

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

January 26, 2026

The East Bethel City Council met on January 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the regular City Council Work meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ardie Anderson Suzanne Erkel Tim Miller Jim Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Look, City Administrator
 Carrie Frost, Deputy City Clerk

1.0 – Elections Planning for 2026 and Beyond

Frost stated that 2026 is another election year; this year, they will have the Primary Election on August 11, 2026, and the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Frost noted that they increased the election budget so that they could increase the pay rate for their election judges.

Frost noted that since they have an increase in housing, their residents/voters will also increase. Right now, they have 3 precincts, all of which are well over the average. Frost stated that they would like to hear from the Council on what they think about creating a possible 4th precinct in East Bethel that would be in place for the 2028 election.

Frost noted that they have a limited number of resources for the buildings in the City that can be used as a polling place, but stated that the Living Hope Church has indicated that they would be interested in serving as the 4th polling place.

Frost noted that the census will occur in 2030 with the redistricting happening in 2031, and asked if the Council would like her to move ahead and see about a 4th precinct or to wait until after the census.

Smith stated that he thinks it is a good idea to plan ahead and thinks that the church idea would also work well.

Erkel stated that she thinks it is best to get a head start in case there are delays.

Frost noted that adding a 4th precinct would also cause an increase in the election budget.

Erkel asked what the estimated budget increase was for this year, with the increase in the election judge pay rate. Frost noted that it increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Miller asked if adding a 4th precinct would be too much of an overkill. Frost stated that they cannot put anything in motion yet until after the elections that are this year.

Erkel asked how they would handle letting people know about the potential addition of a precinct. Frost noted that she would want to get a recommendation from the elections director and not interfere with this year's elections.

2.0 – Facility Needs Study: Stakeholder Engagement Discussion with ICS/Wold

Representatives from ICS/Wold presented an update on what they have done so far with the Facility Needs Study. She noted that today they will be looking for the Council's desire for next steps.

They presented information regarding their planning process, core planning groups, next steps for developing options and solutions, creating guiding principles, including: plan for long-term

community growth, operational efficiencies, addressing occupational health risks, optimizing staff work flows, and many other things.

They discussed the facility assessment, and why capital planning is important, the space needs analysis,

They reviewed the condition assessments from going through City Hall, Community Center, Fire Station 1, 2, and 3, and Public Works, and discussed the ages of the equipment and infrastructure.

They discussed the input they received from the employee survey from City Hall and Public Works, and noted that they had a slightly different survey for the Fire Department, and outlined what questions were asked. They noted that after the survey, they then met with each department and did a functional assessment, and they presented their findings to the Council.

They noted that they took every building and looked at its long-term growth for the City.

Erkel asked how the warm vehicle storage would decrease in 2040 in their presentation. They noted they will take a look at that and see if there was a typo.

They discussed the existing utilization of City Hall and Public Works and noted the building support spaces.

They noted that this was an update of where they have been and what they have seen, and their next steps will be understanding solutions/looking at options, and looking at costs. They noted they will bring that information back to get feedback from the Council.

Erkel asked if they could send her a copy of the full presentation.

Anderson asked if they looked at the possibility of tuckpointing and seal coating. They noted that they did capture that.

Anderson asked what their next phase will be. They noted that they will send the Council the full packet, and next, they will move forward and develop options/solutions.

Smith asked if they could provide a needs vs. wants list.

Miller noted that he thinks they should sit down with Ayshford and the City's Public Works department to look this over as well.

3.0 – Adjourn

Work Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.