presentation and Discussion on the FY2025 Audit Report

Mr. Dan Kenney and Ms. Wendolyn Yang presented the FY2025 Audit Report which included the following:

- Audit highlights
- Core team members
- Fraud considerations
- Summary of audit results
- Required communications and other matters

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Kenney and his team for the presentation and expressed appreciation to Mr. Kamali, Mr. Ronald Wilson, and Ms. Natalie Sam for their work in once again completing a successful audit with a favorable report.

Mr. Kamali thanked Mr. Wilson and Ms. Sam for their contributions, as well as Mr. Kenney and his team, for their efforts on the audit.

Presentation and Discussion on the Police Department First Quarter Report

Chief Katherine Perez presented the following:

- Photo Enforcement Program Monthly Report
- Call for Service
- Property Room Guns Audit 2025
- Property Room Drugs Audit 2025
- Property Room Cash Audit 2025
- Events/Participations
- Police Explorers Program
- Ongoing Projects
- Social Services Coordinator Report

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir stated that she was concerned about the number of discrepancies with RedSpeed referenced by the Chief. She added that she thought the City would use Red Stop as the vendor, which was the vendor for the stop sign camera once it was implemented, and asked for clarification on whether it was the same company. Mr. Kamali explained that RedSpeed was being used for speed enforcement and that the City had gone through the same approval process with the vendor, including receiving approval from the Federal Highway Administration. He stated that the City would be using the same vendor, RedSpeed, so that both programs would be synchronized, which would prevent staff from having to train on a new system. Mr. Kamali further explained that discrepancies sometimes occurred because the vendor's review of an image differed from the officers' interpretation. To avoid confusion for citizens, the City relied on the officers' review and approval. He emphasized that tickets were issued only when staff were 100 percent certain that an actual violation had occurred. Chief Perez added that the City must be able to defend citations if they were challenged in court, noting that in some cases it was difficult to clearly determine a license plate due to image quality.

Motion was made to add 5 minutes. Moved by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta Seconded by Councilmember Danielle Carter Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta asked why the cash that was found was not provided to the Comptroller of Maryland for the "Find My Money" program, which allowed individuals to input their names to locate funds owed to them. Chief Perez explained that the process did not work that way and that, according to the law, the money had to be deposited with the City.

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked whether the discrepancies represented a normal variance that would typically occur with any vendor. She also asked whether the recovered guns that were destroyed had been handled within the fifteen days from when the Chief took office through the end of September. Chief Perez said that some were destroyed in October and November, but the

audit had been completed, and she wanted to present the information. She added that the discrepancies were healthy and what one would expect, emphasizing that it was important for the City not to rubber-stamp the vendor's work. She noted that the experience was similar with any vendor, with the main differences being in customer service, and stated that RedSpeed had provided good customer service.

Motion was made to add 4 minutes. Moved by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta Seconded by Councilmember Danielle Carter Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

The Mayor and Council thanked Chief Perez for her presentation and for the work she and her team had been doing for the City.

Presentation and Discussion on Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Strategic Action Plan Project

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall read the resolution.

Presentation of Minutes

The City Clerk presented the December 2, 2025, Public Hearing and Work Session minutes to the Mayor and Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta Seconded by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier
Mayor and City Council
Legislative Meeting
January 6, 2026, Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

7:00 pm

Presiding Officer

Mayor Celina Benitez

Officials Present

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall

Councilmember Danielle Carter

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta

Staff Present

City Manager Kourosh Kamali

Director of Code Compliance Alma Ferrufino

City Clerk Melissa Sam

Media Production Coordinator Jared Alindogan

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Reading of Agenda

The agenda was read by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall and accepted with the removal of number 11, Discussion and Vote on Support for the “Help Us Stop The Landover Data Center” Community Outreach.

Mayor and Councilmember Event Announcements

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir stated that the ribbon cutting was scheduled for the following day at 11:00 a.m. at Potts Hall, 1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, and expressed hope that residents would attend.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta encouraged residents to visit the City’s website and sign up to join the Mount Rainier Green Team. He stated that applications were being accepted and that an environmental background was not required, though preferred. He noted that individuals who simply wanted to help benefit the environment in

Mount Rainier were welcome to apply. He added that approximately three additional applicants were still needed to reach full membership.

Councilmember Danielle Carter mentioned the following:

- She thanked everyone who participated in the Parade of Lights in December, noting that it was a great success, and extended special thanks to the four residents who provided cider stations.
- She encouraged residents to participate in the City's Compost Program and advised them to visit the City's website to complete the form to request a compost bin. She stated that residents with questions could reach out to any member of the Council.

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall announced a vacancy on the Arts Commission and encouraged interested residents to apply through the City's website.

Mayor Celina Benitez read the upcoming events listed on the agenda and stated the following:

- The waste management schedule was available on the City's website, and live Christmas trees were scheduled for collection on January 13 and January 27.
- She thanked staff and volunteers for their work on the Holiday Basket Distribution and the Breakfast and Photo with Santa.
- The Police Department held a Shop with a Cop event, during which many children received toys.
- She thanked the Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department for hosting Santa Run and noted that the Police Department escorted the event. She expressed appreciation for the continued collaboration.
- She congratulated Ms. Wala Blegay on being sworn in as the new at-large County Councilmember on Monday.
- She gave a shout-out to Speaker Joselyn Peña-Melik for becoming the first Afro-Latina immigrant Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.
- She stated that the legislative open session would take place the following week.

Presentation from the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA)

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall recused herself from the presentation.

Megan Baco and Grace Hearnese presented on the following:

- (Re) Introduction
- Community Tourism
- Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs
- Grant Opportunities

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir asked about small businesses and their preservation, noting that the City had many small businesses in its historic downtown core, and inquired whether they were able to access grant funding through ATHA. Megan Baco stated that the funding they had available was not something small businesses could use. She explained that they had seen partnerships take place in the Gateway Arts District in which a business benefited significantly as the buildout tenant of a property owned by a nonprofit. She also noted that Prince George's County was unique in that the County Historic Preservation Commission had a grant program for which private property owners were eligible.

Motion to add three minutes Moved by Mayor Celina Benitez Seconded by Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

The Mayor and Council thanked Megan Baco and Grace Hearnese for their presentation and stated that they wished the trail extended all the way to the City.

Presentation of Building Application for 3803 32nd Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland

The owner of the property explained the scope of the project.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta stated the following:

- The city had a noise ordinance (Code Section 10-121), construction activities were to be limited to 8 am to 8 pm to avoid violating it.
- There was a tree ordinance (Section 12B-7) that protected private trees measuring 56½ inches or more in circumference at 4½ feet above the ground. If any work was planned involving a tree of that size, even if it was in poor condition, Code Enforcement needed to be consulted. Additionally, any pruning needed to be reviewed in advance.
- Care should be taken when digging, moving, or grading soil to prevent stormwater from running into neighboring yards or the rain garden.
- When in doubt, the Code Compliance Director should be contacted.

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall asked whether the owner planned to live in the home, sell it after renovations, or rent it. The owner stated that he was planning to rent the property.

The Mayor and Council thanked the owner for the presentation and for the project.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Kouros Kamali presented on the following:

- Weekly meeting with directors.
- FY27 Operating Budget
- Potts Hall/Welcome Center
- ARPA Funding –
 - (1) Newton Street Green Infrastructure Improvements (Between 34th Street and 37th Street)
- SS4A Grant Funding –
 - (1) High Visibility Crosswalks, Curb Ramp Improvement, and Speed Humps
 - (2) Sidewalk Maintenance
- Installation of Stop Sign Enforcement Cameras
- Installation of Solar Panels on the Five City Buildings
- 31st Street and Perry Street Green Street Project
- Façade Improvements and Mural Projects
- Grant Activities

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir expressed frustration that they were not meeting in person, questioned why the furniture had not been ordered earlier, and asked for an explanation for the delay. Mr. Kamali explained that they had to wait until the council chamber was finished to obtain accurate measurements for the furniture. He also stated that if they had proceeded with the original plan to furnish the chamber, it would have cost the City more than \$100,000. Therefore, he had shopped around to find a better price. He eventually found a vendor who provided a reasonable quote, but they were out of state, and it would take two months. He also mentioned that the City was better off waiting the two months rather than paying an additional \$50,000.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta stated that some of the businesses he had spoken with on 34th Street were concerned about how the parking meters had been removed. A report provided previously indicated that this would be about the time the parking meters were to be reinstalled, and he asked about the status. Mr. Kamali explained that they usually held weekly meetings with the vendors. He noted that although the process had been promised to be quick at the beginning, it was taking longer than anticipated. They had received all the signs for the parking area, but were still waiting for the program to be installed, which was somewhat sophisticated, and staff also needed to be trained.

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked the following questions:

- In this situation with the Barking Lot, were mediation services offered to the residents and the business owner to mitigate the situation.
- Did he, as City Manager, or one of his designated staff, investigate the petition to ensure all signers were 18 years or older and that the 60 percent threshold had been met.

Mr. Kamali stated that he believed the matter should be addressed in a different meeting, such as a community conversation, where the Director of Code Compliance could also be present. He explained that she had forwarded information to Councilmember Carter that afternoon, and because a County investigation was ongoing and a court date was scheduled for the following Thursday, some information could not be released as it was not public. He added that he had reached out to the City Attorney after receiving the emails from her. He also noted that most of the email correspondents did not live on that block. He reiterated that a community conversation involving the owner, the residents who signed the petition, and city staff would be the appropriate forum.

Public Comment

Ms. Julie Chamberlain, 3700 block of 37th Street, stated that she was two months away from her twentieth anniversary of living in Mount Rainier and that she had always heard the narrative of supporting residents and local businesses. She said it was baffling to her the situation being discussed. She noted that a resident who had invested in the community and gone through the permitting process to establish her business was now coming up against this wall, with seemingly no engagement from the entity in this body. She stated that no one had talked about any actions taken directly by City personnel. She said she had been under the understanding that it was partially the City undertaking this action, not just residents complaining about barking. She stated that she would definitely like some answers regarding what City involvement had been in the issue, not just complaints from residents. She added that the meeting on Thursday was coming awfully quickly for the turnaround on information, given that the matter had been going on for quite some time.

Mr. Jon Pattee, 3200 block of Shepherd Street, mentioned that he wanted to express deep concern, noting that he was sure that no group of people who packed food baskets for kids and did things for families was anything but good-hearted. He stated that he also knew the business owner had lived in the community for what he believed was coming up on twenty years and that she was a decent and kind person.

He said it surprised him that no common ground could be found in this situation and that it was a deep concern to him. He stated that he trusted they would all find the same compassion and common sense and make it possible for her to continue a business that she had poured her life savings into as a single mother, a veteran, and someone investing in the community that was desperate to avoid blight, closed businesses, and the social consequences that came when people tried to do something good in their community and ran into obstacles.

He stated that his understanding of what was happening was not that there was something significant involving the County, but rather that the City had moved the goalpost on her and that there was something about a foot issue. He stated that, from what he had heard, he thought it was not going to turn out well. He said he was sad for his City and sad for his neighbor, and he hoped that the matter would be taken very, very seriously, noting that he knew they were good-hearted people.

Ms. Heather Ware, 3700 block of 35th Street, said that she had concerns because she received a notice from the County without any mediation or conversation with the City Council, City staff, or neighbors. She stated that she thought the matter would have been handled in house rather than being fast-tracked to the County. She asked the Council to consider having a dialogue, at least initially, either with her or with the main person who had the complaint. She stated that instead, they had only been yelling at them at their business and at her while she was walking to her job, along with emails sent by a particular individual. She stated that she then received a noise notice from the City and felt a disconnect, questioning why the issue had not been addressed in house before being taken to the County.

Ms. Ayelet Hines, 3200 block of Shepherd Street stated that she was there to speak on behalf of the business and that she sometimes took her dog there. She stated that she understood the neighbor in the immediate vicinity might have had concerns and that, of course, the City needed to look out for their interests. Her request was that the City stand up equally and fight equally for the interests and concerns of the business owner.

She stated that the owner was a lone proprietor, a veteran, a single mother, and someone known throughout the community for being an active member who helped shape the future of the community. She said her hope was for the City to stand up for her as much as it did for the people who lived on that block. She noted that while it was true she did not live on that block, the town center was important to her and she did not want it to become blighted or for the only businesses that could thrive to be those that sold drugs. She stated that she knew the business owner had been dealing with the matter for months and that this was what it had taken to finally have this conversation. Even if the explicit intention was not to shut the business down, placing roadblocks in front of a small business owner was essentially the same thing.

Ms. Valerie Silensky, 4100 block of 31st Street, mentioned that she had lived there for almost twenty-one years. She said she had seen many businesses struggle to come to the area and that there had been numerous attempts to attract businesses that ultimately did not succeed. She stated that the community needed businesses, and here they had someone who had been so dedicated to investing in the community, moving there, making it her home, and raising a child there. She noted that all of these actions were deliberate and intentional.

She stated that the business owner had started the business there and, as others had said, had gone through all of the onerous and difficult challenges of opening a business. She said it was clearly a popular and beloved business that helped build community. As a dog owner herself, she stated that her dogs had never actually been to the business other than to visit and say hello, and she had always found it to be clean and well-managed.

She said it seemed that some were letting the best be the enemy of the good. She noted that there had been some great ideas in the discussions about having a community dialogue and addressing issues at the community level to mitigate any problems. She stated that she would like to know why that had not been done before it got to this point. She said, as others had noted, that the matter had been going on for months and seemed to involve issues that could have been addressed earlier, especially given who the owner was and her investment in the community. She stated that other businesses had been far more troublesome and problematic, yet had not risen to this level, particularly not so soon. She expressed hope that their voices and logic would have an effect.

Ms. Margaret Boozer-Strother, 4000 block of 34th Street, stated that she had been a business owner in Mount Rainier since 2003 and that it was not easy to be a business owner. She emphasized that the City had a lot of vacant properties and that they had expressed a desire for businesses to come to the area. She stated that Heather's business was exactly the kind of business they wanted, someone who lived in the community, was responsible, an upstanding citizen, and invested in the neighborhood.

She noted that when pets were lost, people called Heather because she knew everyone and their pets, reuniting pets with their owners. She stated that it was an important business in the neighborhood, as people needed it to care for their pets while they worked. She said the community needed the business and questioned why a process could not be followed, as others had suggested, where they could sit down, talk, and work things out, instead of going from zero to one hundred and suddenly having a hearing.

She stated that she had not personally experienced this, but she had run into many situations where her first interaction felt like a slap instead of a handshake. She said she thought the City could do better and should not treat their valued citizens and businesses this way.

Mr. Derek Reynolds, 4000 block of 32nd Street, said that he did not know one hundred percent of the background regarding what had happened with this business. He said he understood there had been a noise complaint and that the City had apparently taken it to the County, with some rapid communication happening regarding the complaint. He stated that he had lived in the community for about eight years and that at almost every meeting he attended, he heard people complaining about the businesses at the traffic circle—being disruptive, having liquor licenses at 8 a.m., and all kinds of things happening downtown at the bus circle. Yet he said he had never heard of the City taking any of those issues to the County. He questioned whether he was missing something and why the City had never acted on the liquor stores, yet was now targeting another business that did not have any “drunk things” or disruptive behavior occurring.

He stated that he was confused why the community and the City were suddenly attacking this small business owner. He said he had been hearing for years that there was nothing the City could do about all the other businesses that people had complained about over the past eight years.

Mayor Celina Benitez stated that they had heard their concerns and that what limited what they could say at this time was that it was an active investigation. She stated that they had received a large number of documents that

needed to be reviewed. She explained that when they sometimes discussed businesses and licenses, it was largely handled by the County, not the City, as the County cleared most of the permits.

She noted that about four years ago, there had been a petition regarding a business that residents were upset with and wanted removed. She stated that the Council did not grant licenses, nor did it approve or dictate the hours certain businesses could operate. She said the City could request that residents take certain actions, but it was ultimately up to the residents what they chose to do, and the City was not the only outlet for complaints when residents were unhappy with certain issues. She stated that they would review the information and have a discussion with the team.

Second Reading and Adoption of Resolution No. 10-2025

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2025, Proclaiming December 10th as Human Rights Day
Moved by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall
Seconded by Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir
Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

Vote on Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for:

- November 18, 2025, Special Legislative Meeting and Work Session
- December 2, 2025, Public Hearing and Legislative Meeting

Moved by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall
Seconded by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta
Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

First Reading of Resolution No. 10-2026

Mayor Celina Benitez read Resolution No. 01-2026, Authorizing Participation in the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Strategic Action Plan Project.

Councilmember Daniel Carter made a motion to vote on Resolution No. 01-2026, Authorizing Participation in the Prince George's County Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Strategic Action Plan Project. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta.

After discussion Councilmember Danielle Carter withdrew her motion to vote on Resolution No. 01-2026.

Presentation of Minutes

The City Clerk presented the December 16, 2025, Work Session Minutes to the Mayor and Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:
Moved by Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir
Seconded by Councilmember Danielle Carter
Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier
Mayor and City Council Work Session
January 20, 2026, Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

7:00 pm

Presiding Officer

Mayor Celina Benitez

Officials Present

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall
Councilmember Danielle Carter
Councilmember Joseph Jakuta

Officials Absent

Councilmember Jenny Hoffpauir

Staff Present

City Manager Kourosch Kamali
City Clerk Melissa Sam
Media Production Coordinator Jared Alindogan

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Reading of Agenda

The agenda was read by Councilmember Valerie Woodall and was accepted with the removal of number 11, Discussion on Simple Resolution.

Presentation and Discussion on Missing Middle Housing

Ms. Karen Mierow and Mr. John Parks presented the following:

- What is Missing Middle Housing?
- Why is the lack of Missing Middle Housing in Prince George's County a Problem?
- What are the benefits of Missing Middle Housing?
- MMH Mission Statement

Motion to add 10 minutes Moved by Mayor Celina Benitez Seconded by Councilmember Danielle Carter Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked what individual council members could do to help, especially in a community like Mount Rainier, which did not have many vacant real estate to encourage that kind of growth. Ms. Mierow stated that they had certainly heard all of those sentiments echoed by almost everyone they had talked to. Everyone had housing issues; they just experienced them at different stages of life. She said they could help by spreading the word, and the team would be happy to give the presentation to any other groups they worked with in Mount Rainier. Additionally, they could support the effort by attending planning board hearings, providing testimony, and participating in county council meetings.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta asked how increasing Missing Middle Housing could help a city with taxes and infrastructure. Mr. Parks stated that infill development of this type generally accomplished two items: (1) increasing the residential tax base, as new residents added to the local and county tax base, and (2) decreasing the tax burden for everyone in the area. He explained that most times, if there was a relatively strict tax population or taxable base, there was only a one-to-one replacement on that restrictive zoning or residential lot. As everyone knew, the cost of infrastructure only increased, which meant that local residents in those one-to-one replacements of single-family homes were faced with an increasing tax burden to pay for the rising escalation of infrastructure costs. That type of development brought density, which meant there was an increased number of people paying for infrastructure maintenance because there were house-scaled single-family homes formed into multi-unit dwellings.

Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall asked whether there would be any report coming down from the state or county regarding opportunities for funding to support the development of Missing Middle Housing, noting that building smaller homes could be expensive and many developers might not be able to do that at such a small scale. Ms. Mierow stated that in the study she could not disclose everything because it was not finished, but they were exploring ways to creatively finance some of the projects. She noted that in other states, a specific Missing Middle Housing fund had been created, where money, perhaps from an impact fee, went into a fund to support the creation of Missing Middle Housing. Sometimes these programs were geared toward people earning 80 to 120 percent of the area median income, while eligibility for mortgages or other support could be lower for those at the lower end of the income scale.

Mr. Parks added that one benefit mentioned in the presentation was that, in many cases, the primary homeowner of an entire Missing Middle Housing structure could rent out units, allowing the rents from those units to be underwritten in a conventional mortgage. This structure created small-scale homeownership opportunities while also enabling housing providers to use the rents from other units to pay for the mortgage for the entire building. He noted that FHA had recently published guidelines on how to underwrite this type of ownership structure into conventional mortgages.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Mierow and Mr. Parks for their presentation.

Presentation of Building Application for 3001 Taylor Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland

The owner of the property explained the scope of the project.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta stated the following:

- The city had a noise ordinance (Code Section 10-121), construction activities were to be limited to 8 am to 8 pm to avoid violating it.

- There was a tree ordinance (Section 12B-7) that protected private trees measuring 56½ inches or more in circumference at 4½ feet above the ground. If any work was planned involving a tree of that size, even if it was in poor condition, Code Enforcement needed to be consulted. Additionally, any pruning needed to be reviewed in advance.
- Care should be taken when digging, moving, or grading soil to prevent stormwater from running into neighboring yards.
- When in doubt, the Code Compliance Director should be contacted.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta asked whether any work had been done prior. The owner clarified that if he had been referring to the tarp, it had been covering materials they had planned to use once they received the permits.

The Mayor and Council thanked the owner for the presentation and for the project.

Presentation and Discussion on Report from the Arts Commission

The Arts Commission Team, Mr. John Deamond, Ms. Rebecca Solow and Ms. Kelenna James presented on the following:

- Who are we and why are we here?
- What is our Process?
- How did we choose this location?
- February 2025 Public Call Request for Artist Qualifications
- March 2025 Public Meeting to vote on Qualified Candidates
- The 3 Finalist
- High Quality Proposals
- Final Voting
- The Mural is Completed
- 3510 Mural Budget
- Was this Project a Success?
- What Else Have We Been Up To?
- Past Project
- Future Project: Big Banners
- Mock-ups
- Estimated Budget
- Future Project: Sculpture Program
- Future Projects: Traffic Circle
- Mock-ups

Motion to add 10 minutes
 Moved by Mayor Celina Benitez
 Seconded by Councilmember Danielle Carter
 Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

- Overall Next Steps

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked about the mural on Eastern, noting that she thought it would have continued down the wall, and asked whether that was a plan for the future or if it had been scrapped and the reason behind it. Mr. Deamond stated that when the building owner and the owner of Station 3510

came to them with the idea, they had discussed extending the mural down that wall. Later in the process, they learned that the wall was not theirs. They had to track down who the wall belonged to, and that person reached out to them. They explained what the project was and indicated that, if the owner wanted the mural there, they could work on it. The owner did not get back to them. At the same time, the muralists and the contractor looked at the wall and stated that it needed work before a mural could be placed on it.

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta asked which of the future project ideas would bring the most people on a regular basis from outside the community to visit the city. Ms. Solow stated that it would likely be the sculpture. She explained that physical objects people could walk around would be like a destination, and that the rotating nature of the sculpture would generate continued change and a sense of freshness, with opportunities to announce when it was changing. She noted that the banner idea created a certain vibe, while the sculptures created focal-point interest and served more as a destination.

