

**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Attendees:** Rudy Cook, Steve Williams (Via Webcam), Leanne McClure, Faith Sauber, Brenna LaDuke, Joey Jones, Matt Duncan

Visitors: Brian Everidge, Dan Moore, Bruce LaDuke, Mike Harris, Pierce Frye, Jill Saegesser

**1. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order.
- Brenna led an opening prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Reorganization Meeting**

**2.1. Election of Officers**

- **President:**
  - Nomination: Rudy Cook by LeAnn McClure
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams
  - Roll call vote: LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye, Rudy Cook - Aye.
- **Vice President:**
  - Nomination: Steve Williams by LeAnn McClure
  - Motion seconded by Rudy Cook
  - Roll call vote: LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye, Rudy Cook - Aye.
- **Secretary:**
  - Nomination: LeAnn McClure by Rudy Cook
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam)
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.2. Holiday Schedule for 2026**

- Discussion on whether to include Juneteenth as a town holiday.
- Decision: No change to the existing holiday schedule.

## **2.3. Town Council Monthly Meetings**

- No changes needed.

## **2.4. River Hills Appointment**

- Motion: To appoint LeAnn McClure as the town representative for River Hills. By Rudy Cook.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Leanne McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye, Rudy Cook - Aye.

## **2.5. Salary Ordinances for All Town Employees**

- Recommendation: 3% pay increase for all town employees.
- Recommendation: \$300 clothing allowance for sewer maintenance employees.
  - Employees: Chris Gray, Todd Smith, Brenna LaDuke, and Joey Jones.
- Motion: To approve the 3% pay increase and the \$300 clothing allowance by LeAnn McClure
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, Leanne McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.6. Salary Ordinances 2026, 1-12, A through G**

- Motion: Approve the first reading for the salary ordinances Salary Ordinances 2026, 1-12, A through G by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam)
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, Leigh Ann McCour - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
- Motion: Suspend the rules for consideration of the Salary Ordinances 2026, 1-12, A through G by LeAnn McClure.

- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
- Motion: Adopt on second reading the Salary Ordinances 2026, 1-12, A through G by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.7. Town Hall Hours**

- Proposed change: 9 AM to 4 PM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; Closed to the public on Tuesday, but staff available internally from 1 PM to 8 PM.
- Motion: To accept the hours change for Town Hall by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, Liam McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.8. Town Attorney**

- Discussion: Firm name change to FBT Gibbons.
- Motion: To retain the current attorney by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.9. Bank**

- Motion: To keep New Washington State Bank as the official bank.
- Motion seconded by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, Leanne McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.10. IT Support**

- Motion: To retain Cameron Stahl as the current IT support by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam)
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.11. Fire Department Contract**

- Motion: To accept the fire department contract for \$16,000, paid in installments of \$4,000 four times a year by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.12. Animal Control**

- Motion: To retain Mike Ettel for animal control services by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.13. Merge Cemetery Bank Account**

- Motion: To merge the cemetery bank account into the operating account by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.14. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes**

- Motion: To accept all of the previous month's minutes by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.15. Approval of Town's Bills/Claims**

- Total: \$92,521.46

- Motion: To approve the claims by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **2.16. Financial Report**

- Awaiting final invoices to close out 2025. Report to be forwarded via email.
- Allocations – Faith is working with Boyce. She will be in a meeting with them on Friday morning.

## **3. Scheduled Visitors**

### **3.1. Jill - BOT (Bank Building and Wastewater)**

- **Bank Building:**
  - Motion: To approve the issuance and publication of the RFPQ for the old state bank building project by LeAnn McClure.
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
- **Sewer Project (Starlight):**
  - Discussion regarding BOT options. JTL's only concern is that we spend the ARPA funds by December 2026.
  - Jill will have an answer in 30 days on the price. We can back out at any time.
  - Starlight holds the contract for the BOT. The Town would hold an agreement with the SVA. The Town would pay the bills through the ARPA Funds.
  - Motion: Proceed with the BOT project for the sewer with Starlight Visitors Association by LeAnn McClure.
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

### **3.2. Sewer Adjustments**

- Motion: To accept the sewer adjustment for \$45.80 – SKS by LeAnn McClure.
- Abstain by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Motion seconded by Rudy Cook.
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Abstain.

#### **4. Park Board**

- Brian Everidge provided an update.
  - READI 1.0: Waiting on LMH for a draft letter for bids.
  - Sensory Walk: Park board to pay for the installation.
  - Entrance Cables: Will be installed in the next few days.
  - Park Signs: Still in the works, working with Joey Jones and Brenna.
  - Creek Bank Erosion: Still pending. Waiting on DNR.
  - New Bench: Will be installed when the pad is ready.
  - Flag Pole Landscaping: Park board to contribute \$2100, Friends to cover the rest of the funding (\$3650.00).
  - Starhenge Sculpture: Funding ongoing.
  - Friends of the Park:
    - New Officers: Dan Moore (President), Nick Sauber (Vice President), Denise Burnette (Secretary), Brenna LaDuke (Treasurer).
    - Concert by the Creek Dates: June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19. These will be themed events.
    - Red, White, and Berry Parade: May 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - Strawberry Festival: May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Looking into internet services on the south side of the park.
    - Steve would like for the Park Board to review the 5-year park plan.

#### **5. Cemetery**

- Kathy's resignation is effective February 14th. LeAnn and Brenna to oversee.

## **6. Police Department**

- New Reserve: Chuck Deaton, cleared, pre-basic completed, and working.
- Laptop: Request to replace the laptop in the Taurus with a refurbished "tough book" with a two-year warranty (\$519). Computers are going out due to the vibration from the road – trying to use a normal laptop, but need a "tough book".
- SUVs from Jeff PD: Opportunity to purchase SUVs from Jeff PD for \$7,000-\$7,500 each before they go to John Jones. Fully equipped – laptop stands.
  - Motion: Authorize Joey to spend \$16,000, not to exceed, on two patrol vehicles from Jeff PD by Steve Williams (Via Webcam) .
  - Motion seconded by LeAnn McClure.
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
- Grants: Looking into the JAG Grant, waiting for the opening.
- December Report: 162 calls for service, 83 traffic stops.
- Motion: Authorize spending \$1,100 on two refurbished laptops by LeAnn McClure.
- Motion seconded Steve Williams (Via Webcam)
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **7. Town Signage**

- Update: Amtek moved the boys basketball, girls softball, and girls basketball on the design. The years will be in vinyl, so we can add more years.
- Brenna is sending to the School, once the Council approves.
- The Town's maintenance crew will be installing a sign.
- Price: \$275 per sign if a sponsor donates the Die Bond / \$460.50 per sign without the donation. (Single-sided).
- Installation: Not included.
  - Motion: Spend up to 2,000 to get the signs done by Steve Williams (Via Webcam)
  - Motion seconded by Rudy Cook.

- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure – Abstain, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **8. Old Business**

- Volunteer Annexation: Tabled.
- BOT – Discussed.
- Group Insurance: Waiting for information.
- Park Signage: Discussed.
- Sensory Walk: Panels delivered. Waiting for the installation date.
- Ready 1.0 Funding: Waiting for the draft letter from LMH.
- Ready 2.0 Funding: Reallocation of funds application due by January 30th. Rudy and LeAnn approved to move forward with the application.
- South Monon Trail: Awaiting hearing feedback on the Meta Grant.
- Temple and Temple Support Letter – Zoning and Temple have requested a letter of support from the Town for the new subdivision to hook up to the sewer utility.
  - Motion: Send Support letter by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

## **9. Other Town Business**

### **9.1. Christmas Decorating Contest Winners**

- 1st Place: Chris Gertin
- 2nd Place: Doug Morris
- 3rd Place: Roberto Huerta

### **9.2. Printers**

- Discussion: Faith presented information on printers, including options from Staples and CCLM (Biz Hub).
- Recommendation: Purchase from Staples within the budget.
- Motion: To recommend either Pro 4301 or 3301, \$650 for the printer and its cartridges by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).

- Motion seconded by LeAnn McClure.
- Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.

### **9.3. Police Department Fund**

- Discussion: To establish a Police Department Fund for grants and donations. Fund number 2504.
  - Motion: Creating an ordinance for Police Department Fund 2026-1-13-A, First reading, by LeAnn McClure.
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, Leanne McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
  - Suspending for consideration for the Police Department Fund 2026-1-13-A, by LeAnn McClure.
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam) - Aye.
  - Adopt on the second reading Police Department Fund 2026-1-13-A by LeAnn McClure.
  - Motion seconded by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
  - Roll call vote: Rudy Cook - Aye, LeAnn McClure - Aye, Steve Williams (Via Webcam)- Aye.

### **10. New Business**

- Brenna is assigned to try to make an employee handbook completed by April 1st.

### **11. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by Steve Williams (Via Webcam).
- Motion seconded by LeAnn McClure.
- Meeting adjourned.

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Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer

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Rudy Cook, Town Council President

Faith Sauber – Clerk-Treasurer 2.10.2026