

January 20, 2026

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Council-Manager Form of Government

Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – None scheduled

A) DISTRICT 6 OATH OF OFFICE - 5:00 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING
6:00 PM**

B) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Emily Francis called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 300 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado, with hybrid participation available via the City's Zoom platform.

C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Emily Francis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

D) ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Emily Francis
Councilmember Chris Conway
Councilmember Josh Fudge
Councilmember Melanie Potyondy
Councilmember Amy Hoeven
Councilmember Anne Nelsen

ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Julie Pignataro

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Kelly DiMartino
City Attorney Carrie Daggett
City Clerk Delynn Coldiron

E) CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA REVIEW

City Manager Kelly DiMartino provided an overview of the agenda, including:

- No changes to the published agenda.
- Items 1-10 on the Consent Calendar are recommended for adoption.
- One Discussion Agenda item.
- Work Session immediately following adjournment.

F) COMMUNITY REPORTS – None.**G) PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPICS OR ITEMS OR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Nicholas Guest expressed concern about policing efforts in the city and stated the taxpayer funded Police Services should offer its residents safe, human-forward policing, particularly as related to traffic safety, unsafe drivers, and policing rules that prevent chases. He commented on dangerous motorcycle drivers, speeding, illegal turns, and disregard for public safety and traffic rules. He requested changes be made.

Jonah Salehi, chair of the Fort Collins Democratic Socialists of America Elections Committee, spoke about affordability stating Fort Collins needs a minimum wage increase, particularly for tipped workers. He encouraged Council to allow collective bargaining for City employees.

Ryan Burns noted he is an AI professional and provided safety concerns about the Flock Safety cameras. He commented on the difficulties of using technology to track down criminals and related potential injustice. He stated Flock Safety has not agreed to audits and similar safety measures and expressed concern about machines that learn from false positives.

Sam Leuschen spoke about location restrictions related to marijuana businesses that are the result of current zoning and separation requirements, which have not been updated since 2012. He suggested marijuana dispensary regulation be the same as liquor establishment regulation.

Nicholas Sahwin congratulated the newly elected members of Council and noted he is an employee of the City who works for Connexion. He stated he has organized a union for the Connexion tech support team under PROPWA; however, the City Manager has yet to recognize and bargain with the union. He stated he has come before Council in good faith to request collective bargaining for all City employees be considered, most likely by referring the question to voters. Additionally, he encouraged an increase to the city's minimum wage for tipped and untipped workers.

Blake Simpson spoke in support of respectable wages and allowing employees to benefit from unions. He encouraged Council to raise the minimum wage to enable people to live and work in Fort Collins. He also requested Council refer an item to the ballot that would enable a union and collective bargaining for City employees.

Michael May advocated for a raise in the minimum wage and discussed how that change would positively impact the student population. He urged Council to help make the community livable for students.

Kaori Keyser congratulated the newly elected members of Council and stated that if trends continue, things will become increasingly unsustainable for the workforce in Fort Collins. She urged Council to support Fort Collins workers by increasing the minimum wage which would allow them to live where they work. She also supported a framework that would enable City workers to collectively bargain.

Kevin Caffrey, Northern Colorado Labor Council, urged Council to keep in mind that many of the recently elected members ran on addressing affordability and encouraged Council to look at raising the minimum wage. He shared information about the high cost of living and supported a framework that would enable City workers to collectively bargain.

Gabrielle Friesen urged Council to pass a resolution opposing unlawful and overreaching federal immigration enforcement actions and affirming due process protections, similar to the resolution recently adopted in Aurora. She stated she has neighbors who are increasingly fearful regardless of their immigration status based on recent events occurring across the nation. She requested that the escalation of violence that occurs with ICE be addressed by Council action.

Hillary Ping urged Council to establish a framework for municipal collective bargaining and to raise the minimum wage in Fort Collins. She provided information about the City employees who have organized under PROPWA and remain unrecognized by the City, and requested Council refer an item to the voters related to establishing a municipal collective bargaining framework. She also provided information about low-wage and tip-based employees who are being priced out of the city.

Laura Kohler requested Council increase the minimum wage and provided information about how the cost of living in Fort Collins has impacted her and others she knows. She also commented on the difficulty students have in affording housing.

Van Dougherty recognized the new Councilmembers and new appointee and stated he is excited about the new representation. He also urged Council to increase the minimum wage.

Adam Hirschhorn spoke on Building Performance Standards. He provided information about larger buildings and noted concerns about health and safety for occupants. He requested Council reconsider this item stating it would be an act of omission should it not.

Amber Wright stated ICE is a pertinent danger to communities across the United States and urged Council to pass a resolution opposing unlawful and overreaching federal immigration enforcement actions and affirming due process protections, similar to the resolution recently adopted in Aurora, and suggested further strengthening it by banning ICE agents from wearing masks as Denver is considering.

