



**CITY OF ROYAL CITY
COUNCIL MINUTES
December 02, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Royal City, Grant County, Washington, met in regular session on December 02, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Christensen.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Christensen, Councilmembers Fanning, Garcia, Rodriguez and Piercy. **A motion was made to excuse Councilmember Kannely. (m/s Fanning/Piercy), the motion carried.**

STAFF PRESENT: Finance Director Janice Flynn, Public Works Director Mauricio Romero and Chief Rodriguez

Mayor Christensen and Councilmember Kannely were both appointed to fill vacant positions and therefore can only serve until someone is elected to that position and the election is certified by the Grant County Auditor. The election was certified on November 25, 2025. Councilmember Piercy resigned his position as Councilmember #4 and took the oath of office to serve as Mayor of the City of Royal City for a 4 year short term. Michael Christensen had expressed an interest in filling the now vacant position of Councilmember #4. There was Council discussion. **A motion was made to appoint Michael Christensen to Councilmember #4. (m/s Fanning/Piercy), the motion carried.** Michael Christensen took the oath to fill the position of Councilmember #4 for a 2 year unexpired term.

PRESENTATIONS

- **None**
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PUBLIC COMMENT – Comments were received throughout the meeting and summarized below

- Lisa Christensen addressed Council regarding the recent article on SourceOne News purporting a lack of transparency in the City. She said it is disheartening that community members immediately questioned the integrity of City Council and shared posts on social media without making any sort of inquiry of the City or trying to understand the

situation. City Council members are all basically volunteers trying to make the City a better place.

- Tony Jenks commented that WA State Fish & Wildlife has the final say on required shrub steppe mitigation. See Planning & Building below.

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CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented. (m/s Garcia/Fanning), the motion carried.

Items on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- Council Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2025
- Payroll 11/30/2025 in the amount of \$64,891.39
- Claims for 12/02/2025 #32325 – 32336 in the amount of \$119,281.39

PUBLIC HEARING

- Mayor Piercy opened the hearing for public comment regarding Resolution 25-04 Declaring Stormwater Utility Surplus at 7:10.
- Drew Scott of CAD Homes gave a brief history of the project of rerouting the original stormwater from the Royal CAD Plat development (on Hargraves) to the new Pratt Hills Plat. When discussions began regarding the Pratt Hills Plat, CAD Homes inquired about rerouting the stormwater from Hargraves & Poplar to the new plat to resolve the issues there. The City was in agreement that would be appropriate and CAD pursued this and incorporated it in the Pratt Hills Preliminary Plat.
- City Planner, Alex Kovach, added that the developer took on the cost to reroute the stormwater.
- Mayor Piercy added we are trading the equivalent of two lots from the Hargraves/Poplar facility for two lots at the Pratt Hills Plat so the City only has one stormwater facility to maintain.
- Janice Flynn addressed the RCW referenced in the SourceOne article and stated under the direction of the City attorney, the City declared the property surplus under RCW 35.94.040, which is for city property originally acquired for utility purposes. The RCW referenced in the article is for intergovernmental transfers and does not apply to our situation.
- There was Council discussion.
There was no public input.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 25-04 Declaring Certain Real Property Of The City Stormwater Utility Surplus To The Needs Of The City And Directing Its Disposal In A Commercially Reasonable Manner. (m/s Garcia/Rodriguez), the motion carried.

Public Hearing closed at 7:15

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 7:15

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ORDINANCES

- None
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RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution 25-04 was passed. See Public Hearing above.
- Resolution 25-05 was presented by Council Member Christensen and Mayor Piercy. There was Council discussion. City Attorney, Katherine Kenison verified to close city hall the Council needs to take action as is being done. **A motion was made to adopt Resolution 25-05 of the City Council of the City of Royal City, Washington, Declaring December 26 and January 2, 2026, as City Hall Closures. (m/s Christensen/Fanning), the motion carried.**

STAFF REPORTS

Finance: The following was presented by Janice Flynn

- General Business – Accountability audit exit conference scheduled for 12/8/25. Since Michael Christensen has worked with State Auditors for all 2022-2024 audits, he will continue in this capacity for the final review and exit conference.
- 2026 Budget – Reviewed fund balances, anticipated non-recurring expenditures and utility rates. There was Council discussion. The amount of funding for park improvements will be reduced to \$75,000.
- Kovach Architect contract for planning and building services. A new fee structure was presented. There was Council discussion.
A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign a new contract between the City of Royal City and Kovach Architects with the new rates as presented, after it is prepared and approved by the City attorney. (m/s Christensen/Fanning), the motion carried.
- Well No 5 contract with WA State Dept of Health – The contract has been received, reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. The funding is for a \$2,970,297 loan, with 50% principal loan forgiveness. There was Council discussion.
A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign the contract between the City of Royal City and the WA State Dept of Health, #DWL31537-0. (m/s Fanning/Christensen), the motion carried.
- Healthcare benefits for City employees. The cost for ten employees is \$21,465 per month in 2026. There was Council discussion.
- 2026 Crack Sealing project – The City has been awarded \$98,000 from the WA State Transportation Improvement Board for the 2026 Crack Sealing project. There are no matching funds required. There was Council discussion.
A motion was made to approve the Mayor to sign the contract between the City of Royal City and the WA State Transportation Improvement Board, #2-E-864(008)-1 for the 2026 Crack Sealing Project. (m/s Christensen /Rodriguez), the motion carried.

Police Department: The following was presented by Chief Rodriguez

- General business, which included the use of Flock cameras in use around town.
- K9 Funding – There was Council discussion regarding \$20,000 being sufficient in 2026 for hired services and only Officer Soelter attending any training on the west side of the state.

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Public Works: The following was presented by PW Director Romero

- General business – The altitude valve has been rebuilt and is working well. All new radio read meters have been installed. The Mayor asked if we should contract with a consultant to advise on maintenance scheduling. Director Romero indicated PW has access to many people who can provide guidance and feels the City can handle it without an outside consultant.

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Planning & Building: The following was presented by Alex Kovach

- Pratt Hills Development No 1 – The final plat documents have been received and reviewed by necessary entities, including City engineers, Anderson Perry & Associates. A minor adjustment was made in regards to an easement rather than a right of way. A bond of 150% of improvements has been secured, a waterline easement was released and mitigation for shrub steppe was addressed. Drew Scott with CAD Homes discussed shrub steppe mitigation and possible park impact fees. See Public Comments above
A motion was made to approve the Pratt Hills Development No. 1 Final Major Plat as presented. (m/s Garcia/Christensen), the motion carried.
- Recap of building activity

Legal: The following was presented by Katherine Kenison via phone

- An Interlocal Agreement between the City and Grant County for planning and annexations will be coming soon.

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COUNCIL REPORT & COMMENTS –

- Councilmember Garcia residents have inquired about Officer Bronn’s “new uniform” as he is often in SWAT clothes at the school. Chief Rodriguez said he wears the SWAT uniform when he is on standby with the tactical unit. Councilmember Garcia asked that the Police Department communicate that to the school and students. Chief indicated Superintendent Trail is aware of the situation, but he will reach out to

the school district to make sure all are aware.

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MAYOR's REPORT & COMMENTS –

- None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. (Christensen), Motion carried unanimously.

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Ryan Piercy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Flynn, Finance Director