



City of Chelan

**City Council Meeting
June 30, 2026**

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mayor:

Erin McCardle

Councilmembers:

Agustin Benegas

Brad Chitty

Shane Collins

Jon Higgins

Tim Hollingsworth (arrived at
5:24 p.m.)

Cesar Rivera-Vargas

Administrative Personnel:

City Administrator Laura McAloon

City Attorney Quentin Batjer

City Clerk Peri Gallucci

Deputy City Clerk Cailey Couch

Community Development Director John Ajax

Finance Director Heidi Evans

HR/Communication Director Chad Coltman

Parks & Recreation Director Audrey Cooper

Public Works Director Jake Youngren

Absent/To Be Excused

Terry Sanders

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m.

2. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

3. STRATEGIC RETREAT WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

City Administrator McAloon facilitated a discussion with Councilmembers and City staff regarding the City's strategic priorities and future direction. The discussion was intended to inform prioritization efforts during preparation of the FY2027 Budget. McAloon presented an overview of the City Council's policymaking role, distinguishing the Council's legislative responsibilities from the administrative duties of the Mayor and City staff. The presentation reviewed key policy tools available to Councilmembers, including the Comprehensive Plan, City Code, and annual budget, and explained how these tools are used to establish and implement priorities.

Mayor McCardle provided an overview of the 2026 City's strategic planning framework,

highlighting the relationship between community visioning, guiding principles, strategic initiatives, performance measures, and long-term decision-making. Councilmembers discussed potential gaps in existing initiatives and identified additional areas of focus for future consideration.

Representatives from Capitol Path Consulting, Kyla Blair and Daniel Pailthrop, presented a legislative update on the Washington State budget and funding issues, local government revenue authority, and anticipated priorities and challenges for the 2027 legislative session. The presentation also outlined examples of legislative agendas utilized by other jurisdictions and reviewed a process and timeline for developing the City's legislative priorities.

Councilmembers participated in a tabletop exercise focused on capital project prioritization, examining funding trade-offs, project ranking methodologies, and decision-making strategies for allocating limited resources among competing community needs. Discussions included Parks and Recreation capital projects, collaborative decision-making approaches, and future community outcomes. Councilmembers also identified factors that would assist them in making more informed policy and funding decisions.

City Administrator McAloon acknowledged Mayor McCardle and the Chelan County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in planning and facilitating the City's Director Retreat in Stehekin. She explained the key organizational strategies for 2027 include collaboration, process audits, and consolidation. Discussion also highlighted Parks and Recreation projects as among the City's highest capital project priorities.

The retreat concluded with a closing reflection exercise in which Councilmembers were asked to envision what headline they would like to see published about Chelan one year from now, reinforcing the community outcomes and strategic goals discussed throughout the retreat.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	Motion to Adjourn.
MOVER:	Councilmember Tim Hollingsworth
SECONDER:	Councilmember Jon Higgins
AYES:	Mayor Erin McCardle, Councilmember Agustin Bengas, Councilmember Brad Chitty, Councilmember Jon Higgins,

	Councilmember Cesar Rivera-Vargas, Councilmember Tim Hollingsworth, Councilmember Shane Collins
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06
P.M.

Date
Approved:

Cailey Couch
Deputy City Clerk

Erin McCardle
Mayor