

CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE
City Council Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

6:30 PM
November 18, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
124 S. Lefevre Street

NOTE: This is not a verbatim transcript. Minutes contain only a summary of the discussion. A recording of the meeting can be accessed through the city's website www.medical-lake.org.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers

Chad Pritchard
Lorin Ray-Abbott
Lance Speirs
Don Kennedy
Ted Olson
Tony Harbolt

Administration & Staff

Terri Cooper, Mayor
Sonny Weathers, City Administrator
Thomas Rohrer, Legal Counsel
Koss Ronholt, Finance Director
Roxanne Wright, Administrative Clerk
Scott Duncan, Public Works Director
Steve Cooper, WWTP Director
Dave Yuhas, Code Enforcement Officer

REGULAR SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING– 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

- A. Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and conducted roll call.
 - i. Councilmember Maxwell is ill and requested an absence. Motion to approve absence made by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, carried 5-0.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

- A. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Harbolt, carried 5-0.

3. INTERESTED CITIZENS: AUDIENCE REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – None.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS / PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Oath of Office for new councilmember Lorin Ray-Abbott
 - i. Mr. Ronholt gave the Oath of Office and Councilmember Ray-Abbott took her seat with the rest of the Council.
- B. Recognition of Planning Commission Service for Carl Munson
 - i. Mayor Cooper presented Mr. Munson with a certificate and thanked him for his service to the community. Mr. Munson shared some thoughts on Medical Lake and the potential the city has.

5. REPORTS

A. Public Safety

- i. FD3 Chief Rohrbach – provided updated stats. Fairly normal call volume. Wildfire season wrapping up, moving into winter and heating season when structure fires are a concern. Average wildfire season. Shared some about the emergency communications discussions going on between City of Spokane and Spokane County. The ILA with the regional center will expire January 1, 2026, and has not been renewed. Parties are trying to come to an agreement on metrics to determine cost/payments.
- ii. SCSO Undersheriff Lundgren – October stats look good compared to 2024 and YTD numbers look good as well. Had a meeting with Ken Raines, security director at Eastern State Hospital. They want to have a greater SCSO presence on their grounds and collaborate on security. Mayor Cooper asked how many of the assaults were domestic violence related, would like to see stats on dv trends. She would also like to see stats on who the assaults involve, i.e. kids, visitors, etc.

B. Committee Reports/Council Comments

- i. Councilmember Pritchard – no report.
- ii. Councilmember Speirs – STA meeting – 2026 service revisions draft is out, public input period for draft 11/13-12/15, on their website. Outreach plan, schools, libraries, community events to provide info and receive input. Applying for state grant for FIFA World Cup support since Spokane was selected as a fan zone city (secondary location) next summer June/July.
- iii. Councilmember Kennedy – SRTC meeting – released a unified list of federal projects, most come through technical committee that Mr. Weathers is part of. Current fed bill expires 11/30/26. New legislation between now and then. Update on Horizon 2050. Finance Committee – reviewed packet, all good.
- iv. Councilmember Ray-Abbott – no report.
- v. Councilmember Olson – Safety Committee and General Government – thanks to FD3 and SCSO for reports. Gave update on streets, storm drains being cleaned. Lake St. ADA upgrades complete. City equipment being prepped for snow. New stop signs installed in town around school zone. FEMA generators on the way, prep starts next week for that project. Dec 13th Christmas lights will be on.
- vi. Councilmember Harbolt – thanked mayor for invite to Teen Challenge event. He and his wife attended and enjoyed it and will look for ways to support.

C. Mayor Cooper – thankful to be re-elected. Pleasure to serve with everyone. Tomorrow night is the West Plains Chamber of Commerce Best of the West gala at Northern Quest. Winter Festival is December 13th.

D. City Administrator & City Staff

- i. Sonny Weathers, City Administrator – grant writer kick off meeting today, hitting the ground running. Great opportunities that line up with the city's plans. Will present status update at the first council meeting each month. Fireworks advisory ballot results: 58% want to keep fireworks. Acknowledged Lorin Ray-Abbott's appointment to Council and Heath Wilbur being elected as well. Dec 6th AWC Elected Officials training in Airway Heights. Planning Commission this Thursday. Councilmember Pritchard asked that fireworks be put on the agenda as a workshop. He would like to discuss banning the sale of fireworks also when there is a ban placed on the discharge of them due to fire risk.
- ii. Koss Ronholt, Finance Director – Q3 Budget Report
 1. Reviewed the report and noteworthy points. Reviewed proposed budget amendments.

- iii. Dave Yuhas, Code Enforcement Officer Q3 Code Enforcement Report
 - 1. Gave presentation, see attached.

6. WORKSHOPS

- A. Ordinance 1137 Authorized Funds Update
 - i. Mr. Ronholt reviewed the proposed ordinance to update the code regarding funds that are currently used.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION None

8. PUBLIC HEARING – 2026 Preliminary Budget

- A. Mayor Cooper opened the Public Hearing at 7:42pm.
- B. Mayor Cooper noted that she provided council with the Mayor's 2026 Budget Letter. See attached.
- C. Mr. Ronholt took questions/comments from council.
- D. Mayor Cooper closed the hearing at 7:47pm and opened for public comment.
- E. Public comment – none.
- F. Closed public comment period at 7:48pm.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approve **November 4, 2025**, minutes.
 - 1. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Pritchard, carried 5-0-1 with Councilmember Ray-Abbott abstaining because she was not yet on the council at the time of the last meeting.
 - ii. Approve **November 18, 2025**, Payroll Claim Warrants numbered **53116** through **53123** and Payroll Payable Warrants numbered **30292** through **30301** in the amount of **\$172,967.13** and Claim Warrants numbered **53124** through **53177** in the amount of **\$345,224.67**.
 - 1. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, carried 6-0.
- B. Appointment of Cynthia Altheide to Planning Commission
 - i. Motion to confirm appointment made by Councilmember Pritchard, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, carried 6-0.

10. RESOLUTIONS – none

11. ORDINANCES

- A. Second Read 1136 Property Tax Levy 2026
 - i. Legal counsel read onto the record.
 - ii. Mr. Ronholt gave brief overview for Councilmember Lorin Ray-Abbott.
 - iii. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Olson, carried 6-0.

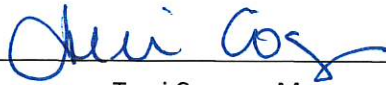
12. EMERGENCY ORDINANCES - none

13. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - none

14. INTERESTED CITIZENS: AUDIENCE REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – none

15. CONCLUSION

- A. Motion to conclude at 7:57pm made by Councilmember Pritchard, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, carried 6-0.



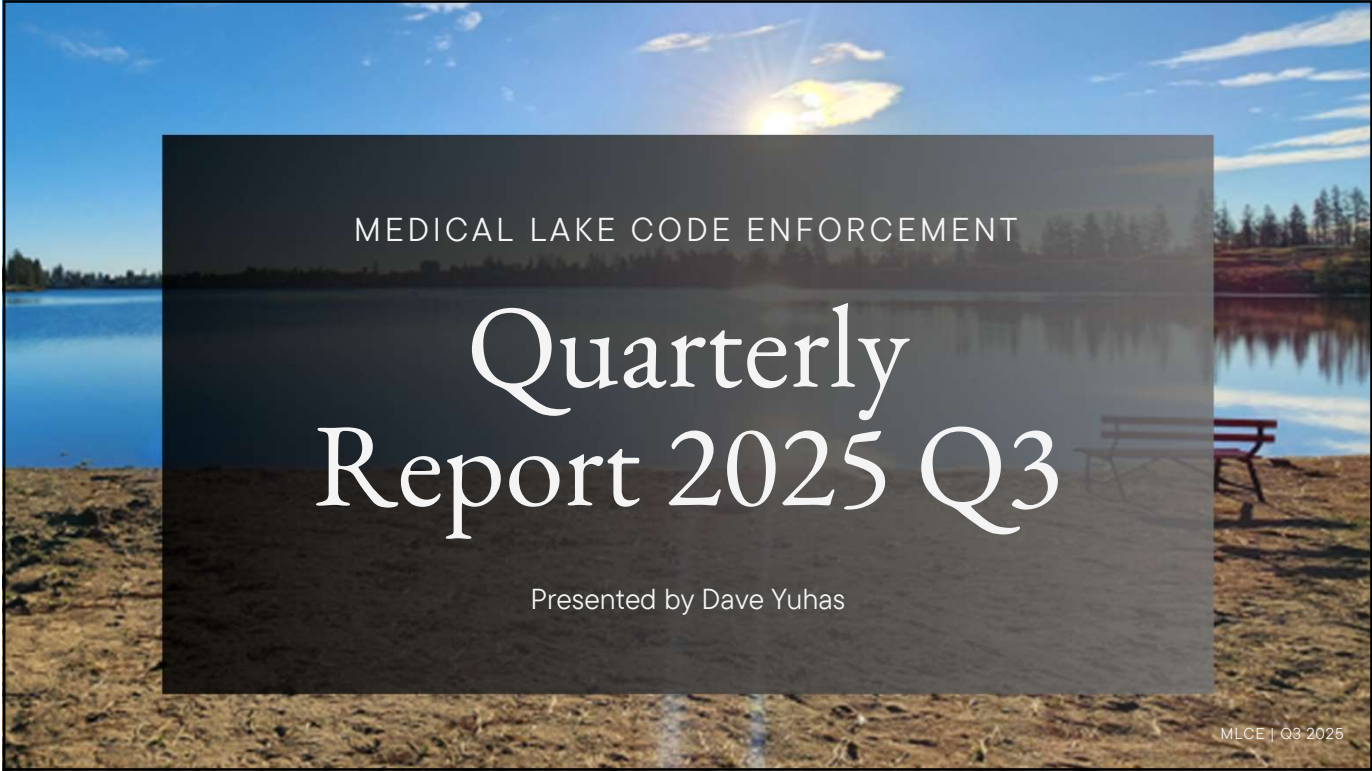
Terri Cooper, Mayor



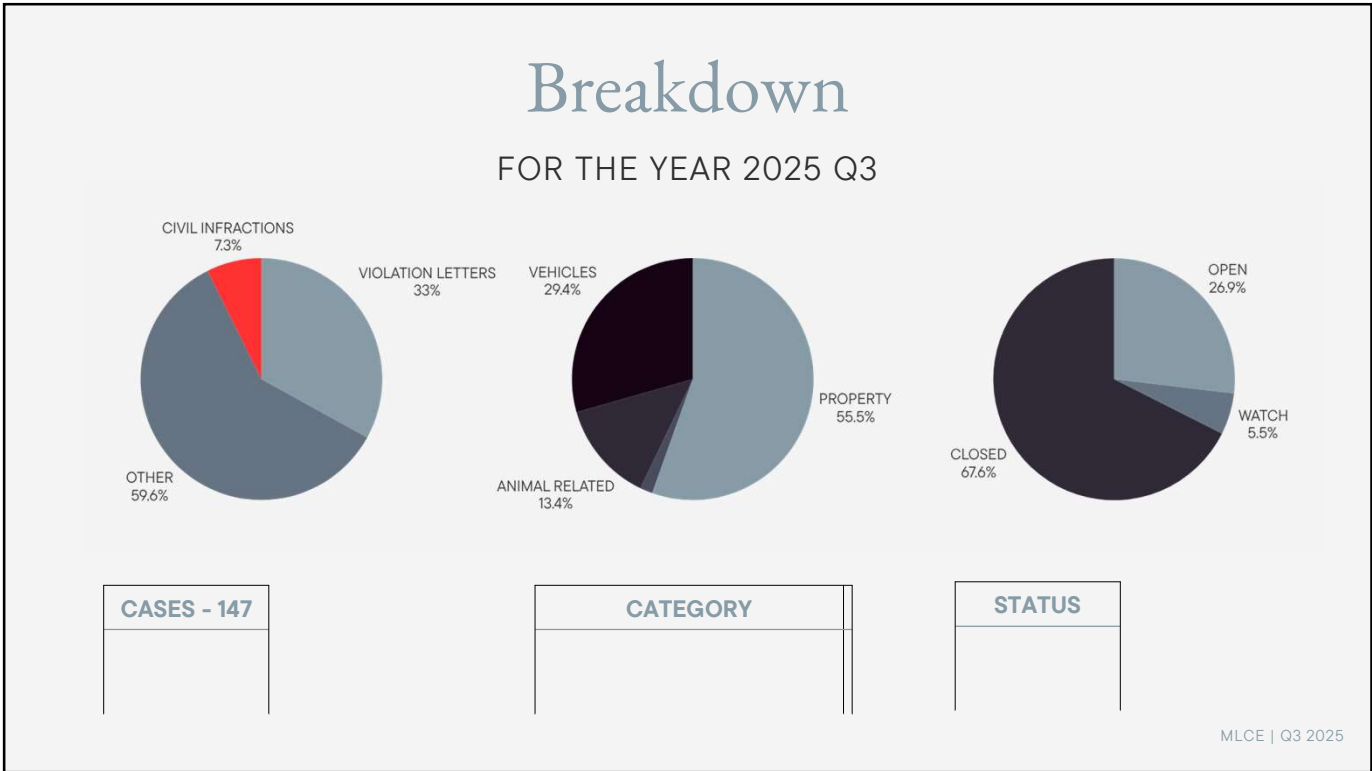
Koss Ronholt, Finance Director/City Clerk

12/2/25

Date



1



2



MOVING FORWARD

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | LEGAL Coordinating with Airway Heights Court Staff to allow for a smooth transition of cases. |
| 02 | VEHICLES Ongoing enforcement within city limits, with a focus on future vehicle removals/impounds at owner's expense. |
| 03 | ENGAGEMENT Exploring new methods of communication with citizens to better relay city needs through the code enforcement process. |

