



'National Night Out' - Regular Meeting City Council Agenda
Tuesday, August 4, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
Tam O' Shanter Park
Kelso, WA 98626

Most meetings are available to view live on [KLTV Government Access Channel 29](#).

1. Opening Items

- 1.1. Invocation - Pastor Jay, Reign Church
- 1.2. Roll Call to Council Members

2. Approval of the Agenda

- 2.1. Vote to Approve or Amend the Agenda

3. Minutes

- 3.1. Draft Minutes - 7-21-26 Regular Meeting

4. Proclamation(s)

- 4.1. National Night Out Proclamation

5. Citizens Business

- 5.1. If you wish to speak before the Council, please complete the yellow speaker slip and provide it to the Deputy Clerk prior to the meeting.

6. Action Items

- 6.1. Ordinance No. (2nd Reading) - Amending Kelso Municipal Code Chapter 3, adding a new section for collection of sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes.

7. City Manager's Report

- 7.1. City Manager Report

8. Other Reports

- 8.1. Staff Reports
- 8.2. Council Reports

9. Place Holder Item(s)

- 9.1. Executive Session

Mayor Anderson called the Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council to order. Stephanie, from the Reign Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Veryl Anderson led the flag salute. Councilmembers in attendance were Jim Hill, Lisa Alexander, Mike Karnofski, Brian Wood, Jackie Collins, and Veryl Anderson. Councilmember Harvey was absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Upon motion by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Approve the agenda with the addition of item 4.1, Employee Recognition by Public Works.' Motion passed, all voting yes

MINUTES: Upon motion by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Collins, 'Approve the Minutes of the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

PRESENTATIONS:

Employee Recognitions: Public Works Manager Devin Mackin recognized Public Works employees Austin Tucker and Tommy Myrick for their actions in ensuring the safety of a child.

2026 HOME Funding Allocations: City of Longview Program Coordinator Specialist Kenny Robinson provided an overview of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. However, he was unable to complete the planned presentation because the program's only applicant withdrew their application. As a result, no funding recommendations were available for consideration. Robinson noted that \$50,124 remains available for allocation once an eligible project is identified. During the public hearing, he suggested that the council discuss potential options for the use of the available funds.

Bonnie Delaney-Mount St. Helens 50th Anniversary: Bonnie Delaney from the Chamber of Commerce presented a proposal for a regional tourism initiative centered around the 50th anniversary of Mount St. Helens in 2030, requesting the city's financial support.

CITIZENS BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2026 HOME Program Allocations: City of Longview Program Coordinator Specialist Kenny Robinson reported that the sole applicant had withdrawn their application. As a result, \$50,124 remained available for allocation with no project currently eligible for funding. Mr. Robinson presented options for Council consideration regarding the available funds.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing at 6:48 PM. There being no comment from the public, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 6:50 PM.

After discussion and upon motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Hold the 2026 HOME funding allocation over until 2027.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Auditing of Accounts **\$4,117,576.10**

Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, 'Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Contract Award – 552501 – Pacific Tech Construction – City Hall Envelopes Improvements: Community Development Director/City Engineer Mike Kardas briefed the council. Upon motion by Councilmember Karnofski, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

ACTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. (1st Reading) – Public Safety Sales Tax – KPD: The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, 'Approve the ordinance on the first reading.' 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON ENACTING AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT AS AUTHORIZED BY 201, CHAPTER 350, LAWS OF WASHINGTON 2025, FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES; ADDING A CHAPTER 3.11 SALES AND USE TAX FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO THE KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.' Motion passes, all voting yes.

Resolution 26-1324 - Declare Certain Items as Surplus #25-62: The Deputy Clerk read the Proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, DECLARING CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF KELSO TO BE SURPLUS AND DIRECTING THE DISPOSITION THEREOF.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hamilton: Absent.

STAFF REPORTS:

Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield: Announced that budget books had been sent to department heads to begin the preliminary stages of the 2027-2028 biennial budget process.

City Attorney Stewart Feil: No report

Community Development/City Engineer Mike Kardas: Provided an update on current projects.

Public Works Manager Devin Mackin: Provided an update on current and upcoming work being performed by staff.

Chief of Police Rich Fletcher: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Jim Hill: No report.

Keenan Harvey: Absent.

Lisa Alexander: Reported on the park board meeting she attended.

Mike Karnofski: Reported on various meetings he attended and upcoming local events.

Brian Wood: Provided an update on the progress of ongoing airport projects.

Jackie Collins: No report.

Veryl Anderson: Reported on local events and various meetings she attended.

There being no further business, Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

AGENDA SUMMARY SHEET

Business of the City Council City of Kelso, Washington

SUBJECT TITLE:

Proclamation for National Night Out 2026

Agenda Item: _____

Dept. of Origin: Police Department

For Agenda of: August 4, 2026

Originator: Chief Rich Fletcher

PRESENTED BY:

Rich Fletcher, Police Chief

City Attorney: **Stewart Feil**

City Manager: **Andy Hamilton**

Agenda Item Attachments:

Proclamation

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

National Night Out is a nationally-recognized annual event focused on promoting cooperation between communities and their police departments. The purpose of the event is to recognize the mutual intolerance for crime and the importance of developing cooperative community-police partnerships in crime prevention efforts.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No action required.

Proclamation

City of Kelso, Washington

National Night Out: August 4, 2026

WHEREAS, The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 4th, 2026 entitled 'National Night Out'; and

WHEREAS, "National Night Out" provides a unique opportunity for the City of Kelso to join thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police and community crime prevention efforts and relationships; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens of Kelso be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and the positive impact that their participation can have on reducing crime and drugs in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood spirit and cooperation is the theme of "National Night Out" and plays an important role in helping the Kelso Police Department fight the war on crime and drugs in our community; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is much more than a single night, as it symbolizes a strong partnership between communities and law enforcement united in the common cause of public safety, intolerant of crime in all its forms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Veryl Anderson, Mayor of the City of Kelso, formally declare August 4th, 2026, as "National Night Out", and encourage all citizens of the City of Kelso to shine their lights and add their voices to the outcry against criminal acts that compromise the quality of life in our City.

