

Mayor Anderson called the Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council to order. Pastor Jay from the Reign Church gave the invocation. Mayor Veryl Anderson led the flag salute. The following Councilmembers were in attendance: Veryl Anderson, Jim Hill, Lisa Alexander, Keenan Harvey, Jackie Collins, Mike Karnofski, and Brian Wood.

OATH OF OFFICE:

City Clerk Brian Butterfield swore in the following individuals to the Kelso City Council:

- Brian Wood, Council Position 1
- Mike Karnofski, Council Position 2
- Jackie Collins, Council Position 3

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS:

City Clerk Butterfield opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Councilmember Hill nominated Mike Karnofski. Councilmember Alexander nominated Veryl Anderson. Councilmembers Hill, Karnofski, and Wood voted for Karnofski. Councilmembers Alexander, Collins, Anderson, and Harvey voted for Veryl Anderson. City Clerk Butterfield declared Veryl Anderson as Mayor.

City Clerk Butterfield then opened the floor for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

Councilmember Wood nominated Mike Karnofski. Councilmember Hill nominated Lisa Alexander. Councilmember Harvey nominated Councilmember Collins. There being no other nominations, City Clerk Butterfield closed the floor for nominations.

Councilmembers Hill and Wood voted for Mike Karnofski.

Councilmembers Alexander, Karnofski, and Anderson voted for Lisa Alexander.

Councilmembers Harvey and Collins voted for Jackie Collins.

There not being four votes for any nominee, Councilmember Wood nominated Lisa Alexander, and Councilmember Harvey nominated Jackie Collins.

Councilmembers Wood, Hill, Anderson, Karnofski, and Alexander voted for Lisa Alexander.

City Clerk Butterfield declared Lisa Alexander as the Deputy Mayor.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Wood, 'Approve the agenda as presented.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'Approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting.' Motion carried, all voting yes.

PRESENTATIONS:

Employee Recognitions:

- Chief of Police Rich Fletcher recognized Ralph Hines for 22 years of service with the Kelso Police Department as he announced his retirement.
- Five City employees were recognized for their efforts that contributed to the preservation of another person's life.

EPA Brownfield Cleanup-Koppe Metals Site:

Joel Hecker of Pioneer Technologies provided Council with an overview of the proposed EPA cleanup grant for the former Koppe Metals site on South River Road. Discussion followed.

CITIZENS BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC MEETING:

EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant Application – Koppe Metals Site: To meet EPA requirements prior to submitting the grant application, the city held a public meeting at which a significant number of citizens provided public comment. Discussion followed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Contract Closeout – 602102 – Cowlitz Way Emergency Storm Replacement:**

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

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Koppe Metals Site – MOU and Reversion Agreement: City Manager Andy Hamiltonn briefed the council, discussion followed. Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, 'Table this item indefinitely.' Councilmembers Harvey and Alexander voted yes, Councilmembers Wood, Hill, Anderson, Karnofski and Collins voted no. Motion fails 5 to 2.

Upon motion by Councilmember Wood, seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Acquire the Koppe Metals site from Love Overwhelming, subject to the terms of the MOU and Reversion agreement of 12/18/2025.' Councilmembers Wood, Hill, Karnofski and Collins voted yes. Councilmembers Anderson, Alexander and Harvey voted no. Motion passed, 4 to 3.

Water Treatment Chemical Purchase Bid for 2026: Public Works Manager Devin Mackin briefed the Council on the contract. Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey seconded by Councilmember Hill, 'Approve the water treatment chemical purchase bid award for 2026 in the amount of \$87,400.' Motion passed, all voting yes.

ACTION ITEM:

Ordinance No. 26-4033: Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield briefed the council. The Deputy Clerk read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Karnofski, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON REPEALING CHAPTER 5.60 KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 5.60 TAXICABS TO REPLACE THE REPEALED CHAPTER.' Motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hamilton: Reported on various meetings and local events he attended.

STAFF REPORTS:

Finance Director/City Clerk Brian Butterfield: No report.

City Attorney Stewart Feil: No report.

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

Public Works Manager Devin Mackin: Provided a staffing update.

Chief of Police Rich Fletcher: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Lisa Knight Alexander: No report.

Brian Wood: No report.

Jackie Collins: No report.

Jim Hill: No report.

Keenan Harvey: No report.

Mike Karnofski: Reported on various meetings he attended.

Veryl Anderson: Reported on various meetings she attended.

At 8:37 PM, Mayor Anderson announced that the Council would adjourn into executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to discuss the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase. The executive session was expected to last until 8:42 PM. No action was expected to be taken. The City Attorney was present.

There being no further business, Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK