CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE
City Council Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

6:30 PM
October 20, 2026

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
Heath Wilbur
Don Kennedy (Mayor Pro Tem)
Ted Olson
Tony Harbolt

Administration & Staff
Sonny Weathers, City Administrator (via Zoom)
Thomas Rohrer, City Attorney (via Zoom)
Koss Ronholt, Finance Director
Glen Horton, Parks & Recreation Director
Scott Duncan, Public Works Director (via Zoom)
Steve Cooper, WWTP Director (via Zoom)
Roxanne Wright, Administrative Clerk

REGULAR SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**
   A. Mayor Pro Tem Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and conducted roll call. All council members were present in person.

2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
   A. Page two of the agenda was corrected to include the Claim numbers and amounts. Hard copies were given to council. Motion to accept corrected agenda page made by Councilmember Wilbur, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, carried 7-0.
      i. Motion to approve agenda as amended made by Councilmember Speirs, seconded by Councilmember Olson, carried 7-0.

3. **INTERESTED CITIZENS: AUDIENCE REQUESTS AND COMMENTS**
   A. Lahnie Henderson, Medical Lake resident – asked for follow-up on fireworks discussion and update on the train depot property. Requested these items to be added to a future agenda.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS / PROCLAMATIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** – none.

5. **REPORTS**
   A. Public Safety
      i. FD3 Chief Rohrbach – September statistics are average for the city. DNR and County burn restrictions changed on October 16th, recreational burning and silvicultural debris burning is opened. Cautioned that it is still fire season and fuel is very dry. Exercise caution. Entering winter heating season, maintain devices, follow manufacturer's instructions etc. Education focus around EMS Levy.

   B. Committee Reports/Council Comments
      i. Councilmember Pritchard – no HCDAC meeting, but major changes were made to the $44 million in disaster money, trying to allocate more to private individuals. More information will hopefully be available soon.

ii. Councilmember Ray-Abbott – none
iii. Councilmember Speirs – attended American Transportation Association expo in Chicago. Primarily a trade show, new tech etc.
iv. Councilmember Wilbur – none
v. Councilmember Kennedy – Finance Committee reviewed claims and warrants and found no issues.
vi. Councilmember Olson – none
vii. Councilmember Harbolt – none

C. Mayor Cooper – Not present

D. City Administrator & City Staff
i. Sonny Weathers, City Administrator – Present on Zoom. Currently in Wenatchee at IACC conference with Mr. Cooper, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. Haggerty.

6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

A. SR 902 Speed Reduction – Mr. Weathers reviewed briefing sheet. Andrew Beagle with TIB was online via Zoom and available to answer questions. Council discussion.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda
i. Approve **October 6, 2026**, minutes.
1. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Pritchard, carried 7-0.
ii. Approve **October 20, 2026,** Claim Warrants numbered **54200** through **54247** in the amount of **$300,297.48** and Payroll Claim Warrants numbered **54192** through **54199** and Payroll Payable Warrants numbered **30407** through **30436** in the amount of **$198,314.59**.
1. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Speirs, seconded by Councilmember Ray-Abbott, carried 7-0.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2027 Revenue Sources and Property Tax Hearing
i. Mayor Pro Tem Kennedy opened the public hearing at 6:54pm.
ii. Mr. Ronholt reviewed process for hearing. Gave presentation on property taxes. See attached. Council discussion. Mr. Ronholt reviewed the briefing sheets regarding revenue sources, utility and administrative rates. Mr. Weathers added additional information on the findings from the utility rate study and proposed increases to utility rates. Gave options for proposed increases.
iii. Open for public comment.
1. Lahnie Henderson, Medical Lake resident – asked about process for increasing property taxes. Asked about making the Utility Rate Study available to the public. Mr. Ronholt explained the process for property tax increases and Mr. Weathers stated that the Utility Rate Study would be made available to the public.
iv. Mayor Pro Tem Kennedy closed the hearing at 7:43pm.
v. Motion to increase property tax by 1.75% made by Councilmember Pritchard, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, council discussion, carried 7-0. Mr. Ronholt noted that an Ordinance for the increase will be brought at the next meeting.
vi. Mr. Ronholt explained to Council that if they desire any changes to proposed rates, a motion and vote will need to be done. Discussion regarding increase in wastewater rates. Mr. Weathers gave options to do the full 27% increase at once or spread it out over two or three years. Motion to increase 15% the first year and 12% the following year made by Councilmember Wilbur, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, council discussion, motion

failed 1-6. Continued discussion. Motion to increase 12% the first year, 8% the second year, and 5% the third year, made by Councilmember Harbolt, seconded by Councilmember Olson, carried 7-0.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION –** None.