Alex Carlson spoke about Flock cameras and their vehicle tracking capabilities. He stated Flock is a data broker, not a public safety company and requested Council review associated policies and garner community input regarding whether the security trade-off is worth the privacy infringement.

Beth G congratulated the new members of Council and spoke in support of raising the minimum wage. Additionally, she requested Council refer an item to the ballot related to providing a framework for municipal collective bargaining.

Jonesy Winchell urged Council to pass a resolution opposing unlawful and overreaching federal immigration enforcement actions and affirming due process protections, similar to the resolution recently adopted in Aurora.

Shirley Peel congratulated the newly elected Council members. She provided a short list of issues that she heard while on the campaign trail, including undergrounding electric lines in District 4, properly managing Natural Areas particularly as related to grazing, making economic health a priority and ensuring the Economic Health Office has the resources it needs to be successful, looking at outdated technologies and processes, having a more holistic approach to passing ordinances and resolutions, particularly those that raise costs for residents, continuing work on cell service, and cleaning up the city's neglected green utility boxes.

Tyler Davidson spoke about the Flock cameras and stated they are a direct violation of the right to privacy written in the U.S. Constitution. He stated he believes the data collected is held indefinitely and commented on a case in Colorado where someone was falsely charged based solely on Flock data. He expressed concern about community members not being asked about the installation of the cameras and about how the camera information can be misused.

Greg Zoda congratulated the newly elected members of Council and stated each of them ran on the issues of affordability and the cost-of-living crisis. He stated there are high expectations for Council to deliver on those promises. He urged Council to support a higher minimum wage and a framework for municipal collective bargaining.

H) PUBLIC COMMENT FOLLOW-UP

Councilmember Potyondy thanked the speakers and expressed appreciation for feedback regarding where values lie and what types of Council priorities should be considered. She asked if there is an upcoming work session regarding the Flock cameras. City Manager DiMartino replied it will be February 24 and noted staff is keeping track of community questions.

I) COUNCILMEMBER REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

None.

J) CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the January 6, 2026 Regular meeting.

The purpose of this item is to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, Regular meeting.

Approved.

2. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 001, 2026, Staying the Operation of Ordinances Related to the International Building Codes.

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on January 6, 2026 stays the operation of Ordinance No. 201, 2025, Ordinance No. 211, 2025 (Building Code), Ordinance No. 212, 2025 (Energy Conservation Code), Ordinance No. 213, 2025 (Residential Code), Ordinance No. 214, 2025 (Existing Building Code), Ordinance No. 215, 2025 (Swimming Pool & Spa Code), Ordinance No. 216, 2025 (Property Maintenance Code), Ordinance No. 217, 2025 (Mechanical Code), Ordinance No. 218, 2025 (Fuel Gas Code), Ordinance No. 219, 2025 (Plumbing Code), and Ordinance No. 221, 2025 (National Electrical Code), until April 1, 2026 to clarify Council's intent that the previously adopted building codes remain in effect until that time.

Adopted on Second Reading.

3. First Reading of Ordinance No. 002, 2026, Appropriating Prior Years Reserves of Unanticipated Revenue Received Through City Give.

The purpose of this item is to request an appropriation of \$110,476.42 in philanthropic revenue received through City Give. These miscellaneous gifts to various City departments support a variety of programs and services and are aligned with both the City's strategic priorities and the respective donors' designation.

In 2019, City Give, a formalized enterprise-wide initiative was launched to create a transparent, non-partisan governance structure for the acceptance and appropriations of charitable gifts.

Adopted on First Reading.

4. Items Relating to the Fort Collins Police Services Unit.

A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 003, 2026, Making a Supplemental Appropriation of Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant Funds Received in the General Fund, for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 004, 2026, Making a Supplemental Appropriation of Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Grant Funds Under the Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Received in the General Fund, for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

The purpose of these items is to help fund the Victim Services Unit of Fort Collins Police Services for victim advocacy services which are required under the Colorado Victim Rights Amendment for victims of crime and their family members.

The Victim Services Unit has been awarded a \$70,000 VALE grant for the period from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. The VALE grant is awarded through the Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board to help fund services provided by the Victim Services team. This grant will fund 75% of the salary for a full-time contractual 40-hour per week victim advocate, mileage reimbursement for volunteer advocates, and a small training budget.

The Victim Services Unit has also been awarded a 12-month grant in the amount of \$22,024 for the period from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice under the Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA). This grant will help fund services provided by the Victim Services Unit. These funds will be used to pay 26% of the salary and benefits for the victim advocate who provides crisis intervention services for sexual assault victims between the school ages of kindergarten through 12th grade.

Both Ordinances Adopted on First Reading.

5. **First Reading of Ordinance No. 005, 2026, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Oak Street Stormwater Project and Related Art in Public Places.**

The purpose of this item is to request additional appropriation of \$1,340,000 in the Stormwater Utility Fund to supplement the existing appropriated budget of approximately \$44,400,000 for the Oak Street Stormwater Improvement Project. The additional appropriation requested adds approximately 3% of the total project budget and will fund remaining project support services, pending change order items, and a minor contingency for any unanticipated costs to complete the project.

This item also requests \$2,948 from existing 2026 appropriations be transferred to the Cultural Services Fund to support the Art in Public Places program. These funds are to be used for operations and maintenance per Code. An additional \$10,452 will remain in the Stormwater Utility Fund for Art in Public Places artwork. This supports a total \$13,400 contribution to the Art in Public Places program.

Adopted on First Reading.

6. **First Reading of Ordinance No. 006, 2026, Adopting Nonsubstantive Relettering of the Landscape and Tree Protection Section of the Land Use Code.**

The purpose of this item is to reorganize the subsections of the Landscape and Tree Protection section (5.10.1) of the Land Use Code (LUC) to further clarify and create better flow of the Code section. This item is the final step in improving the Landscape and Tree Protection section of the LUC following the recently adopted tree policies in October and December 2025.

Adopted on First Reading.

7. First Reading of Ordinance No. 007, 2026, Amending Section 26-721 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Adjust Timelines to Correct Billing Errors.

The purpose of this item is to provide a more equitable and efficient process for correcting utility billing errors. The adjusted timelines, which align with those of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (the "PUC") improve administrative efficiency and reduce customer impact.

Adopted on First Reading.

8. Items Relating to the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.

A. Resolution 2026-009 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Irish Elementary School Roadway Improvements.

B. Resolution 2026-010 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre School District for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.

C. Resolution 2026-011 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.

D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 008, 2026, Making Supplemental Appropriations of Grants and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project and Related Art in Public Places.

The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend federal, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and local funds for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project (Project). The funds will be used to design and construct improvements along West Vine Drive and along Irish Drive to benefit Irish Elementary School students. These improvements will create safer conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists traveling near the school. If approved, the item will: 1) authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Project with CDOT; 2) authorize the City Manager to execute an IGA for the Project with the Poudre School District; 3) authorize the City Manager to execute an IGA for the Project with Larimer County; 4) appropriate \$835,000 of CDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant funds for the Project; 5) appropriate \$28,333 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant funds for the Project; 6) appropriate \$75,000 of Poudre School District grant funds to the Project; 7) appropriate \$25,000 of Larimer County grant funds to the Project; 8) transfer matching funds from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS); 9) transfer matching funds from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII); and 10) transfer \$1,000 (1% of the Poudre School District and Larimer County contributions) in capital project funds to the Art in Public Places (APP) program.

All Resolutions Adopted and Ordinance Adopted on First Reading.

9. Resolution 2026-012 Authorizing the Initiation of Exclusion Proceedings of Annexed Properties Within the Territory of the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District and Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Said District.

The purpose of this item is to authorize the City Attorney to file a petition in Larimer County District Court to exclude the property annexed into the City in 2025 from the Poudre Valley Fire Protection District (the "District") in accordance with state law. The property affected by this Resolution is the Heritage Annexation and the Moor Annexation. Colorado Revised Statutes Section 32-1-502 requires an order of exclusion from the District Court to remove the annexed property from special

district territories. The property has been receiving fire protection services from the Poudre Fire Authority and will continue to do so. The City Attorney's Office files the petition in Larimer County District Court each year seeking exclusion for all properties annexed in the previous year that should be removed from the District to avoid double taxation.

Adopted.

10. Items Relating to FLEX Route Regional Transit Services Intergovernmental Agreements.

- A. Resolution 2026-013 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado and the Town of Berthoud for FLEX Route Regional Transit Services.*
- B. Resolution 2026-014 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado and the County of Boulder for FLEX Route Regional Transit Services.*
- C. Resolution 2026-015 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado and the City of Boulder for FLEX Route Regional Transit Services.*
- D. Resolution 2026-016 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado and the City of Longmont for FLEX Route Regional Transit Services.*

The purpose of this item is to authorize the City Manager to sign separate Intergovernmental Agreements ("IGAs") with the Town of Berthoud, the County of Boulder, the City of Boulder, and the City of Longmont (collectively with the City of Fort Collins, the "FLEX Partners") by which the FLEX Partners will contribute funds toward the operating cost of the FLEX Route Regional Transit Service bus route in 2026 to further the goals of regional connectivity through transit.

All Resolutions Adopted.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Potyondy moved, seconded by Councilmember Nelsen, to approve the recommended actions on items 1-10 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Fudge noted Item No. 8, *Items Relating to the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project*, mentions an IGA for the purpose of accepting grant funds from Larimer County; however, he does not believe he has a conflict given he has no authority over the County's expenditure in this manner.

The motion carried 6-0.

K) CONSENT CALENDAR FOLLOW-UP

None.

L) STAFF REPORTS

None.

M) COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Melanie Potyondy

- Commended the organizations and individuals involved with the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at CSU

Councilmember Amy Hoeven

- Attended the Prospect Lane half stoplight neighborhood meeting and commended the in-depth discussion

Councilmember Josh Fudge

- Attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and discussed the recent events in Minneapolis related to federal officers dragging people off the streets based on their skin color. He commended the residents of the city for standing up for one another.

N) CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

None.

O) CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS PLANNED FOR DISCUSSION

11. First Reading of Ordinance No. 009, 2026, Making Supplemental Appropriations of Revenue from the Quarter Cent Capital Tax and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations.

The purpose of this item is to appropriate the first year of 2026-2035 quarter cent capital sales tax revenues for the ongoing program items and additional planning dollars. This appropriation will allow for the continuation of ongoing transportation capital programs and includes initial funding for the Affordable Housing Capital Fund and Community Bike Park.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Ginny Sawyer, Senior Policy and Project Manager, stated the quarter cent capital tax is a key funding mechanism within the city and provides a renewable source of funds for various capital programs. She stated this item relates to an initial appropriation for the funds that operate on a standard basis, particularly in the transportation area.

Joe Wimmer, Utilities Finance Manager, outlined the recommended appropriation from the first year of the sales tax which involves projects that are currently ready, including ongoing capital programs that were established in previous iterations of the ten-year sales tax, the Affordable Housing Capital Fund, and preliminary site planning for the Community Bike Park at the Hughes site. Wimmer further detailed the Affordable Housing Capital Fund and noted there are excess dollars in the current tax package that will be included.

Councilmember Potyondy asked what falls under the scope of the \$30,000 appropriation for the bike park. Sawyer replied the project team is just being formed and noted other funding from Natural Areas and Park Planning will be used for the overall multi-use project. She stated the first step will be some initial site planning to identify habitat and features.

Councilmember Fudge asked if the funding amounts for the projects in the ballot language can change, and if so, what that process entails. Sawyer replied the projects are set as a result of the ballot language. City Manager DiMartino clarified that once the ballot initiatives have been delivered, excess funding can be appropriated at the discretion of Council, first to projects within the ballot measure and then to other uses. City Attorney Daggett noted there is specific language in the ballot measure about evaluating feasibility and there is room for Council to determine that a project is no longer financially feasible or feasible for other reasons.

Mayor Francis asked if the sidewalks for the pedestrian sidewalk program are already identified, and whether any of them are outside the priority list. City Engineer Brad Buckman replied all identified sidewalks are within the prioritization model and provided additional detail on how that model works. He discussed some of the projects that are ready for 2026, including some along East Stuart, JFK Parkway, and Taft Hill.

Mayor Francis asked if there was a competitive process for the Affordable Housing Capital Fund dollars that went to CARE and Housing Catalyst. Vanessa Finley, Senior Housing Manager, stated applications for the quarter cent sales tax projects have been accepted on a rolling basis and they are evaluated by staff and brought before Council. She stated the goal is to respond to needs as they arise. She added that staff has been aware that people want more transparency regarding the process and have been working to ensure that occurs.

Mayor Francis requested additional information related to the Housing Funding Plan that is to be developed. Sawyer replied there is a work session scheduled for March 10th on that topic.

Councilmember Conway asked about the prioritization for the arterial intersection improvement and streetscape program. Dana Hornkohl, Civil Engineering Director, explained that the Transportation Capital Improvement Program priority list governs the projects and noted that for this appropriation, projects were included that needed matching local funds for grant funding as well as additional design work for the Timberline and Carpenter and College and Drake intersections.

Councilmember Conway asked about the prioritization criteria. Hornkohl replied the methodology includes a focus on safety with other criteria being the furtherance of other City plans, using health equity index data, and synergizing with utility projects.

Councilmember Potyondy moved, seconded by Councilmember Fudge, to adopt Ordinance No. 009, 2026, Making Supplemental Appropriations of Revenue from the Quarter Cent Capital Tax and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations, on First Reading.

Mayor Francis thanked staff for bringing forth projects so quickly.


The motion carried 6-0.

Q) OTHER BUSINESS

- OB 1. **Possible consideration of the initiation of new ordinances and/or resolutions by Councilmembers.**

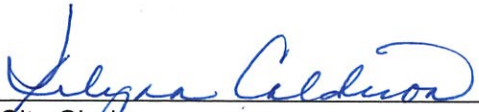
R) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