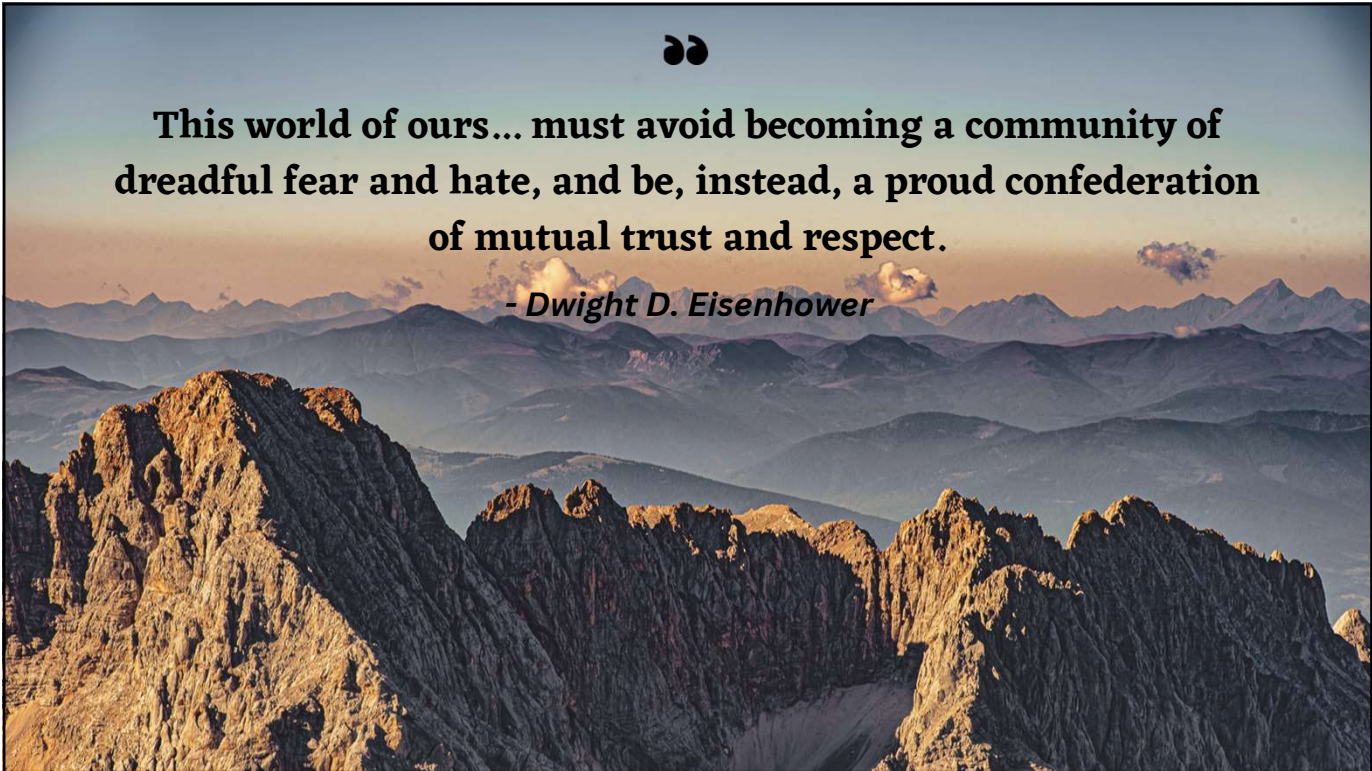
MLCE | Q3 2025

3



This world of ours... must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



4



City of Medical Lake
124 S. Lefevre St.
P.O. Box 369
Medical Lake, WA 99022-0369
tcooper@medical-lake.org

Terri Cooper, Mayor

November 18, 2025

Mayor's 2026 Budget Letter

Dear Residents, Councilmembers, and City Staff,

I am pleased to present the City of Medical Lake's **2026 Final Budget** which reflects our continued commitment to maintaining essential services, improving infrastructure, and preparing for the City's future needs. This budget addresses current priorities while strategically positioning our city for sustainable growth and development, in accordance with our adopted Strategic Framework. As such, the budget puts focus on our targets of a thriving local economy, a healthy and sustainable environment, engaged and empowered citizens and stakeholders, multi-modal connections into and throughout the community, supporting healthy living and recreation, and community safety and security.

The Virtuous Cycle is a positive feedback loop in which strategic community investments improve residents' quality of life, attract businesses, and strengthen the local economy. These gains expand public resources, enabling further investment in community assets, services, and infrastructure, creating a self-reinforcing pattern of growth and well-being. The 2026 budget was built on this foundation.

Investing in staff and providing the tools they need to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively continues to be a priority. We will continue investments in our wastewater treatment plant, public safety enhancements, water systems, streets equipment, building and planning, parks and recreation, and administrative services.

Since 2022, the City has been able to accomplish approximately \$7.27 million dollars' worth of projects, \$5.27 million being grant funded and \$1.25 million from legislative appropriations. Looking forward, we are seeking \$1.8 million in grants and \$4.45 million in legislative appropriations to fund projects in the upcoming years which align with our capital improvement plan. The City has also placed great importance on aligning our rates and fees to ensure financial viability, sustainable operations, cost recovery, and investment into quality of services provided.

This 2026 budget reflects the City of Medical Lake's dedication to preserving our infrastructure, supporting our staff, and planning proactively for the future. Thank you to our councilmembers, staff, and residents for your input and engagement throughout this budget process. Together, we are setting the stage for a prosperous and resilient Medical Lake.

Terri Cooper, Mayor
City of Medical Lake

CC: Sonny Weathers, City Administrator