

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, July 21, 2025**

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Figueroa called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by the City Clerk as follows:

Councilmember Boykin	Present
Councilmember Worthington	Present
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Present
Councilmember Grassi	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Wood	Present
Mayor Figueroa	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Police Chief Burke, Public Works Director Ecklund, Administrative Services Director Petorak, Deputy City Clerk Highlan, and City Clerk Genetia.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember McCluskey led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember Worthington, to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session after Item #10.

The motion carried.

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember Worthington, to approve the agenda as amended.

The motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – The following individuals provided comments: Karen Benveniste, UP Historical Society; Suzanne Barry Broback; Brian Valley, 2924 Locust Avenue West; Larry Storset; Becky Broback Conolly; and Heidi Broback Rowntree.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember Worthington, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approve the minutes of the July 7, 2025 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for period ending 06/30/25 and 07/15/25; and Claims dated 06/30/25 and 07/15/25.
- C.** Authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with SoftResources for consulting services for the implementation of the new ERP system.
- D.** Authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Lease Agreement between the City of University Place and SH&H Valuation, LLC.
- E.** Authorize the City Manager to purchase two (2) HDPE salt brine storage tanks in the amount of \$59,150.12, including tax, and execute all the necessary contract documents.
- F.** Adopt a Resolution amending the City Council Rules of Procedure. **(RESOLUTION NO. 1068)**

The motion carried.

7. CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg announced the Orchard Concert series starting this Thursday at Curran Orchard Park, feature free concerts every Thursday.

Councilmembers Boykin expressed enthusiasm about the recent Council Retreat, noting it provided a valuable opportunity for thoughtful reflection and strategic planning.

Councilmember McCluskey affirmed that she too attended the Council Retreat and acknowledged the impressive list of goals and accomplishments discussed. She commended City staff for their hard work and dedication in supporting Council's efforts. Lastly, she expressed her gratitude to the Broback family, the YMCA, and other attendees for their public comments. She emphasized the importance of public participation in the democratic process and encouraged continued engagement.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood commended the recent Council Retreat, expressing gratitude for the City staff's preparation and their ongoing efforts towards achieving Council goals. He also expressed appreciation for community members attending the meeting. In addition, he encouraged attendance at the upcoming Twisted Cider 5K/12K event scheduled for Saturday at the Curran Apple Orchard.

Councilmember Worthington expressed appreciation for the evening's public comments, noting their organization, timing, and informative nature. He reiterated his appreciation for the recent Council Retreat and was pleased to see topics from the retreat reflected in the current meeting agenda, indicating progress towards next steps.

Councilmember Flemming expressed appreciation for the recent Council Retreat, highlighting its productive discussions. He also extended thanks to the Broback family for attending tonight's meeting. Additionally, he reported on his attendance in the South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership (SSHAP) meeting where they reviewed SSHAP's 2026 Work Plan and discussed ADUs and the property tax exemption program.

Councilmember Grassi expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Broback family for their presence and contribution to the community. She echoed Councilmember Flemming's sentiments regarding the recent Council Retreat, thanking staff for their preparation and support. Councilmember Grassi highlighted upcoming events, including the Music on the Square, Twisted Cider 5K and the City's 30th Birthday celebration.

Mayor Figueroa reported a follow-up conversation with the Ukrainian consulate, alongside City Attorney Kaser, as directed during the Council Retreat. He conveyed Council's concerns, which the consulate plans to address in a formal response. A potential presentation to the Council is being considered for October or November to further the discussion and seek alignment. Mayor informed the public about ongoing sewer projects throughout University Place. Residents were encouraged to read mailed notices carefully and plan ahead for potential traffic delays, especially during morning hours, to avoid frustration. Lastly, he shared a personal connection to Art Broback, noting his long friendship with his family through his wife's professional relationship as his dental hygienist.

8. UNIVERSITY PLACE SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Public Works Director Ecklund and City Attorney Kaser presented the Interlocal Agreement with the University Place School District, which allows the City to use designated school facilities for youth sports programs without facility fees, with the City responsible for cleanup and damage cost. The agreement includes provisions for the school district to include promotional materials for youth sports programs in their communications, though they are not required to do so. The agreement is set for a four-year term with the possibility of extension through mutually written agreement.

Council members expressed strong support for the agreement, highlighting its strategic importance for youth sports and community engagement, and commended the cooperation between the City and the school district.

9. YMCA YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM

Public Works Director Ecklund, along with YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties Jose Gorospe and Jared Johnson, introduced an exciting proposal for a partnership between the YMCA and the City of University Place to reintroduce youth recreation services to the community. The proposed program includes multiple sports seasons, coach development opportunities, and access to gyms and fields. A key feature of the plan is equitable pricing, offering University Place residents the same rate as YMCA members—\$95 per season—while non-residents would pay \$190. Mr. Gorospe and Director Ecklund discussed seasonal leagues for winter, spring, and fall, covering sports such as basketball, T-ball, soccer, volleyball, and cross country. Additionally, they proposed summer clinics for basketball, soccer, and volleyball, with rates set at \$65 for residents and \$130 for non-residents. Emphasis was placed on ensuring all logistical details are finalized before the program's launch.

Mr. Johnson highlighted the importance of collaboration between the YMCA and the municipality, noting the YMCA's adaptability and its service to approximately 2,500 local households. Council members expressed strong support for the initiative, raising questions about branding, cost comparisons with neighboring cities, and agreements with the University Place School District for facility access. They agreed that a spring launch would allow more time for marketing and preparation, though some expressed urgency and interest in a winter start if feasible. Mr. Johnson also shared the YMCA's broader mission to promote health in spirit, mind, and body, and discussed potential program expansion to include youth and senior activities.

The Council agreed to move forward with the proposal, with next steps including the development of a legislative document and a preview of the marketing campaign. They emphasized the importance of launching the program correctly from the outset.

10. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: RENAMING HOMESTEAD PARK

Councilmembers McCluskey and Boykin introduced a proposal to rename Homestead Park, following a request from the University Place Historical Society to add the Broback family name. Councilmember McCluskey emphasized the cultural and emotional significance of names, offering a historical overview of the Broback family. She highlighted their Norwegian heritage, immigration to the Northwest, and contributions to the local economy through farming, boat building, and logging. She also noted the family's pivotal role in transforming their farmland into a central park for community use. Councilmember Boykin echoed the importance of the Broback family's legacy, particularly their influence on the economic development of University Place and the creation of a vibrant business district. He outlined the legislative process for renaming the park and stressed the importance of community engagement and fiscal responsibility, noting that the Broback family would fund the new signage.

The Council discussed the appropriate process for renaming the park, emphasizing the need for a formal recommendation from the Park Advisory Commission and the importance of public input. Several members underscored the need to follow due process to maintain transparency and avoid setting unintended precedents. Councilmember Flemming proposed installing a historical marker in the park to honor the Broback family's contributions, offering an alternative way to recognize their legacy even if the park's name remains unchanged. He noted that such a marker would help educate the public and enhance appreciation for the park's history.

The Council agreed to refer the proposal to the Park Advisory Commission for a formal recommendation, with specific guidance to retain the name "Homestead" while considering the addition of "Broback." The Council reaffirmed that the final decision would be based on the Commission's recommendation and community feedback.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 8:59 p.m., the City Council recessed to Executive Session for approximately thirty minutes to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to potential litigation to which the agency is a party, as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Council is not expected to take further action following the Executive Session.

At 9:28 p.m., a motion was made and was carried, to extend the Executive Session to 10:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia
City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT