



SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL

Thursday, October 2, 2025 – Council Chambers – Afternoon Session

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jackson called the regular session of the Town Council to order at 12:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers: Steve Hushebeck (Position No. 1), Richard Geffen (Position No. 2), Anna Maria de Freitas (Position No. 3), Mason Turnage (Position No. 4), and Barbara Starr (Position No. 5; absent).

Mayor Raymont Jackson, Town Administrator Denice Kulseth, Town Clerk Jennifer Krembs, Public Works Director Mike Liptack, Community Development Director Ryan Ericson, and Finance Director Bethany Berry.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Jackson conducted the flag salute.

12:01 P.M. SET AGENDA

Agenda was set.

12:01 P.M. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council requested that all cell phones to be silenced during Council meetings.

12:03 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Ulvi, county resident, announced October 22, 2025, meetings at Brickworks regarding the library redesign project.

Amanda Lynn, town resident, commented on the proposed Griffin Place development.

12:10 P.M. CONSENT AGENDA

Fire Chief Monin and Battalion Chief Hartzel presented Streets and Parks Supervisor Justin Nibler with a recognition for extinguishing a fire at Friday Harbor Suites.

12:12 P.M. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Geffen, seconded by Councilmember Turnage to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion passed 4-0, with Councilmember Starr absent.

Approved:

Minutes Approval of the Summary of the Minutes dated September 18, 2025

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

12:13 P.M. Economic Development Council Update

Economic Development Council (EDC) Executive Director Victoria Compton and EDC staff Liam Griskey-Watson and Lara Braithwaite presented EDC programs and the Initiative Report from September 2024 through June 2025. The Council advocated for hospitality sector training and recognized Canadian cross border initiatives.

12:32 P.M. Budget Overview and Timelines

46 Finance Director Bethany Berry presented the budget timeline for the 2025 budget amendment and 2026 budget.
47 The utility rate study and CPIU will be available when determining utility rates. A flyer will be included in utility bills
48 to inform customers of utility rates for 2026.

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50 **12:35 P.M. Comprehensive Plan Update/Workshop**

51 Community Development Director Ryan Ericson shared the comprehensive plan process with adoption expected at
52 the beginning of 2026; this will include potentially expanding the Urban Growth Area (UGA) to accommodate
53 income bands housing. San Juan County's policy is for 50% of all new growth to happen within the UGA. Population
54 numbers, allocation numbers within UGAs, and allocated jobs are set by the County and based on the Growth
55 Management Act. Ericson shared several town maps showing current town status, and a proposed map showing
56 potential rezoning areas for increased housing density to comply with the state density model. The state density
57 model and recommendations were explained. Councilmember de Freitas asked if the proposed development
58 agreement for Griffin Place was based on the state recommendations to meet density. Ericson explained the bonus
59 density for Griffin Place follows proposed comprehensive plan changes and proposed development regulations to
60 meet the model and state recommendations. Development of multi-story structures to meet state allocation
61 targets was introduced. Discussion was held on economic capacity verses planning requirements. Estimated
62 capacity by development status and provisions, recommendations for estimates for mixed-use residential units,
63 and an explanation for income level development were provided. Utility capacity was addressed. Ericson will
64 continue the workshop at a future Council meeting.

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66 **1:10 P.M. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

67 Town Administrator Denice Kulseth reported on the following:

- 68 ○ For 2026, Town liability and property insurance will increase by approximately 6.4%, Labor and Industries
69 is increasing approximately 4.9%, and health insurance is going up almost 10%.
- 70 ○ On October 8, 2025, the Town will attend Friday Harbor High School's Futures Fair to inform youth of local
71 government job opportunities.
- 72 ○ Kulseth requested an amount of matching funds for the Harbor Life Ring November food bank fundraiser.
73 Council agreed to again offer up to \$7,500.
- 74 ○ The “Be Seen” safety campaign has been a huge success and will happen yearly. A defensive driving
75 campaign will follow; the Town wants everyone to be safe.
- 76 ○ The annual Department of Health survey at the Water Plant was completed.
- 77 ○ Kulseth spoke at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week providing utility and Town updates.
- 78 ○ The Council Chambers entrance railing installation is in process.

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80 **1:19 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT**

81 No public comment was forthcoming.

82
83 **1:20 P.M. FUTURE AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

84 Ericson commented on public comment made by Amanda Lynn. Ericson scheduled a meeting at 5 p.m. this
85 evening to meet with the public regarding the proposed Griffin Place development agreement.

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87 **1:23 P.M. ADJOURNMENT**

88 Hearing no further business and no objection, Mayor Jackson adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting is
89 scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 12:00 P.M.

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92 These minutes were approved by motion of the Town Council. The original document is retained by the Clerk in
93 the Town Council's permanent records. Attest: Jennifer Krems, Town of Friday Harbor Clerk