

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council Committee-of-the-Whole**

9:00 AM  
May 6, 2023

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
NW, Issaquah and Various  
Locations

**MINUTES**

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Councilmembers:*

Barbara de Michele  
Zach Hall  
Victoria Hunt  
Russell Joe  
Tola Marts (*Excused Absence*)  
Chris Reh  
Lindsey Walsh

*Administration/Staff:*

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor (*Arrived at approx. 10:30 a.m.*)  
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator  
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator  
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk  
Robert Hamud, Chief Financial Officer  
Emily Moon, Public Works Director  
Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director  
Dale Markey Crimp, Management Analyst  
John Mortenson, Transportation Engineering Manager  
Matt Ellis, Utilities Manager  
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager

**CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

**Part 1: Community Survey, Performance Measurements & Budget Prioritization**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Walsh at approximately 9:08 AM.

a) Public Comment

The following individual provided public comment:

Connie Marsh, resident, made comments regarding today's agenda and the community survey results, and urged reframing the measure of satisfaction to be less project-specific.

b) Welcome & Framing

Management Analyst Dale Markey-Crimp made introductory comments.

c) Community Survey Presentation and Q&A

*Presented by Jason Morado, ETC Institute*

The City Councilmembers asked questions and provided the following feedback:

- Interest in response to Affordable Housing question, and interest in seeing breakdown by income and age.
- Some of the questions were broad. It would be helpful to have more specific guidance in what people were specifically satisfied or dissatisfied with.
- Multiple comments addressed the closure of the Issaquah Press. May be helpful to increase push of City communication, including newsletter. Consider exploring other ways of increasing communication.

- Encourage increased outreach regarding public safety, climate change and emergency preparedness - what's being done and what they can do. Lack of education could be contributing to certain survey responses.
- Noted positive results related to customer service and equity.
- Encouraged including Equity Board in future community surveys to ensure non-English speakers are heard from.

Additional general online surveys will be tabulated and available in the next few weeks.

**\*\*Break\*\***

d) Performance Measurement - Presentation & Discussion on 2022 Performance

*Presented by:*

*Dale Markey-Crimp, Management Analyst*

City Councilmembers asked questions and provided feedback on the following question.

**For each goal area, are we measuring the correct outputs aligned to our medium- and long-term outcome goals?**

**If not, what output measures would provide better indication that we're doing the "right" work well?**

- Suggest adding measures to short term (near term) outcomes.
- Suggest adding outputs to certain areas to correlate the dashboard with the needs identified in the community survey:
  - Traffic Calming
  - Growth and development outputs
    - planning for growth,
    - comprehensive output for availability of affordable housing
  - Mobility and Infrastructure Outputs
    - condition of sidewalks
  - Environmental Stewardship
    - quality of water
  - Social & Economic Vitality
    - cost of living in Issaquah
    - support for those in need
  - City Leadership & Services
    - City efforts and communicating engagements
  - Public safety response to property crime
  - Land use and zoning
- Supportive of including food bank and debt per capita measures
- For affordable housing measures, it would be helpful to see the measures broken down by AMI used by King County and the Affordable Housing Council
- Measuring impacts on permit process due to re-opening of in-person permit center
- Actual diversion rates for solid waste collection: what percent of this is actually getting recycled?

Other input included:

- Certain areas where targets are not yet established. When might those be established? Evaluation of targets will also be needed.
- Interest in the "why" behind the data
- Can be hard to know how to apply the data
- Narrative in dashboards can be helpful to explain impact and frame the data

## e) Mid-Biennium Prioritization Discussion

*Facilitated by:*

*Council President Walsh*

*Deputy Council President Hall*

City Councilmembers provided feedback on budget priorities and considerations in the context of the Community Survey results. Feedback included:

- Traffic flow is a community priority. Would like to focus on how to get people back in transit.
- Food and Clothing Bank – important to understand if we are reaching those who qualify for services. Would like to know more.
- Would like to focus on areas for improvement based on community survey:
  - traffic flow, congestion management
  - cost of living
  - value add for tax dollars
  - land use and zoning
  - street and sidewalk maintenance
  - police services
- On track for most items; community survey has similar themes as previous surveys.
- Public transit remains a challenge; difficult to incentivize with limited options.
- Lower number of participants attending Municipal Arts Fund supported events and programs. Should there be adjustments to the target or funding level?
- Interest in knowing whether the community has awareness re: disaster preparedness.
- Suggested some root cause analysis to better understand why some of the issues addressed in Community Survey are truly issues. Focus groups could be one option.
- Important to get the word out in the absence of local newspaper.
- Interested in learning more about permitting decisions, how we compare with other cities and whether there are strategies we can implement.
- Interested in knowing current sidewalk conditions and bike lane conditions and availability.
- Unsure how to interpret dissatisfaction with land use in Community Survey.
- Numerous funded and unfunded state mandates will be coming down to cities, particularly regarding land use planning and zoning. Interest in pursuing innovative decisions with long-term impacts.

The following were identified as top priorities (in no particular order):

- Mobility - Ease of movement around town
- Public Safety & Police Services
- Permits
- Emergency Preparedness

Based on the City Council's feedback, the Administration will plan to focus on the issues in the "Opportunities for Improvement" section of the Community Survey, with the addition of emergency preparedness, and bring back strategies to address these issues, such as programmatic and resource recommendations, at the July retreat.

## f) Next Steps &amp; Closing

The next City Council retreat is scheduled for Saturday, July 29.

**\*\*Lunch Break\*\***

**Part 2: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bus Tour**

**Board bus and drive to Hillside Park**

- Overview of Squak Mountain Multimodal Improvements

**Stop 1 Location: Hillside Park, 300 Mt. McKinley Dr SW, at the end of Mt. McKinley Dr SW**

- Overview of Hillside Park Improvements

**Stop 2 Location: NW Sammamish Road, shoulder area**

- Overview of NW Sammamish Road Non-Motorized Improvements

**Stop 3 Location: SPAR Booster Pump Station, SE end of 1st Ave. NE, partway up the Issaquah-Preston multi-use trail, 614 1st Ave NE**

- Overview of SPAR Booster Pump Station

Return to Tibbetts Creek Manor

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 PM.

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Lindsey Walsh, Council President

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk