

# Metro

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**Metro**

## Minutes

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**10:30 AM**

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber;  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free),

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Deputy President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**Present:** 4 - Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Councilor Christine Lewis

**Excused:** 3 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Mary Nolan, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

**2. Public Communication**

None.

**3. Consent Agenda**

3.1 **Resolution No. 26-5565 For the Purpose of Appointing 4 Members and Reappointing 4 Members to the Metro Affordable Housing Bond Measure Program Community Oversight Committee**

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5565](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

3.2 **Resolution No. 26-5549 For the Purpose of Adding or Amending Five Projects to the 2024-27 MTIP to Meet Federal Project Delivery Requirements**

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5549](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Exhibit B](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

3.3 **Resolution No. 25-5552 For The Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Grant an Easement to Washington County at Wachline Property Natural Area**

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5552](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Exhibit B](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

**3.4 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026**

Attachments: [January 8, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**3.5 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2026**

Attachments: [January 15, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Resolutions**

**4.1 Resolution No. 26-5551 For the Purpose of Authorizing an Exemption from Competitive Bidding and Procurement of Construction Manager/General Contractor Services by Competitive Bid Request for the Blue Lake Regional Park Renovation Project**

Presenter(s): Deanna Podbielan, Procurement Analyst, Finance and Regulatory Services  
Olena Turula, Principal Regional Planner, Parks and Nature  
Brent Shelby, Senior Capital Project Manager, Capital Asset Management

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5551](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Staff report](#)

Deputy President Hwang recessed the Metro Council meeting and convened a meeting of the Metro Contract Review Board to consider the resolution. Councilor Nolan joined the meeting.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if the Construction Manager/General Contractor would be subject to existing policies to support equity in contracting; staff confirmed that they would. Deputy President Hwang asked if the

resolution would help Metro work with contractors who specialize in specific project types. Staff noted that in-water experience will be beneficial.

Deputy President Hwang reconvened the Metro Council meeting after consideration.

**A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, and Councilor Lewis

**Excused:** 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Simpson

## 5. **Ordinances (First Reading and Public Hearing)**

### 5.1 **Ordinance No. 26-1540 For the Purpose of Amendment Metro Code Chapter 7.05 (Income Tax Administration) Regarding the Personal Income Interest Rate Adjustment Process, Making Conforming Amendments to Metro Code Chapter 7.06 (Personal Income Tax), and Declaring and Emergency.**

Presenter(s): Justin Laubscher, Tax Compliance Program Manager

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 25-1540](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

[Exhibit C](#)

[Staff Report](#)

Justin Laubscher, Tax Compliance Program Manager, detailed technical changes to the tax code as proposed in the ordinance. Josh Harwood, Fiscal and Tax Policy Director, joined the Council discussion. Councilor Simpson joined the meeting.

Councilor Nolan clarified with staff the effective date of the ordinance and how it would affect taxpayers.

Councilor Lewis supported simplifying the tax code. She asked if changes would be easy to implement in tax filing software and wondered how depreciation could affect revenue over the next several years. Staff emphasized a strong relationship between Metro and its tax collector, the City of Portland, and noted that depreciation impacts could vary based on specific claims.

Councilors Lewis and Hwang both inquired about the state legislative session, including how quickly Metro could take action to respond to changes and whether changes could be quickly implemented. Staff said it would track the administration impacts of any policies passed during the legislative session and that many policy discussions have limited impact on Metro's tax program.

#### **6. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Prior to Chief Operating Officer and Councilor Communications, Deputy President Hwang recognized Councilor Simpson, who shared remarks about Black History Month. No other updates were provided.

#### **7. Councilor Communication**

No additional updates.

#### **8. Adjourn to executive session**

With no further business, Deputy President Hwang adjourned the Council meeting at 11:06 a.m.



Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor  
January 29, 2026

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