

Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 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 16th.
 - Strawberry Festival: May 23rd.
 - 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.

Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer

Rudy Cook, Town Council President

Faith Sauber – Clerk-Treasurer 2.10.2026