



## City Council Meeting Minutes

Vancouver City Hall | Council Chambers | 415 W. 6th St.  
PO Box 1995 | Vancouver, WA 98668-1995  
[cityofvancouver.us](http://cityofvancouver.us)

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor • Bart Hansen • Ty Stober • Erik Paulsen • Sarah J. Fox • Diana H. Perez • Kim D. Harless

### March 23, 2026

#### Executive Session Re: Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) (5:00 - 5:30 PM)

*Mayor McEnerny-Ogle announced the Council would be entering into executive session from 5:00-5:30 p.m. to discuss Potential Litigation.*

***Councilmember Hansen joined the Executive Session remotely.  
Councilmember Stober was absent from the Executive Session.***

#### Council Regular Meeting

5:30 PM

Vancouver City Hall - Aspen Room - 415 W 6th Street, Vancouver WA

*This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with in person and remote viewing and participation over video conference utilizing a GoToMeeting platform. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting in person, via the live broadcast on [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/VancouverUS](http://www.facebook.com/VancouverUS). Public access and testimony on Consent Agenda items and under the Community Forum were also facilitated in person and via the GoToMeeting conference call.*

*Vancouver City Council meeting minutes are a record of the action taken by Council. To view the CVTV video recording, including presentations, testimony and discussion, for this meeting please visit: <https://www.cvtv.org/video/vancouver-city-council-03-23-26-2026031033/>*

*Electronic audio recording of City Council meetings are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.*

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

*The regular meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor McEnerny-Ogle. This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting, including both in person and remotely over video conference.*

**Present:** Councilmember Harless, Councilmember Perez, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Paulsen, Councilmember Hansen, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

**Absent:** Councilmember Stober

**Motion by Councilmember Perez, seconded by Councilmember Harless, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to excuse Councilmember Stober from the meeting. Absent from vote: Councilmember Stober.**

## **Public Hearings**

The following item(s) are scheduled for public hearing. Members of the public addressing Council are requested to give their name and city of residence for the audio record. Unless otherwise announced by the Presiding Officer, speakers are to limit their testimony to three minutes for each public hearing.

### **1. Amendment to Downtown Redevelopment Authority Bylaws**

**AN ORDINANCE** of the City of Vancouver relating to changes to the Bylaws of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (“DRA”); adopting an amendment to Section 2.09 of the Bylaws clarifying the employment status of the Executive Director.

#### **Staff Report: 038-26**

Request: On Monday, March 23, 2026, upon second reading and a public hearing, finalize and approve the ordinance.

Jeffrey Towery, Deputy City Manager, [Jeff.Towery@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Jeff.Towery@cityofvancouver.us)

*Jeffrey Towery, Deputy City Manager, provided an overview of the Amendment to Downtown Redevelopment Authority Bylaws.*

*Council discussed the item briefly with staff.*

*Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened the public hearing and did not receive testimony from community members.*

*There being no testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed the public hearing.*

**Motion by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Perez, and Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstaining: 0, to approve Ordinance M-4529. Absent from vote: Councilmember Stober.**

**Council Dinner (6:00 - 6:30 PM)**

## Community Forum

This is the place on the agenda where the public is invited to engage directly with City Councilmembers in small-group conversations. This forum will have the "Vancouver for All" topic of discussion. Community members are welcome to talk about other issues, but all participants will be invited to share their experiences and ideas related to the main topic. Up to 90 minutes will be allotted for the Community Forum.

***During the Community Forum, the following action was taken. Discussion with community members on any topic(s) related to City business.***

## Adjournment

**8:30 p.m.**

DocuSigned by:

*Anne McEnerney-Ogle*

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Anne McEnerney-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

Signed by:

*Lisa Brandl*

02BF78E9C0DB4DB  
Lisa Brandl, City Clerk

The written comments below are those of the submitter alone and are not representative of the views of CVTV or the City of Vancouver, its elected or appointed officials, or its employees.

**From:** [Dollar, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Dollar, Sarah](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Council Meeting March 23, 2026 Written Comment - Oppose the Proposed DRA Governance Change  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 4:42:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2026-03-18 at 10.58.05 AM.png](#)

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## 3-23 Testimony

**Sarah Dollar** | Executive Assistant to the City Council

*Pronouns: She/Her/Hers*

CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

City Manager's Office (CMO)

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**From:** PETER BRACCHI <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:01 AM

**To:** City Council <council@cityofvancouver.us>

**Subject:** Council Meeting March 23, 2026 Written Comment - Oppose the Proposed DRA Governance Change

**Subject: Oppose the Proposed DRA Governance Change**

Mayor McEnery-Ogle and Members of the Vancouver City Council,

I urge you to **vote no** on the proposed amendment changing control of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority Executive Director position.

The central problem is this: the City's staff report relies heavily on financial support, future projects, and the City's oversight authority. Those are important issues. **But they do not justify rewriting the DRA's governance structure in the middle of a public controversy and in the shadow of pending litigation.** If long-term governance changes are truly needed, they should be addressed through a **full public review** of the DRA charter, bylaws, interlocal agreements, and overall oversight structure — *not through a narrow amendment focused on one position.*

That is why this proposal is so troubling. It is being presented as a clarification, but in reality it shifts power away from the DRA Board and toward the City Manager. That is a significant governance change, not a housekeeping fix.

If the City believes the DRA structure needs modernization, then the honest and transparent approach is to conduct a broader public review and bring forward a complete governance proposal. That would allow the public and Council to examine the full relationship between the City and the DRA, rather than making a targeted change tied to a current dispute.

This matters because governance changes made during controversy naturally raise questions about motive, fairness, and precedent. A public body's structure should not be rewritten in response to one conflict, one person, or one moment of pressure. If the City is confident that reform is necessary, then it should be willing to do that work in the open and in full.

Please reject this ordinance, or at minimum postpone action until a broader and more transparent review can be completed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Bracchi  
Vancouver, Washington

**Key shift** The records show a move from a DRA board-led role toward a role controlled by the City Manager and tied directly to City employment.

Issue	Original / Historical Setup	City's Proposed Change
<b>Who the role answers to</b>	Executive Director serves as the chief administrative staff person to the Board and operates subject to Board supervision.	Executive Director would still handle day-to-day operations, but appointment and removal authority shift to the Vancouver City Manager.
<b>Who chooses the Executive Director</b>	DRA Board appointed Natasha Ramras in 2020 as an individual Board action.	City Manager would appoint the Executive Director after receiving input from the Board.
<b>Must the role be a City employee?</b>	Historically, no. DRA materials say the Authority never actually used the charter option of contracting with the City's Economic Development Director, and it also used a consultant model.	Yes. The draft ordinance says the Executive Director must be a City employee.
<b>Who can remove the Executive Director</b>	Bylaws language quoted in the DRA materials says the Executive Director may be removed, with or without cause, by the Board.	Draft ordinance changes removal power to the Vancouver City Manager.
<b>What Jan. 15, 2026 meant for Ramras</b>	City records said her separation from City employment did not automatically terminate the DRA role because that appointment was separate from her City job.	City's proposed change appears designed to prevent that situation in the future by tying the role directly to City employment and City Manager control.
<b>Practical effect</b>	Board-controlled role with room for an employee or contractor model.	City-controlled role with the Board reduced to input rather than final control.

**Bottom line:** Bottom line: the proposed change moves the Executive Director role from a board-controlled position to a City Manager-controlled City employee position.

Sources: City records produced in G000062 Responsive Records Installment 1 (draft ordinance, Feb. 13 memo, DRA Feb. 19 materials).