



**CITY OF RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

Special Meeting - 4:00 PM

I. STUDY SESSION - 4:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor Matt Cole
Mayor Pro Tem Judy Chipman
Council Member Lee Wells
Council Member Clyde Burkle
Council Member Katie Favela
Council Member Rian Davis
Council Member Meghan Hamilton

1. SHB 1406 - Rental Assistance Program - Kirk Johnson, Finance Director, Claire Lust, Community Development Director

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature adopted SHB 1406, providing funding for affordable housing through a dedicated sales and use tax credit. Ridgefield City Council approved collection under SHB 1406 in 2020, with the City receiving up to approximately \$24,500 annually; the fund balance totaled \$138,481 as of year-end 2025. In May 2025, as the balance reached a level suitable for program use, Council directed staff to explore rental assistance. Staff consulted with the Vancouver Housing Authority, Share House, and other Washington municipalities, and coordinated with Family Resource Center and Compassion 360 to refine program parameters and define partner roles in connecting residents to assistance. The proposed program was presented to City Council, and staff received feedback.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) and (1)(i): Evaluation of Complaints Against a Public Employee and Potential Litigation.

5:12PM - The City Council entered into executive session pursuant to RWC 42.30.110(1)(f) and (1)(i). The session was scheduled to last until 5:45PM. No action would be taken after the session.

Attendees: Mayor, City Council, City Manager Steve Stuart, City Attorney Janean Parker, Deputy City Manager Lee Knottnerus.

5:44PM – The Mayor announced that the executive session would be extended until 6:00PM.

6:00PM – The Mayor announced a further extension of the executive session until 6:15PM.

6:15PM – The Mayor announced that the executive session would continue until 6:30PM.

6:30PM – The Mayor announced that the executive session would continue until 6:40PM.

6:40PM – The Mayor reconvened the regular meetings and adjourned.

III. ADJOURN

6:40PM

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Ferriss". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Julie Ferriss, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cole". The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized initial "M".

Matt Cole, Mayor