

**CITY OF KENNEWICK
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2024**

City Council Present – In Person:

Gretl Crawford, *Mayor*
Chuck Torelli, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Loren Anderson, *Councilmember*
Brad Beauchamp, *Councilmember*

Jason McShane, *Councilmember*
Jim Millbauer, *Councilmember*
John Trumbo, *Councilmember*

City Staff Present:

Erin Erdman, *City Manager*
Laurencio Sanguino, *City Attorney*
Jessica Platt, *Finance Director*
John Cowling, *Public Works Director*
Chad Michael, *Fire Chief*
Cary Roe, *Deputy City Manager*
Lisa Beaton, *Deputy City Manager*
Krystal Townsend, *City Clerk*

BJ Moos, *Police Commander*
Cody Lewis, *IT Director*
Anthony Maui, *Planning Director*
Chad Crouch, *Executive Services Director*
Dana Dollarhyde, *Exec Assistant/Lead Communications Specialist*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Townsend stated all Councilmembers were in attendance and a quorum was established.

Councilmember Millbauer led the pledge of allegiance. There were no invocations.

2. VISITORS: None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to approve the agenda as presented.
SECOND:	Councilmember Trumbo.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Meeting Minutes: November 5, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024, City Council regular meeting as presented.

b. Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2024, City Council Workshop Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, City Council workshop meeting as presented.

c. Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2024, City Council Special Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, City Council special meeting as presented.

d. Claims Roster: October 2024

Motion to approve the Claims Roster for October 2024 in the amount of \$7,913,506.69, comprised of electronic payments and check numbers 316695-317090.

- e. **Payroll Roster: For the Pay Period Ending 10/31/2024**
Motion to approve the Payroll Roster for the pay period ending 10/31/2024.
- f. **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) PFAS Treatment Funding Application**
Motion to support the DWSRF funding application as presented.
- g. **Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Contract with Eliza Powell to Fill a Vacancy for December 2024**
Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a service agreement with Eliza Powell, a new Northwest HIDTA contractor, for December 2024.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

SECOND: Councilmember Trumbo.

VOTE: **The motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

5. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. Resolution 24-22: Utility Tax Financial Policy

Ms. Platt provided a staff report and together with Ms. Erdman and Mayor Crawford, responded to Council questions. Council deliberated the matter prior to the motion.

MOTION: Councilmember McShane moved to adopt the resolution as presented.

SECOND: Councilmember Anderson.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: **The motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

The City Clerk assigned resolution number 24-22.

b. Resolution 24-23: Optional Sales Tax Financial Policy

Ms. Platt provided a staff report and together with Ms. Erdman, responded to Council questions. Council deliberated the matter prior to the motion.

MOTION: Councilmember Anderson moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.

DISCUSSION: Council asked for clarification prior to voting.

VOTE: **The motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

The City Clerk assigned resolution number 24-23.

c. Ordinance 24-6070: Establishing a Transportation Benefit District

Ms. Beaton provided a staff report for items 5.c. and 5.c.1 and together with Ms. Erdman and Ms. Platt, responded to Council questions. Council deliberated the matter prior to the motion.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON ESTABLISHING A TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KENNEWICK TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF EXISTING

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, AND PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS AS AUTHORIZED BY RCW 36.73.040.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer.

DISCUSSION: Council expressed concerns regarding the possible long-term nature of the tax, particularly its potential for renewal after the initial ten-year term. They voiced support for the staff's efforts in exploring this option and their initiatives to reduce expenses while seeking ways to finance growth, maintain infrastructure, and facilitate expansion, yet remarked on a reluctance to raise taxes. The discussion also touched on how this approach ultimately funds expansion of the convention center via a sales tax increase, though not directly.

VOTE: **The motion passed (6-0, Councilmember Trumbo dissenting).**

The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6070.

c.1. Ordinance 24-6071: Establishing the Transportation Benefit District Fund and amending the Kennewick Municipal Code by adding Section 3.40.275

Ms. Beaton provided the staff report under the previous item. No further comments or questions were raised.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO FUNDS AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 3.40.275 TO THE
KENNEWICK MUNICIPAL CODE

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: **The motion passed (6-0, Councilmember Trumbo dissenting).**

The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6071.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. Ordinance 24-6072: 2025/2026 Biennial Budget (Final public hearing; first was November 5)

Ms. Platt provided a comprehensive staff report and responded to Council questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Crawford noted a written comment was submitted and had been distributed by the City Clerk to all Councilmembers in advance of the meeting. Mayor Crawford instructed the City Clerk to publish the comments to the website.

A citizen spoke in support of the work to balance the budget and in appreciation of the process. The citizen encouraged investment in long-term growth.

The public hearing was closed at 7:27 p.m.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BIENNIAL BUDGET FOR THE YEARS 2025/2026.

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.
SECOND:	Councilmember Anderson.
DISCUSSION:	A suggestion was made that the Councilmembers should each take the initiative to identify and propose budget cuts for future fiscal plans, rather than depending on staff to present these recommendations.
VOTE:	The motion passed unanimously (7-0).
<i>The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6072.</i>	

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 2025 Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Budget and Marketing Plan

Mayor Crawford welcomed guest speaker Kevin Lewis, President and CEO of Visit Tri-Cities. Mr. Lewis provided a comprehensive report, highlighting the achievements of his team in 2024 and ongoing funding needs and goals for the 2025 workplan. Council and Mr. Lewis discussed economic growth and tourism at length.

MOTION:	Councilmember Millbauer moved to approve the 2025 Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Budget and Marketing Plan as presented.
SECOND:	Councilmember Anderson.
DISCUSSION:	Council spoke to the value of the work Visit Tri-Cities provides and the benefit of having a professional group promoting the Tri-Cities.
VOTE:	The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

9. VISITORS: None.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers reported on their respective activities, upcoming events, items of concern, and spoke in support of staff and their efforts to improve the City of Kennewick. Council made specific mention of their appreciation for the City Manager and Finance Team for their work to identify funding solutions under difficult circumstances.

Ms. Erdman sought input from the Council concerning a request received earlier that day for continued funding for Ameri-Corps, with a deadline of November 22, ahead of the next Council meeting. The Council voiced concerns about not having enough time to fully grasp the issue and decided against taking any action. Ms. Erdman will provide further updates as needed.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Crawford concluded the meeting at 8:14 p.m.



Krystal Townsend, CMC, CPRO
City Clerk

At the time of publishing these minutes, the City Council meeting recording is available at:
<https://kennewickwa.new.swagit.com/videos/320875>