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the seal of the City of Kelso to be affixed
this 4th day of August 2026.*

Veryl Anderson, Mayor

AGENDA SUMMARY SHEET

Business of the City Council City of Kelso, Washington

SUBJECT TITLE:

Ordinance amending Kelso Municipal Code Chapter 3, adding a new section for collection of sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes.

2nd Reading

Agenda Item: _____

Dept. of Origin: Police Department

For Agenda of: August 4, 2026

Originator: Chief Rich Fletcher

PRESENTED BY:

Rich Fletcher, Police Chief

City Attorney: **Stewart Feil**

City Manager: **Andy Hamilton**

Agenda Item Attachments:

Ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Kelso Municipal Code, adding Section 3.11 for the purpose of a sales and use tax collection for criminal justice purposes.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

During the 2025 legislative session, HB2015 authorized cities to impose a councilmanic 0.1% public safety sales and use tax to support a broad range of criminal justice and public safety services. In addition to creating this local funding mechanism, the State established new grant opportunities for cities whose law enforcement agencies meet strict standards established by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. A prerequisite for eligibility of any grant funds is that the local jurisdiction must first adopt an ordinance to collect the 0.1% public safety sales tax.

For the City of Kelso, this public safety sales tax presents an important opportunity to help offset the fiscal impacts of state mandates, particularly the increased costs associated with indigent defense services resulting from state-imposed caseload reductions. Remaining revenues, together with any grant funding awarded by the State, may be invested in a wide variety of public safety initiatives. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to: Personnel, equipment, technology, state-mandated and in-service training, behavioral health services, domestic violence advocacy, and other criminal justice and public safety programs.

HB 2015 provides local governments with an opportunity to address the growing costs of delivering public safety services while mitigating the impacts of unfunded state mandates, inflation, and the increasing costs required to maintain a level of service our community expects and deserves. Adoption of this ordinance will not only provide a sustainable local funding source but will also position the City to compete for additional state grant funding that would otherwise be unavailable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion to Approve on 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON ENACTING AN
ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT AS
AUTHORIZED BY 201, CHAPTER 350, LAWS OF WASHINGTON 2025, FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES; ADDING A CHAPTER 3.11 SALES AND USE
TAX FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO THE KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE; AND
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted House Bill 2015 in the 2025 legislative session to provide qualified cities, towns, or counties to authorize, by resolution or ordinance, a new local option sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for criminal justice purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to enhance criminal justice funding; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the additional criminal justice funding is necessary to maintain and improve the City's public safety levels of service and enhance the City programs that reduce the number of people interacting with the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the City of Kelso, through its law enforcement agency, meets the requirements to receive a grant from the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program, created in Section 101, Chapter 350, Laws of Washington 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City receives distributions from the sales and use tax authorized by RCW 82.14.340 for criminal justice purposes and receives distributions from the public safety sales and use tax authorized by RCW 82.14.450 for public safety; and

WHEREAS, the city voters have not repealed by referendum the criminal justice sales tax imposed pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 or rejected a ballot proposition to impose the public safety sales tax authorized by RCW 82.14.450 in the previous 12 months;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO,
WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. **Recitals.** Each and every of the recitals contained in the 'whereas' clauses of the preamble to this ordinance are hereby adopted as findings of fact and incorporated herein fully by reference.

Section 2. **Additional Findings.** The City Council finds that the City of Kelso, through its law enforcement agency, meets and shall continue to meet all statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements necessary to qualify for receipt of funds under the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program and the criminal justice sales and use tax authorized by Section 201, Chapter 350, Laws of Washington 2025, as now enacted or hereafter amended.

Compliance with such requirements shall be demonstrated by certification, approval, or other determination by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, which shall serve as prima facie evidence that the City meets and maintains all applicable standards.

Section 3. **Tax Imposed Under New Chapter 3.11, Kelso Municipal Code.** That there is added a new Chapter 3.11, Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice, to the Kelso Municipal Code imposing an additional one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes, as follows:

3.11.010 Tax Imposed

To provide funding for criminal justice purposes as authorized by Section 201, Chapter 350, Laws of Washington 2025, an additional one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales and use tax is hereby levied, fixed, and imposed on all taxable events within the city as defined in chapter 82.08, 82.12, or 82.14 RCW.

3.11.020 Applicability of the Tax

The tax shall be imposed upon and collected from those persons from whom sales tax or use tax is collected in accordance with chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW, and shall be collected at the rate of one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

3.11.030 Additional Tax

The additional sales and use tax shall be in addition to all other existing sales and use taxes currently imposed by the city.

Section 4. **Notice to Department of Revenue.** The city clerk is requested to submit this ordinance to the Department of Revenue and take all steps necessary to implement and collect the tax imposed by this Ordinance

Section 5. **Corrections.** The City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 6. **Severability.** Any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person, legal entity, or circumstance is held invalid; the remainder of the ordinance or its application to other persons, legal entities, or circumstances is not affected.

Section 7. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) calendar days after adoption and publication pursuant to law following confirmation by the Criminal Justice Training Commission that the City, through its police department, meets the statutory requirements to begin collection of the public safety sales tax defined in Section 3. The additional tax imposed by Section 3 shall apply to taxable events occurring on or after _____, 2026

ADOPTED by the City Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATION:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

PUBLISHED _____