10. **RESOLUTIONS** – None.

11. **ORDINANCES**
    A. First Read of Ordinance 1155 SR 902 Speed Reduction
        i. Legal counsel read into record.
        ii. Motion to approve first read made by Councilmember Speirs, seconded by Councilmember Wilbur, carried 6-1 with Councilmember Kennedy voting nay.

12. **EMERGENCY ORDINANCES** – none

13. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**
    A. Fireworks discussion
    B. Update on train depot property

14. **INTERESTED CITIZENS -** none

15. **CONCLUSION**
    A. Motion to conclude at 8:01pm made by Councilmember Pritchard, seconded by Councilmember Speirs, carried 7-0.

Terri Cooper, Mayor

Koss Ronholt, Finance Director/City Clerk

11/3/26
Date



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Property Tax Process and Timeline

Oct 14th
- Retreat - Discussion

Oct 20th
- Public Hearing
- Council Intent

Nov 3rd
- Ordinance 1st Read

Nov 17th
- Ordinance 2nd Read

Nov 30th
- Filed with County

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Property Tax Comparison of Spokane County Municipalities

	City	County	State	School	Library	Fire	2025 Total
Medical Lake	1.1817	0.7295	2.2216	3.2116	0.3312	1.4807	$9.28
Deer Park	0.7771	0.7295	2.2216	1.5336	0.3312	2.0669	$7.65
Liberty Lake	0.8880	0.7295	2.2216	3.9165	-	2.4714	$10.22
Cheney	3.8873	0.7295	2.2216	3.9426	-	-	$10.77
Airway Heights	3.5407	0.7295	2.2216	3.9426	0.3312	-	$10.76
Spokane Valley	0.7865	0.7295	2.2216	3.9165	0.3312	2.4714	$10.45
Spokane	3.3365	0.7295	2.2116	3.8666			$10.14
Millwood	1.1929	0.7295	2.2116	3.4881	0.3312	2.4714	$10.42

Rates are per $1,000 of assessed property value.

COMMUNITY

- ✓ Law Enforcement
- ✓ Municipal Court
- ✓ Parks & Recreation
- ✓ Streets
- ✓ City Services

Spokane County
- ✓ Fire/EMS
- ✓ Library
- ✓ Regional Parks
- ✓ Streets
- ✓ County Services

Medical Lake School District
- ✓ Schools

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An Explanation of Property Taxes in Medical Lake, Washington

City | County | State | School District

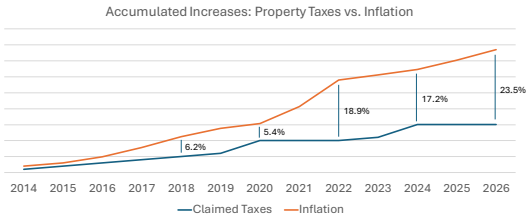


For every dollar of property tax collected in the City of Medical Lake, this is where the money goes.

Any City increases to property taxes only impact the City portion of taxes.

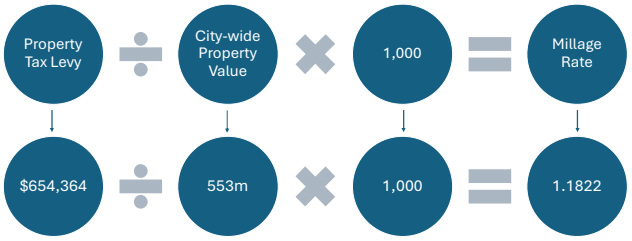
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Property Tax levy vs. Inflation



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Millage Rate Calculation 2026



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Property Tax Levy Options

- 2026 Millage Rate: 1.1817
- Banked capacity: $45,708 / 6.98% maximum increase
- $9.8m increase over 2026 City's Assessed value (decreases millage)

Example: Citizen with $400,000 value property

No increase		1% Increase		6.98% Increase	
Millage Rate	1.1614	Millage Rate	1.1731	Millage Rate	1.2426
Total Tax	$464.56	Total Tax	$469.24	Total Tax	$497.04
Tax Increase	$0.00	Tax Increase	$4.68	Tax Increase	$32.48
Total Levy	$654,364	Total Levy	$660,908	Total Levy	$700,072

Based on 9/18/2026 Spokane County estimations, subject to change

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Council Intent

- To draft property tax ordinance, staff requires **a motion to direct staff** for the 2026 property tax levy amount.
- Must be between 0% and a maximum levy of 6.98%



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