Port of Edmonds Commission Meeting – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: February 9, 2026

Commissioners Present	Janelle Cass, President Selena Killin, Vice President Jay Grant, Secretary Ross Dimmick David Preston
Staff Present	Brandon Baker, Executive Director Brittany Williams, Director of Economic Development John Peterman, Director of Finance and Administration Dennis Halpin, Marina Operations Manager
Others Present	Emily Guildner, Port Attorney Will Chen, City of Edmonds David Marten, Elevate Government Affairs

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Cass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

All those in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. MISSION STATEMENT

Commissioner Preston read the Port of Edmonds' mission statement:

The mission of the Port of Edmonds is to provide value to our community through economic development, marina and commercial operations, waterfront public access, and environmental stewardship.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER DIMMICK MOVED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED. COMMISSIONER KILLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Each comment shall generally be limited to 3 minutes or less and shall be limited to Port business)

Reed Johnson, a marina tenant, expressed concerns about removing the old administration building and installing another park instead of expanding parking. He stated that clearer signage is needed to show where parking is allowed or restricted and encouraged stricter enforcement, noting past discussions about towing violators. While he acknowledged the Port's success in attracting public use, he emphasized the need to prioritize marina tenants who generate most of the Port's revenue.

Mr. Johnson also raised a concern about Travelift and Boatyard billing. Although his boat measures 32 feet with the engines down, he is consistently billed at 33 feet based on an older measurement on file. He expressed frustration that visiting customers with similar boats may be charged less, creating inconsistency for tenants. While the dollar difference is small, he emphasized that the principle matters and requested that the billing discrepancy be corrected.

Glenda Krull, an Edmonds resident and Chair of the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Port for its support of the Beautify Edmonds initiative and the community effort to address graffiti. She emphasized that maintaining a clean, welcoming city benefits residents, businesses, and visitors, and expressed appreciation for the Port's leadership in this work. Ms. Krull noted that these efforts strengthen community pride, support the local economy, and help preserve Edmonds' character. She concluded by thanking the Port for its meaningful contribution to the community's beauty, safety, and vitality.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSIONER PRESTON MOVED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED. COMMISSIONER GRANT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A. Approval of January 12, 2026, and January 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes
B. Approval of Payments in the amount of $304,859.65

VII. CITY OF EDMONDS AND WOODWAY REPORTS

Will Chen, City of Edmonds councilmember, shared that during a recent council retreat, the council agreed to prioritize developing a long-term financial stability strategy for 2026, with plans to gather public input on how best to secure the city's future.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

David Martin from Elevate Government Affairs introduced a new grant writer, Jeannie Beckett, and mentioned their ongoing work to advance the Port's federal agenda. David highlighted the importance of Jeannie's expertise in grant writing and her knowledge of Washington state, which will be crucial in securing additional funding for the project. The Port is pursuing a $25 million BUILD grant, which is highly competitive. Staff have been working on gathering letters of support from various stakeholders to strengthen the application. The Port received its first federal funding of $1.2 million for the Portwalk project thanks to Rep. Rick Larsen's support.

David discussed pursuing additional funding for the Portwalk project, exploring options like TIFIA loans and Army Corps of Engineers partnerships. He also mentioned waiting for the next round of PROTECT funding and pursuing changes to the Port Infrastructure Development Program to include seawalls. Other alternative funding sources, such as NOAA habitat programs, could be a non-transportation funding option, though it would be highly competitive. The discussion also touched on the Economic Development Administration as a possible funding source, though both have significant challenges and limitations.

David shared strategies for coordinating Port representatives' engagement with congressional delegation meetings, emphasizing the importance of strategic scheduling and collective representation at forums like AAPA and PNWA. The discussion highlighted the need to effectively communicate the Port's priorities across multiple areas including transportation, maritime, environmental, and community impact.

IX. POSSIBLE ACTION

X. INFORMATION

A. Beyond the Breakwater Seminar Series

The Port has partnered with the Hookup Hut to launch *Beyond the Breakwater*, a new workshop series featuring maritime professionals who will share industry insights and lead hands-on learning sessions. Director Williams noted that the workshops are free to the public and are currently scheduled for February 26, March 26, April 23, and May 21. The February session will feature Captain Kyle Hanada of Tengu Charters. *Beyond the Breakwater* underscores the Port's commitment to supporting local businesses, expanding community knowledge, and fostering a vibrant waterfront.

B. Association of Marina Industries Conference and Expo Recap

Director Baker shared a recap of the Association of Marina Industries Conference, where the main seminar themes included data and AI strategies, marina design, and planning approaches. He also met with vendors and electrical equipment manufacturers to talk about lead times for the supplies needed to complete Portwalk Phase II.

C. Wildlife Plan for the Marina

The team reviewed wildlife management efforts, including strategies for deterring herons, sea otters, and sea lions using non-lethal methods in collaboration with partners at the USDA.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Baker discussed the following topics:

- WPPA Port Day
- Seattle Boat Show
- Marina Operations Staffing; Manager Halpin announced promotions for Tristan Guempel to Port Operations Supervisor and Luke Brisse to Assistant Operations Supervisor.
- Mid Marina Breakwater Update
- BUILD Grant
- Dry Storage C Row Project
- Second Floor Window Replacement – Building 1
- Dock Roof and Gutter Cleaning

XII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Commissioner Preston stated that he will be attending the annual Chamber meeting on February 10.

- Commissioner Killin reported on the trip to Olympia for Port Day with Commissioner Grant and Executive Director Baker. She thanked legislators for continued support and funding. She acknowledged Port employee Renae Ebel for all the roles and tasks she fills. Killin provided legislative updates, highlighting several bills aimed at permitting reform – House Bills 2418 and 2198 and Senate Bill 5968 – which seek to improve project review timelines and agency accountability.
- Commissioner Dimmick attended the Seattle Boat Show and was impressed with how extensive it was. He expressed optimism about the boating industry based on the show's scale and strong attendance. He emphasized the substantial investment required for boat ownership and the importance of the Port's facilities in supporting that commitment. He also attended the Environmental Speaker Series presentation on Sharks of Washington by Lisa Hillier of the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife. He commended Annie Crawley and the organizing board for providing valuable educational opportunities to the community.
- Commissioner Grant met with Councilmember Olson to discuss House Bill 2489, which could allow housing in commercial zones. He attended an ECR (Edmonds City Roundtable) meeting where attendees shared concerns about budget, culture, communication, and neighborhood issues - all comments were forwarded to the Edmonds City Council. He attended Port Day in Olympia noting contrasting budget perspectives among legislators. Grant will be attending the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce meeting. He stated that it is great to hear about internal promotions within the Port.
- Commissioner Cass thanked staff and Jeanie Beckett for attending the meeting. She shared about a completed practice run of the graffiti removal project and stated there was strong community interest and engagement. She noted that the Coast Guard will host a nine-week navigation course covering tools like Navionics, radar, AIS and tide tables, describing it as a valuable resource for boaters.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The commission meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Jay Grant
Port Commission Secretary