

**CITY OF KENNEWICK
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
November 18, 2025**

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

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
Lisa Beaton, Deputy City Manager
Cary Roe, Deputy City Manager
Laurencio Sanguino, City Attorney
Chris Guerrero, Police Chief
Michael Heffner, Fire Chief
John Cowling, Public Works Director
Jessica Platt, Finance Director

Anthony Muai, Planning Director
Krystal Johnston, City Clerk
Matt Halitsky, Senior Planner
Kylie Peel, CDBG Coordinator
Chad Crouch, Executive Services Director
Trever Davis, Police Commander
Jillian Henze, PIO/Marketing Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Ms. Johnston stated all councilmembers were in attendance and that a quorum was established.

Councilmember Trumbo led the Pledge of Allegiance. No invocation provided.

Proclamation: Proclamation: Small Business Saturday; Mayor Crawford read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Stephanie Button, Executive Director, Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership. Ms. Button described festivities planned for the Downtown businesses and encouraged everyone to shop local November 29, 2025.

2. VISITORS

Mayor Crawford opened the Visitor Comment section by expressing appreciation for the visitors who have advocated for a new pool facility. She expressed that their opinions have been heard and are valued and she described upcoming discussions to address the request.

A visitor stated the importance of arts.

A visitor addressed the pool facility.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SECOND: Councilmember Anderson.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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| MOTION: | Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. |
| SECOND: | Councilmember Anderson. |
| VOTE: | The motion passed unanimously (7-0) |

- a. **Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented.
- b. **Claim Roster: October 2025**
Motion to approve the Claims Roster for October 2025 in the amount of \$7,329,784.16 comprised of electronic payments and check numbers 321334-321770.
- c. **Payroll Roster: For the Pay Period Ending 10/31/2025**
Motion to approve the payroll roster for the pay period ending 10/31/2025.
- d. **Report: Annual Complete Streets Report For 2024**
Motion to accept the Annual Complete Streets Report as presented.
- e. **Contract: 2025-2027 Solid Waste Management Interlocal Agreement between the City of Kennewick, Benton County, and City of Benton City, City of Prosser, City of West Richland, and City of Richland**
Motion to approve the contract as presented.
- f. **Contract: Columbia Center Blvd. Widening Project Consultant Agreement for Real Estate Services (P2403)**
Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the professional services agreement with Universal Field Services, Inc. as presented.
- g. **Grants: Authorizing a Systemic Safety Streetlight Project Grant Application to WSDOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)**
Motion to authorize staff to submit a grant application to WSDOT as described.

5. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

a. **Ordinance 25-6143: Amending KMC 11.36.130, Intersection Avoidance**

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record:

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO INTERSECTION AVOIDANCE AND AMENDING SECTION 11.36.130 OF THE KENNEWICK MUNICIPAL CODE

Mr. Sanguino provided a staff report; Council did not ask questions.

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| MOTION: | Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as presented. |
| SECOND: | Councilmember Millbauer. |
| DISCUSSION: | None. |
| VOTE: | The motion passed (6-1; Councilmember Anderson dissenting) |

The City Clerk assigned Ordinance No. 25-6143

b. **Resolution 25-16: County-Wide Planning Policies**

Mr. Muai provided a staff report and answered Council's questions.

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

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer

DISCUSSION: Council noted clerical errors in the document. Ms. Johnston stated the resolution ratifies the County's adopted policy and it is not necessary for the City Clerk to correct errors in their document.

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

The City Clerk assigned Resolution No. 25-16

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Ordinance 25-6144: Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATION OF THE 2025/2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Ms. Platt provided a staff report and answered Council's questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 07:10 p.m.

Testimony: A visitor testified in favor of increased funding for downtown.

Mayor Crawford closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

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

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

The City Clerk assigned Ordinance No. 25-6144

b. Ordinance 25-6147: 2026 Property Tax Levy

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE CITY OF KENNEWICK FOR THE YEAR 2026 IN ACCORD WITH STATE LAW

Ms. Platt delivered a staff report and together with Ms. Erdman, Mr. Sanguino, and Ms. Johnston, addressed Council's inquiries. The questions primarily centered around alternatives to raising the levy, the utilization of the banking mechanism, and the potential budget impacts if the levy increase is rejected. Council also asked clarifying procedural questions about the motions and options available under Roberts Rules of Order.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 07:39 p.m.

Testimony: Two residents spoke against the levy increase while another spoke in favor.

Mayor Crawford closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

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

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer.

DISCUSSION: Council engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the merits of the ordinance, concentrating on the potential effects of increases on residents. The debate also highlighted concerns about the cumulative impact of increases made recently including the new sales tax through the Transportation Benefit District, ambulance mileage increases, utility rate increases, and higher solid waste fees.

Councilmember Millbauer called the question.

VOTE: **The motion failed (2-5; Mayor Pro Tem Torelli and Councilmember Millbauer dissenting)**

Staff and Council discussed additional options, which included an amended motion proposing a zero-increase levy rate for 2026. This approach would maintain the City's ability to bank the increase for potential use by the Council in the future. Discussion also focused on the necessity to adopt the levy before November 30 in order to not lose new construction funding revenue from the County.

An amended ordinance was presented for Council's consideration which specified a levy amount of \$0 which is an increase of 0% increase from the previous year and to bank the 1% allowable increase over the 2025 levy rate in the amount of \$158,002 for future use.

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE CITY OF KENNEWICK FOR THE YEAR 2026 IN ACCORD WITH STATE LAW

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

SECOND: Councilmember Millbauer.

DISCUSSION: Council debated the merits of the amended ordinance and the importance of finding available funding through cuts or sale of unused/underutilized city property.

VOTE: **The motion failed (3-4; Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Tem Torelli, and Councilmember McShane dissenting)**

Clerk's Note: Council ultimately adopted a property tax levy ordinance under Item 7., Council Comments & Discussion. The motion is included here, rather than under Council Comments & Discussion, to aid the reader in better understanding the deliberations and process to adopt the ordinance.

Ms. Erdman emphasized the importance of adopting the 2026 levy during tonight's meeting to secure new construction revenue for the City.

An updated ordinance was introduced for the Council's review, outlining a levy amount of \$0, reflecting a 0% increase from the prior year.

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE CITY OF KENNEWICK FOR THE YEAR 2026 IN ACCORD WITH STATE LAW

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

SECOND: Councilmember McShane.

DISCUSSION: Council reiterated a desire to exclude the option to bank the increase for future use. Staff affirmed the language preserving the banking option was excluded from this amendment.

VOTE: **The motion passed (6-1; Councilmember Trumbo dissenting)**

The City Clerk assigned Ordinance No. 25-6147

c. Ordinance 25-6145: Annexation: AZ-2025-0001, Strizhaks Haven Ranch LLC (5215 S Washington Street)

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record for item 6.c.:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY LOCATED AT 5215 S WASHINGTON STREET AND PROVIDING FOR ZONING CLASSIFICATION THEREOF OF RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (RL) (AZ 2025-0001, Knutzen Engineering (Owner: Strizhaks Haven Ranch, LLC))

Ms. Johnston read the ordinance title into the record for item 6.c.1:

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO BASIN DISPOSAL, INC. FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND REFUSE IN THE CITY OF KENNEWICK (AZ 2025-0001, Knutzen Engineering (Owner: Strizhaks Haven Ranch, LLC))

Mr. Haltisky provided a combined staff report for items 6.c. and 6.c.1. and answered Council's questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 8:57 p.m.

Testimony: Two residents spoke against the annexation; one spoke in favor of it.

Mayor Crawford closed the public hearing at 9:01 p.m.

6.c. Ordinance 25-6145: Annexation: AZ-2025-0001, Strizhaks Haven Ranch LLC (5215 S Washington Street)

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

SECOND: Councilmember Anderson.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

The City Clerk assigned Ordinance No. 25-6145

6.c.1. Ordinance 25-6146: Franchise Agreement with Basin Disposal to Provide Solid Waste Disposal at AZ-2025-0001, Strizhak Haven Ranch

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

SECOND: Councilmember Anderson.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

The City Clerk assigned Ordinance No. 25-6146

d. CDBG: 2026 Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan

Ms. Peel provided a staff report and answered Council's questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 09:07 p.m.

Testimony: A visitor testified in favor of the plans.

Mayor Crawford closed the public hearing at 9:08 p.m.

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| MOTION: | Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to approve the CDBG Annual action plan and citizen participation plan as presented. |
| SECOND: | Councilmember Millbauer. |
| DISCUSSION: | None. |
| VOTE: | The motion passed unanimously (7-0) |

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers briefly reported on their respective activities, upcoming events, and items of concern.

A motion to adopt an amended ordinance concerning the 2026 property tax levy was introduced by Ms. Erdman. The details of the motion and discussion are captured under item 6.b., above.

8. CONCLUSION: Mayor Crawford concluded the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Krystal Johnston

Krystal Johnston, 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/361476>