



Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, August 10, 2026

Call to Order

Commission President Jasmine Vasavada called a regular meeting of the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 10, 2026, at Tenino City Hall in their Council Chambers, 149 Hodgden Street South, Tenino, WA 98589.

Present

Commissioners: Jasmine Vasavada – President, Joel Hansen – Secretary, and Krag Unsoeld.

Attended Virtually: Commissioner Sarah Montano – Vice President, and Commissioner Jerry Toompas.

Staff: Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Megan Lin, General Counsel; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations/Acting Airport Senior Manager; Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs; Spencer Battersby, IT Manager; and Tina Champion, Executive Coordinator.

Guest: Tenino Mayor David Watterson and Nancy Reddick, City of Tenino Clerk Treasurer.

Executive Director Report

Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, provided the Executive Director Report on recent Port activities. He announced that the Port held their last outdoor concert of the summer, Summer Nights at the Port, featuring a 90's cover band, *90's Remix*; with opening remarks provided by Commission President Vasavada. The South Sound Block Party, a two-day ticketed event, will be held August 29 and 30 at NorthPoint. The Olympia Downtown Alliance hosted Music in the Park at the Port Plaza last week; thanks to Commissioner Montano for providing opening remarks. The Port hosted a series of Marine Terminal tours this summer; the fourth tour was held last week.

It was also shared that an application process is currently open for folks to request artifacts from the recently delisted Sand Man, a historic tug. The City of Olympia Heritage Commission approved the delisting of the Sand Man historic tug and endorsed the Port's plan to carefully dismantle and preserve it in partnership with the Historic Maritime Foundation. Unfortunately, it was in condition beyond repair, and past preservation of it in its full form or attempting to get it back in the water is not an option. For organizations or individuals that are interested, they can apply by August 15 to obtain any of the artifacts that have been carefully removed from the Sand Man and have them for display. Applications will be reviewed, and decisions will be made on how artifacts are distributed.

This Friday the Port is excited to participate in the 2026 Festival of the Sṭə́čas, celebrating the cultural and ecological restoration of the Deschutes Estuary. It was reported that the Port's Environmental Planning and Program Director, Shawn Gilbertson, has taken a position with the City of Shelton; we wish him the best in his new adventure, he will be missed.

Public Comment

Two individuals provided public comments regarding the CRG lease option.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment

Input to public comment was provided.

Partner Spotlight

City of Tenino. Tenino Mayor David Watterson provided an update on the happenings in Tenino. He provided an update on the Tenino Agriculture Innovation Park and the activities and offerings in their North and South buildings.

It was shared that the City of Tenino is preparing to start work to welcome a meat processing facility to their community with land clearing to occur first. This is the largest investment that has been made in Tenino and aims to break ground by the end of next year. The goal is for approximately 15 head of cattle to be processed daily. Wastewater treatment from the meat processing facility and how that is going to work, and use of water with limited water rights is now under discussion by the City of Tenino.

The Port's Small City Grant, awarded to the City of Tenino, was used to complete construction of a pickleball/basketball court which was an amenity their community has wanted and is currently using. Other equipment and supplies were also purchased for use at community events. Future planning for their city includes closing off one of their main streets to use as seating during Oregon Trail Days to accommodate the large car show featured at this event. The Oregon Trail Days event just occurred with the City of Tenino hosting a three-on-three basketball tournament, a car show, and vendors. The event was well-attended.

The Port was thanked for their Small City Grant, which allows small projects to happen, projects that don't usually offer grants.

It was also communicated that the City of Tenino owns a pool, which has been and is currently supported by other organizations, enabling the City of Tenino to open and operate the pool. They are working on issues with their baseball fields; and they received another grant which will allow them to address current water issues in the baseball fields to improve drainage.

A new daycare is opening, businesses are running, buildings are full and have clients, and Mayor Watterson is proud of what they have accomplished and is excited for the future. He thanked their Chamber which helps make their community thrive.

Mayor Watterson reported that they receive several million dollars in grants each year. They recently completed a paving project funded from a grant. Mayor Watterson thanked all of their many partners, who allow them to move ahead with these projects.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Unsoeld seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Commissioner Unsoeld seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Calendar

None.

Action/Other Calendar

None.

Advisory Calendar

Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC) Nominations. Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs, explained what the POCAC is and what purpose it serves at the Port of Olympia. He shared updated POCAC Resolution changes, described the POCAC application process currently in process, and shared information on the applications that have been received to date.

The Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee is comprised of community volunteers who provide input to the Port Commission on tasks assigned by the Port of Olympia Commission. The POCAC offers feedback that reflects a community perspective on Port operations and projects and they understand community sentiment related to Port affairs and the areas for which improved communication and transparency may be needed.

The new recently-approved POCAC Resolution states that the POCAC will not have more than 15 members, with the goal of having three members per district. Commissioners can appoint members from Thurston County at-large, and existing POCAC members can request to be reappointed.

Currently six current POCAC members are requesting reappointment. Six new applications have been received to date.

Staff will bring recommendations to the September 14th Commission Meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Hansen moved to appoint Ed Humble and Rose Gunderson of the newly applied folks, and reappoint Deb Patton as his at-large POCAC appointee. President Vasavada asked for a no vote on this motion just temporarily delaying it so the group can discuss procedures for this process.

Mike Reid reminded the Commission that an Advisory item cannot have a motion made.

Discussion followed. Commission gave direction to Port staff to keep applications open to allow for more diversity from districts.

Grant Assistance Contract. Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs, presented information on grant assistance needs and objectives, the requests for proposals, a selected

company and next steps. Shawn explained that the Port is looking for assistance with grant writing and administration and to have that occur in a way that considers long-term funding strategies and opportunities particularly for capital improvements. RFPs were distributed nationwide with 15 responses. A team of four Port staff evaluated the RFPs and chose the winning proposal based on qualifications, experience, references, and cost of proposal.

The Beckett Group was selected. They are a Washington company, operated by Bruce and Jeannie Beckett, who have decades of Port experience in leadership and as a state lobbyist representing many ports in Washington state. They have helped ports secure millions of dollars in funding.

The next step is to bring this topic to the Commission for action at their September 14, 2026, Commission meeting.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Hansen attended the Washington Economic Development Association conference in the Tri-Cities last week.

Commissioner Montano attended the Lacey Chamber of Commerce meeting. She also invited folks to attend an event hosted by Experience Olympia and Beyond this Friday, called *Fox 13 Zip Trip*. Fox 13 is bringing their popular television segment to Olympia from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. August 14, at Percival Landing Park.

Commissioner Unsoeld attended an Olympia Food Bank fundraising dinner, and he attended a Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Toompas thanked Mayor Watterson and the City of Tenino for allowing the Port to conduct their meeting in the Tenino Council chambers and appreciates the positive relationship the Port and the City of Tenino enjoy.

Commissioner Vasavada shared that she met with Alan Hartcastle, who serves on the Board of the South Sound YMCA, and Sarah Clinton, the South Sound YMCA's Director for Advancement. They discussed the South Sound YMCA's plans to expand into Lacey and possibly include a swimming pool as well as tournament-hosting-type facilities in that planning. They are also working to connect with local individuals regarding the recent regional pool conversations.

Commissioner Vasavada also met with Dan Stahl, who will be facilitating the upcoming Commission Retreat held later that week. Work to refine and discuss the 5-year plan will be done to ensure a common long-term vision.

Additional Public Comment

None.

Other Business

None.

Meeting Announcements

A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see upcoming Commission and POCAC meetings. The next Commission meeting will be held in Rochester at the Rochester School District, on Monday, September 14, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, August 10, 2026, regular meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Joel Hansen, Secretary