

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
City of Spokane Salary Review Commission
City Hall, Council Chambers
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd.
July 31, 2026

Call to Order: 3:01 p.m.

Meeting Recording: <https://vimeo.com/1214728569>

Attendance:

Commission members present: Commissioners Reed Jessen, Jens Larson, Beau Madsen, and Lee Taylor. Commissioner Dycelia Weiss attended via Webex.

Commission members absent: None.

Staff members present: Chris Wright (Policy Advisor, City Council), Adam McDaniel (Policy Advisor) and Virginia Ramos (Legislative Assistant II).

Guests: Councilmember Kate Telis.

Agenda Items:

1. Review and approve July 31, 2026, agenda:
 - Commissioner Taylor made a motion to add discussion of invitation of County Commissioner Amber Waldref after discussion of minutes, which was seconded by Commission Jessen. The motion carried 5-0.
 - Motion by Commissioner Madsen and seconded by Commissioner Larson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried 5-0.
2. Approve minutes of June 26, 2026 and July 31 meetings:
 - June 26, 2026 and July 17, 2026 minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Discussion ensued of inviting County Commissioner Amber Waldref. It was agreed the city staff would locate the recording of Commissioner Waldref's 2024 testimony and circulate it to Commissioners.
4. Councilmember Kate Telis presented her views to the Commission and responded to questions from the Commissioners.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Extensive discussion ensued regarding framework for decision. The following motions occurred during discussion:

- A motion was made by Commissioner Larson and seconded by Commissioner Madsen that the Commission agree the draft proposal to the public would (1) maintain the Mayor's current salary on January 1, 2027 and (2) the salary effective January 1, 2028 will include a cost-of-living increase of 3.5 percent from the 2027 salary, increasing to \$192,941.22. The motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Jessen voting "no").
 - Motion made by Commissioner Madsen and seconded by Commissioner Larson to maintain the current formula of having the Council President salary be set at 30% above the established salary for councilmembers for the years 2027 and 2028. The motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Weiss voting "no").
7. Consensus reached to hold the required public hearing on Friday, August 14 at 3:00 p.m.
8. Consensus reached to hold a special meeting of the Commission on Monday, August 10, and to have Commissioners Madsen and Taylor prepare a draft proposal for public dissemination prior to the August 14 hearing, and to have that draft provided to the Commission prior its August 10 special meeting.
9. Continued discussion ensued on councilmember salaries. Following discussion:
- A motion was made by Commissioner Larson and seconded by Commissioner Madsen that the Commission agree the draft proposal to the public would increase the councilmember salaries to \$73,423 on January 1, 2027 and would include a cost-of-living increase of 3.5 percent effective on January 1, 2028. Motion carried 3-2 (Commissioners Jessen and Weiss voting "no").
10. Mr. Wright requested that commissioners confirm they are receiving materials via their city email addresses. Commissioner Jessen confirmed he was not using city email and that materials should be sent to his personal email address.
11. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Weiss and seconded by Commissioner Larson. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:24 p.m. Next meeting is the special meeting on August 10 at 3:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Council Policy Advisor Chris Wright.



Chris Wright
Policy Advisor, City Council