

**CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL TIME  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2025**

The Council held a hybrid meeting via WebEx as well as conveyed in the Hearing Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington.

**1:00 PM**

**Councilor Roll Call**

- Yung - present
- Belkot – present
- Fuentes – present
- Little – present
- Marshall – present

**Amendments to the Agenda**

- County Manager, Kathleen Otto requested to remove 9.1 under executive session from the agenda, and Bring back the 25 November minutes next week.
  - Council unanimously agreed to the agenda amendments.

**Open Public Comment**

1. Carmen DeLeon
2. Kimberlee Goheen-Elbon

**Old Business**

***Approval of minutes for Special Council Time Meetings minutes for November 18, 2024.***

**ACTION:** Moved by Councilor Belkot to **APPROVE** the minutes Special Council Time meeting minutes for November 18, 2024. Councilor Little seconded the motion. All aye/motion passed

**New Business**

- 2025 Council Retreat Draft Agenda
  - Overview by County Manager, Kathleen Otto
    - The Council retreat will take place during Council Time and will cover board assignments, rules of procedure, charter, OPMA, ethics public records, and Robert's Rules of Order.
    - The meeting discussed plans for a finance overview and department updates to provide policy direction.
    - The Council will have work sessions on larger policy items throughout the year.
- Councilor Boards and Committee Assignments
  - Council Board/Committee Assignments were discussed, with some Council expressing interest in certain Board/Committees.
  - It is best to have an alternate for meetings in case someone cannot attend.
  - The Council discussed their interests and willingness to serve on various Boards/Committees.
  - Boards/Committees will be brought back to next week's Council Time meeting to check for accuracy and verify if Council wants to make any additional edits.

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- Rules of Procedure
  - Consider adding signature recognition training to the rules of procedure for the Canvassing Board.
  - Consideration of implementing a ranked choice voting system for selecting the chair and vice chair positions.
  - Council agrees that three nods are needed for efficient changes, which will go to a public hearing.
  - There is a discussion about the preference for council members to attend meetings in person, but exceptions may be made.
  - Invocation/Prayer in public meetings is a topic of discussion, with some expressing discomfort and suggesting outreach for alternative invocations.
  - Continue the discussion on whether to remove the invocation from council meetings, potentially revisiting the topic in a couple of months
  - The council is divided on whether to remove prayer from the meetings, with some advocating for further research on how other jurisdictions handle invocations.
  - There is a suggestion to allow more time for applicants to present their proposals during meetings, rather than limiting them to the standard 3 minutes, potentially up to 10 minutes.
  - Uncross the "council communications" item on the agenda for both Tuesday and Wednesday meetings; *This was not supported by the majority of the Council.*
  - Communicate in advance if an item from the consent agenda will be pulled during a meeting. Let the County Manager know prior to the meeting with the understanding Council still may need to pull item based on public comment.
  - Look into the process for reconsideration when there is a tie vote and determine who can initiate it. *Kathleen will follow-up with legal on Robert's Rules and bring back to Council.*
  - Include resumes or cover letters of candidates when forwarding applications for board and commission appointments to the council.

**Councilor Reports**

- Councilor Belkot spoke about C-Tran and would like to schedule a work session with the C-Tran CEO and CFO to discuss the cost of light rail and its impact on Clark County residents. Majority of the Council suggested inviting TriMet representatives to the work session as well. Councilor Belkot will follow-up.

**Work Session Requests**

- Neighborhood Traffic Management Program
  - Council unanimously agrees to move forward with this work session request.

**Report on Policy Issues**

- Councilor Little requested to have a draft letter to the Public Lands Commissioner regarding the conservation of older growth forests in the county and pausing the upcoming Dabbler forest sale.
- Jordan Boege
  - Draft proclamations for Lunar New Year and Black History Month
    - Council supported unanimously.
  - Legislative Session starts on January 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Council will be meeting weekly during legislative session.
  - Jordan will continue to update Council on the State budget deficit.
  - Continue working on mobile home park protection with Counselor Yung and involve Vancouver Housing Authority in the discussion.

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**Executive Sessions**

*NONE*

**ADJOURNED**

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

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Sue Marshall, Chair

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Glen Yung, Councilor

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Michelle Belkot, Councilor

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Wil Fuentes, Councilor

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Matt Little, Councilor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca Messinger, Clerk to the Council

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*The audio recording for Board Time meetings can be accessed on the county website ([clark.wa.gov/the-grid](http://clark.wa.gov/the-grid)) on The Grid.*