

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2026

City Hall, 920 SE Cedar Falls Way, North Bend, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Miller called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Elwood, Joselyn, Koellen, McFarland, Rustik, Torguson and Tremolada.

Councilmember Tremolada **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Joselyn to approve the January 20, 2026 City Council meeting agenda as written.

Councilmember Rustik **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Torguson to amend the January 6, 2026 minutes to insert on page one after the phrase "Councilmember Torguson MOVED, seconded" the following "for the purposes of further discussion". The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

The motion then **PASSED AS AMENDED** 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – City Council Meeting of January 6, 2026

Checks – December 31, 2025 – 78303 through 78350, in the amount of **\$1,200,785.95**

January 20, 2026 – 78351 through 78386, in the amount of **\$610,934.72**

AB26-003 – Motion Authorizing ILA Addendum with Sunnyside for Jail Services

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Koellen to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

Presentation – Parks Commission Report & 2026 Work Plan

Audio: 6:32

Parks Commissioner Braun presented the Commission's 2025 Summary Report which detailed this year's expenditures and activities. He noted the 2026 Tentative Work Plan consisted of the following: Bike North Bend Plan, updates to Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan, annual park tour, Meadowbrook Prairie Loop Trail project, wayfinding signage, public outreach at local events, potential dog park, funding for small-scale park improvements, coordination with Public Works on park and trail related improvements scheduled for 2027-2028, amendments to City's tree regulations and coordinating Arbor Day celebration in the fall.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community & Economic Development Committee – Councilmember Torguson, Chair
A report of the January 20th meeting was provided.

Finance & Administration Committee – Councilmember Rustik, Chair
A report of the January 13th meeting was provided.

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board Meeting – Councilmember Rustik
A report of the December 11th and January 8th meetings were provided.

Public Health & Safety Committee – Councilmember Elwood, Chair
A report of the January 6th meeting was provided.

Transportation & Public Works Committee – Councilmember Koellen, Chair
No report. The December 15th meeting was cancelled.

Council Workstudy – Mayor Pro Tem Tremolada
No report. The December 23rd Workstudy was cancelled.

Planning Commission
A report of the December 3rd meeting was provided.

Parks Commission
No report.

Economic Development Commission
A report of the December 18th meeting was provided.

Regional Law, Safety, and Justice Committee – Councilmember Torguson
A report of the December 11th meeting was provided.

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee – Councilmember Tremolada
A report of the December 10th meeting was provided.

INTRODUCTIONS:

AB26-004 – Ordinance 1847 Amending 2025-2026 Budget

Audio: 36:07

Finance Director Chaw provided the staff report.

Councilmember Rustik **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Joselyn to approve AB26-004, an ordinance amending the 2025-2026 Budget as adopted in Ordinance No. 1823, and as amended by Ordinances 1826 and 1837, as a first and final reading. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AB26-005 – Motion Authorizing Agreement with NeoGov for Human Resources & Payroll Software

Audio: 1:09:28

Deputy Finance Director Morse provided the staff report.

Councilmember Rustik **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Torguson to approve AB26-005, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a licensing agreement with NeoGov for Human Resource and Payroll Software services, in a form and content acceptable to the City Attorney. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AB26-006 – Motion Authorizing Contract with Valley Defenders for Public Defender Services

Audio: 1:20:25

Administrative Services Director Escobar provided the staff report.

Councilmember Elwood **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Koellen to approve AB26-006, authorizing the Mayor to execute and administer a contract with Valley Defenders for public defender services, in a form and content acceptable to the City Attorney. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

AB26-007 – Motion Confirming 2026 Human/Community Services Grant Funding

Audio: 1:26:51

Administrative Services Director Escobar provided the staff report.

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Elwood to approve AB26-007, authorizing social services funding for 2026 following the Mayor's Recommendation as listed on the November 3, 2025 memo (page 65 of the Council packet) totaling \$249,000 in expenditures. The motion **PASSED** 4-3 (Rustik, Torguson, Tremolada).

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilmember Koellen mentioned the Walk for Peace from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington D.C. currently being undertaken by a group of Buddhist monks and shared the following quote in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Councilmember Rustik discussed the benefits of the upcoming Girl Scout Cookie sale and encouraged all to support their fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Tremolada congratulated Ignite Dance Studio for their recent award for top studio in the region and discussed the importance of reaching out for help and checking in with friends regarding mental health and shared the following inspirational quote from Emery Lord: "My dark days made me strong. Or maybe I already was strong, and they made me prove it."

Councilmember Joselyn expressed his appreciation for Council and staff and congratulated the Mt Si High School Girl's Soccer Team on their recent WIAA 4A State Championship win. Additionally, he referenced an earlier discussion on Immigration & Customs Enforcement during the Public Health & Safety Committee meeting and shared federal budgetary concerns and a recent incident involving a family member.

Councilmember McFarland expressed his appreciation for the diverse, supportive and caring community in North Bend and shared his thoughts on an article entitled "The Thucydides Trap" he read in the Atlantic Magazine. He concluded by sharing the following portion of the song "Ohio" written by Neil Young: "Soldiers are cutting us down. How can you run when you know?"

Mayor Miller spoke regarding the following items:

- Meet Up with the Mayor – January 28th 9 a.m. @ Arete Coffee Bar
- Friends of North Bend Library Book Sale – February 5th – 7th @ North Bend Library
- Open House on Community Park – January 29th 6:30 p.m. @ Si View MPD

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Joselyn **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Elwood. The motion **PASSED** 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mary Miller, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk