



Mayor's Minute



Mayor Terri Cooper

It is with a heavy heart I write this Mayor's Minute. I wish to express my heartfelt prayers and condolences to the family, friends, and staff at Eastern State Hospital who knew and loved Colleen Hendrickson-Bass. Colleen died in line of duty in the early morning hour of September 27, 2025, as she stood guard at Eastern State Hospital. I also wish to express comfort and prayers for the family terrorized by the home invasion; all of this was an unexpected and appalling attack on our community. We are grateful for our well-trained and professional first responders at the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Fire District #3, and other mutual aid agencies who responded quickly and professionally to mitigate the attack.

I have had many questions about the improvements seen on Lefevre and Lake Streets. I hope you're enjoying them. All public works projects were paid for with grants and awards specific to the projects. Please note the City of Medical Lake did not receive any of the WA State Emergency Management fire funding, those awards went to Spokane County.

Gray Fire Financial Report Prepared by Koss Ronholt, Finance Director

Department of Commerce: \$182,000

-Partial reimbursement for \$190,413.80 in expenditures, including hazardous tree removal, hazardous stump grinding, water meters destroyed in fire, barricades and signage rental, water used in firefighting efforts, write-off of utility bills for fire victims, generator rental, and labor costs directly related to fire response and recovery efforts.

Spokane County: \$17,000

-Full reimbursement for \$17,000 for tree grinding.

Insurance: \$440,294.21

-Full reimbursement for \$445,294.21 (less \$5,000 deductible) for structure debris removal at Waterfront Park, destroyed recreation and park maintenance equipment, destroyed park benches, destroyed fences, damage repair on Maintenance building, and destroyed ballfield lights.

FEMA: City has incurred \$788,911.95 in FEMA qualifying damages, which are reimbursed at 75% of cost (federal portion) and 12.5% of cost (state portion). Of this amount, the City will pay approximately \$148,627.71 out of pocket, but we are still pursuing the state to help make us whole.

The City used its Contingency Fund to pay for expenditures related to the Gray Road Fire and the City Council established the Emergency Response Fund in 2024 to receive any future reimbursements and better prepare the City for any future disasters. All reimbursements for such expenditures have been deposited into the Emergency Response Fund and may not be used for anything other than a declared emergency. The Emergency Response Fund's current balance is \$253,772.55.

The Contingency Fund did not have enough funds to cover all fire related expenditures incurred, so \$171,000 was transferred from the General Fund to support it. Because reimbursed expenditures were deposited into the Emergency Response Fund, this means \$171,000 of City funds have been set aside for potential future emergencies.

Regular operations of city business continue as we wrap up summer projects and prepare for Winter. Don't forget to mark your calendar for Re*Imagine Fall Festival, Saturday, October 25, 2025, 1pm-4pm, at the High School Bus Loop.

City Council Corner

Video Surveillance Cameras Approved. City Council authorized the use of surveillance cameras to deter theft and vandalism on City owned or managed property at Waterfront Park, Pioneer Park, Coney Island Park, and Shepard Field.

STA Route 62 Changes and Capital Improvements. Our partners at the Spokane Transit Authority presented on changes to Route 62 through town ([F SPO Lft Route062 w3h2 Z250808.pdf](#)) as well as \$200,000 worth of improvements that will take place at 8 local bus stops. To learn more, you can view the presentation at [September 16, 2025, City Council Meeting](#) (starting at 44:46 and ending 1:07:05).

City Council Vacancy. Applications can be submitted by citizens 18 years of age or older who have been a resident of the City for at least 1-year preceding appointment. Interested citizens can find the application on the City website [City Council Vacancy - Position 6 - City of Medical Lake](#). The deadline is 4:00 pm on 10 October.

In The News

2026 City Budget Hearings Scheduled. Budget season is upon us, and the City's 2026 budget planning is underway. City



Council is scheduled to have a Budget Retreat on 10/15 from 10am until 2pm at Silver Lake Bible Camp to review the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan Update, 2026 salaries and benefits, revenue projections, and a preliminary budget overview. A Revenue Sources and Property Tax Hearing is scheduled for 10/21 and will result in a required Property Tax Ordinance. A preliminary budget hearing is set for 11/18, and the final budget hearing will occur during the 12/2 City Council meeting. Citizens are welcome to share ideas and comments in writing or in person during the hearings.

Community Calendar

October

- 10/4** – Re*Imagine Medical Lake Farmers Market 9am until 1pm at Lake St. and Lefevre St.
- 10/7** – City Council Meeting at 6:30pm in City Hall
- 10/14** - MLSD Monthly Meet & Greet with Superintendents at Roam Coffee 3-4pm
- 10/15** – City Council Budget Retreat 10am-2pm at Silver Lake Bible Camp
- 10/16** – Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30pm in City Hall
- 10/21** – City Council Meeting at 6:30pm in City Hall
- 10/25** – Re*Imagine Medical Lake Farmers Market 11am-4pm at Lake St. and Lefevre St.
- 10/25** – Re*Imagine Medical Lake Fall Festival 1-4pm at the MLHS Bus Loop
- 10/28** – Medical Lake School Board Meeting at 6pm in the Administrative Office and Zoom



Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

November

- 11/2** – Daylight Savings (Fall back)
- 11/3** - West Plains PFAS Groundwater Study Mapping Presentation from 6pm-7pm in the MLHS Auditorium (also to be presented 11/6 from Noon to 12:50 pm at ISC 006 and via Zoom
<https://ewu.zoom.us/j/82821624487?pwd=TBkrsS718XGrfR5l1srC13bbWpsZpBk.1&from=addon> ID: 828 2162 4487
Password: 559450)
- 11/4** – Election Day/City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall
- 11/11** – Veterans Day Holiday (City Hall closed)
- 11/18** – City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall, Preliminary Budget Hearing
- 11/20** – Planning Commission Meeting at 5:30 pm in City Hall
- 11/25** – Medical Lake School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm in the Administrative Office and Zoom [School Board – School Board – Medical Lake School District](#)
- 11/27** – Thanksgiving Holiday

Helpful links:

[Re*Imagine Medical Lake](#) (Farmers Market and Festival information)
[City Council - City of Medical Lake](#)
[Planning Commission - City of Medical Lake](#)
[Medical Lake School District](#)
[Medical Lake Dollars for Scholars](#)

MEDICAL LAKE PARKS AND RECREATION

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

School is back in session! Join us everyday after school for some fun free play. This unstructured program is a great way for your grade school children to blow off some steam after being in school all day. This year, we are excited to host the program at Hallett Elementary! This move will allow us to open up program capacity to many more families, so grab your kiddo a spot today!



Grades: K-5 **Time:** 2:45-5:30pm
Dates: Monday-Friday, starting 9/2/25
Cost: \$7/Per day (full week discount)

FALL FUN AT RUSTY TRUCK RANCH

Need something for your kiddo to do on their day off from school? Join us for a day of fall fun at the Rusty Truck Ranch! The ranch has tons of fun activities for the kids, including hopping on a hayride, feeding the animals at the petting zoo, diving into their sensory corn bins, and racing down their 40ft slide! They will have some tasty food and drink vendors there as well with treats available for purchase. After lunch, everyone will get to choose a pumpkin to take back to City Hall to decorate! For grades K-5th.



Date: 10/10 **Register By:** 10/8
Time: 10:00am-2:30pm **Cost:** \$30



Interested in signing up for one of our programs? Scan the QR code here to get started!

RAPTOR REEF DAY CAMP

Get out of the cold and take a Jurassic plunge with us at Raptor Reef! Participants will get to spend the day at Triple Play's dinosaur themed water park, including their wave pool, water slides, and aqua play park! This mini-camp will run from 7:30am to 5:30pm during the MLSD day off from school. Breakfast and snack will be included, **but all participants must bring their own lunch!!!** For grades K-5th



Please note, children must be 48" or taller to ride the water slides! Please check your child's height beforehand.

Date: 11/10 **Register By:** 11/5
Time: 7:30am-5:30pm **Cost:** \$90

MINI MOVERS SPORTS

This program is geared towards children ages 2-4 and is designed to help kids begin developing hand-eye coordination through play-based learning. Each week will have a different theme that will work on cultivating a new skill, such as throwing and catching balls of different shapes and sizes or using their feet to kick! Classes are once a week, offered on Mondays and Wednesdays.



Ages: 2-4 **Cost:** \$54 for 6 weeks
Time: 5:15-6:00pm
Dates: 11/3-12/17

Mondays and Wednesdays
Location: Hallett Elementary School Gym

TEEN PROGRAMS Ages 11-17

TEEN SWIM NIGHT

Get ready for an epic night of fun with Airway Heights Parks & Rec at Teen Swim Night! They'll have the pool open for volleyball, basketball, paddle boards, and more. Just bring your swimsuit and some friends!

Date: 11/21 **Register By:** 11/14

Time: 6:00-8:00pm **Cost:** \$10

Call Airway Heights Parks & Rec at (509) 244-4845 to register!

EWU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME

Catch a ride with Medical Lake Parks and Recreation Staff to Eastern Washington Women's Basketball game! Registration fee will include game tickets, but bring extra money for food and snacks! Bus will leave from City Hall at 4:35pm.

Date: 11/17 **Register By:** 11/14

Time: 4:30-8:00pm **Cost:** \$20

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Friday Night Flag Football will be here soon! Sign up to play in this 6-week season hosted by Medical Lake Parks & Recreation! This fun, fast-paced league is open to ages 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome and spaces are limited, so sign up today!

 **Location:** Waterfront Park

 **When:** Friday Nights, 10/17-11/21

 **Cost:** \$200 per Team

 **Grab your friends and form a team!**

Register By: 10/10

All team members must register to play. For help creating your team, call us at (509) 565-5000 Ex. 2



ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Join us in February for adult basketball! Registration will open in December, so talk to your friends and start planning your team now!

Cost: \$250 per Team **Dates:** 2/8-3/22

CRAFT & CHAT: SEASONAL WREATH MAKING

Need a night out? Join us for a night of crafting and conversation! This month's project: Seasonal Wreath Making! Come out and join our guest instructor, Debbie Lull, as she guides us through making one of her beautiful winter wreaths. Grab something yummy to eat or drink while you're at it from Roam Roasters.

Date: 11/15 **Time:** 4:00-6:00pm

Register By: 11/12 **Cost:** \$45

Location: Roam Roaster Learning Center, 107 E Lake St, Medical Lake, WA 99022



FARM TOURS WITH SUE HINES

Join us for the season's last farm tour with our lovely guide, Sue Hines! Be inspired to grow your own vegetables as we learn from Heather about her farm, then pick pumpkins to bring back to City Hall to decorate! Meet us at City Hall and we will facilitate transport. Space is limited for tours, so make sure to sign up today and grab yourself a spot. Make sure to bring a sack lunch. ADA accommodations available.

Date: 10/9

Register By: 10/6

Time: 12:30pm-6:00pm

Cost: \$30

Pinochle

Cost: FREE!

Socialize and meet new people in our weekly Pinochle group. Bring a snack to share.

12:00pm - 4:00pm Tuesdays & Saturdays

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Jazzercise classes are in the City Hall Auditorium. See website for price and schedule.

www.jazzercise.com/location/jazzercise-west-plans