

January 31, 2026

The special meeting/retreat of the Everett City Council was called to order at 9:05 a.m., January 31, 2026, by President Schwab.

Introductions were made and Mayor Franklin and Council Members Schwab, Rhyne, Weir, Burbano, Zarlingo, Tuohy and Bader were present. City staff also present: Government Affairs Director Jennifer Gregerson, Senior Executive Directors Lori Cummings and Dan Templeman, Interim Finance Director Mike Bailey, Deputy City Attorney Ramsey Ramerman, Council Administrator Angela Ely, and City Clerk Marista Jorve.

Accomplishments/Challenges/Outcomes

Jennifer Gregerson opened the 2026 Council retreat. She began the meeting with an ice breaker, two truths and a lie, and Mayor Franklin and each Council member presenting their two truths and a lie.

Several Council members shared their goals for the day and setting plans for the year.

Revenue and Finance Briefing

Lori Cummings and Mike Bailey provided a revenue and finance briefing. This presentation included a 2026 Budget overview, a history of actions to balance the budget, and revenue options. Discussion ensued regarding property taxes, levies, and allocation of general government funds.

Fire Chief Dave DeMarco presented the Fire Department revenue options. Discussion ensued regarding boards of commissioners, fire benefits charges, legislation for possible municipal fire authorities, a possible EMS levy, and scheduling a workshop just to address EMS/Fire.

Dan Templeman presented background on the Public Safety Sales Tax and the grant program. Discussion ensued regarding uses for the revenue and State Criminal Justice Training Commission certification.

Mike continued his presentation with other revenue considerations including payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) applied to water and sewer utilities with discussion regarding rates.

Bob Leonard, Executive Director of Operations, presented an overview of possible library annexation. Council discussed per capita rates, governance and staffing, information regarding

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centralized services, restoration of library services, and levy proposition vs. library district vs. merging with Sno-Isle.

The retreat recessed for a break at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 11:01 a.m.

Lori presented an overview of Everett Transit long-term financial sustainability. Discussion ensued regarding consolidation.

Mike provided an overview of a general levy property tax increase. Bob provided an overview of metropolitan parks districts and the county regional parks update. Different park systems were discussed. Mike also went over other revenue considerations with brief discussion.

Revenue/exploration of ideas/discussion

Discussion took place to prioritize the following revenue options while considering the impact on the city budget, whether the option would have voter support, and what would be the impact on services:

- Regionalize Fire service
- Library annexation
- Public Safety sales tax
- PILOT
- General levy property tax increase
- Consolidate with Community Transit

All council members supported the PILOT implementation. Many council members supported the Municipal Fire Authority, some supported the library annexation, transit consolidation, and discussion ensued with many members proposing ideas to the other options, including targeted levies and car tabs.

The retreat recessed for a break at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 12:18 p.m.

Annexation Briefing

Planning Director Yorik Stevens-Wajda presented annexation area options and methods. Discussion ensued regarding costs associated with annexation and possible offset, development for light rail, service levels, and tax revenues and costs from each possible area. Council members provided their input on the various possible annexation areas.

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Council stated they would like to see cost of services analysis and revenues projections, especially sales tax, to consider annexation of each area. Discussion also took place to prioritize revenue solutions over annexation.

Outdoor Events Center update/next steps

Scott Pattison, Special Projects Manager, and consultant Ben Franz from Shiels Obletz Johnsen Inc., presented the update on the Outdoor Event Center.

Discussion took place regarding stadium attendance, bond issuance, lease negotiations, property acquisition, using the existing Public Facilities District for management, making up the budget shortfall, construction status, risk management, and parking.

Council General Business: Procedures and Communications

Discussion took place regarding adding criteria to the council procedures to present new items from the dais, introducing District town halls, Neighborhood meetings, and updates to the Council newsletter.

Wrap Up/ Focus Direction for 2026

Jennifer closed the meeting by providing an overview of the revenue options, annexation and outdoor event center.

The special meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



City Clerk

Read and approved.



Council President










1.31.2026 Council retreat minutes

Final Audit Report

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