Mayor Celina Benitez asked whether conversations had started with MUTC regarding the banners for the wall, noting that MUTC had very specific rules concerning banners placed on walls. She also asked whether insurance would be included for the sculpture project, referencing a past experience in which a previous sculpture in the City had been constantly hit by vehicles.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Deamond, Ms. Solow, and Ms. James for the presentation, as well as the entire Arts Commission for the work they were doing for the City.

Discussion on Support for the “Help Us Stop The Landover Data Center” Community Outreach

Mr. Joshua Ddamulira and Mr. Michael Lavina, members of the Party of Socialism and Liberation, explained the environmental and community impacts of such a large data center, including energy consumption equivalent to over a million homes, water pollution, and increased electricity bills for all residents sharing the same grid. The group requested support from the Mayor and Council through signing a community letter or passing a resolution opposing the data center and offered to partner on future educational panels.

Mayor Celina Benitez asked if they had a timeline for when the matter would be discussed by the County and whether they could assist with drafting a letter of support from the City. Mr. Lavina mentioned that they had been hosting bi-weekly community meetings and, in terms of the County Council, had been in contact with them in an effort to secure a meeting. He stated that there was supposed to be a meeting that day with the County Council regarding the task force report, but they believed the report was not covering the full spectrum. The meeting was canceled, and they were still waiting for it to be placed on the Council agenda. He stated that they would send the different draft documents they had prepared to the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Ddamulira and Mr. Lavina for their presentation. The Mayor and Council also agreed to provide a letter of support.

Presentation and Discussion of the FY2026 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Second Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Ronald Wilson presented an overview of the expenditure through December 31, 2025, for the following departments:

- Mayor and Council
- City Hall
- Administrative Services

- Code Compliance
- Economic Development
- Police
- Public Works
- Other

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked whether, for the Potts Hall redevelopment, the monies that had been allotted last year had not been spent during the year, and the answer was yes.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Kamali and Mr. Wilson for the presentation and for the work they were doing.

Discussion on Resolution No. 05-2025, Appointing a New Resident Agent for the City of Mount Rainier

The Mayor and Council discussed the resolution and noted the need to comply with the Council Rules and Procedures, which require items to be presented at a work session before being brought to a legislative meeting.

Discussion on Resolution No. 06-2025, Designating a Public Information Act Representative for the City of Mount Rainier

The Mayor and Council discussed the resolution and noted the need to comply with the Council Rules and Procedures, which require items to be presented at a work session before being brought to a legislative meeting.

Councilmember Danielle Carter asked whether it was possible to start the new legislative session with a work session instead of a legislative meeting in order to introduce new items that had been pending over the summer. She stated that she had previously made this proposal to begin the month with a work session and end the month with a legislative meeting.

Discussion on Resolution No. 07-2025, Vice Mayor Rotation

Councilmember Joseph Jakuta recommended three amendments to the resolution: that Councilmember Carter’s term would start at the end of the February legislative session and end at the February legislative session in 2027; that his term would be shortened because Ward 2 would have had a longer period of holding the Vice Mayor position; and that the gap in time between when the Vice Mayor position ended at the Council meeting prior to the one at which the next Vice Mayor’s term began would be amended.

The Mayor and Councilmembers Woodall and Carter expressed that they had not seen the document with the changes. Mr. Kamali explained that the City Attorney usually drafted resolutions for the City and that, when the amended resolution was received, the City Attorney was not available for him to consult with her. He emphasized the importance of sharing documents with the full Council to avoid confusion.

Motion to add 5 minutes
 Moved by Councilmember Joseph Jakuta
 Seconded by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall
 Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

The Mayor and Council were unable to reach a consensus on how to proceed with the amendments to the resolution.

Presentation of Minutes

The City Clerk presented the January 6, 2026, Legislative meeting minutes to the Mayor and Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Vice Mayor Valerie Woodall Seconded by Mayor Celina Benitez Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed
