

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

6:30 PM
October 14, 2024

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Victoria Hunt
Russell Joe
Tola Marts
Chris Reh
Lindsey Walsh

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council President Walsh acknowledged Indigenous Peoples' Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0037 - 2025-26 Legislative Agenda**

Presented by:

Shelly Helder, City Lobbyist

The following public comment was provided:

- Jay Sternoff, resident, spoke regarding concerns with a Laughing Jacobs Creek corridor project as contemplated in the current Park System Plan Update.

City Council feedback on the proposed legislative priorities included:

- Support for the priorities.
- Consider putting long-term priorities - Complete Safety Improvements on State Route 18 and Issaquah Opportunity Center projects - together to identify them as long-standing items distinct from new requests.
- For Park & Recreation Investments priority:
 - Not particularly supportive of either proposed project.
 - Do not support including Rainier Trail Dog Park project overrun funding.
 - Would like to consider Ek House as potential funding request.
- For City Financial Sustainability priority:
 - Request more specificity to the priority.
 - Consider advocating for smaller shared revenue options such as cannabis revenue as recommendations rather than just adjusting the cap on property tax.

City Council feedback on the proposed legislative policy manual included:

- Request to add the following to the Housing/Human Services section of the policy manual:
 - "Issaquah supports increased state funding and/or subsidies for local organizations combatting food insecurity as well as those providing essential life resources, such as diapers, cribs, clothing, bedding and other essential child and family needs."
- Evaluate wording related to stormwater requirements in policy manual to soften wording.
- Add I-90 Over/Under Crossing to policy manual.

This item will return to City Council on Nov. 4 on Regular Business.

b) COM 0044 - Policy, Funding and Services on the Housing Continuum

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director

Brenda Parker, Interim Human Services Manager

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

The City Council provided the following feedback on whether to consider utilizing Inclusive Housing Investment Pool (IHIP) funding for predevelopment costs. There was not consensus on this item. Feedback included:

- Expressed support for further exploring a policy to allow this.
- Would prefer to focus use of limited funding on support for projects that will preserve or increase affordable units at this time, not predevelopment/feasibility of projects.
- Request information on what other cities are doing to incentivize affordable housing in the region to provide some comparisons.
- Want to understand if this would help address a barrier to affordable housing.
- Excited about other housing work plan items, don't feel it is the right time for this additional work item.

City Administrator Bobkiewicz stated that based on the feedback, the City will further explore utilizing Inclusive Housing Investment Pool (IHIP) funding for predevelopment costs.

Requests for information on other aspects of the presentation included:

- Patterns in the people being served and discharged by the behavioral health program.
- Comparison of outcomes and funding of the City's behavioral health program to the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency providing similar services in north King County.
- Analysis of emergency housing pilot over the past year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Council President Walsh:

Middle Housing Tour - First Saturday in November, but working on alternative dates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk