

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

6:30 PM
October 28, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0038 - 2025-26 Proposed Budget Overview**

Presented by:

Mayor Pauly

Andrea Snyder, Chief Information Officer & Deputy City Administrator

Kristi Schorn, Court Administrator

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

Emily Moon, Public Works Director

Bennett Ashbaugh, Street Operations Manager

Autumn Monahan, Administrative Services Director

Minnie Dhaliwal, Community Planning & Development Manager

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director

The City Council requested information on:

- SCORE Jail rates for cities other than Issaquah
- Explanation and breakdown of increases in Fleet expenditures
- Impacts of the permit technology fee and need for increase
- More information on investments to City Hall South/Court facility
- More information on human services funding
- Impacts of cuts to light rail and housing and parking studies
- Why is Issaquah receiving an increase in court filings while other cities are experiencing decreases?
- Impacts of MetroFlex program to date

The City Council was then requested to provide feedback on the following questions. The input is summarized under the respective question.

Does the Council agree with the budget priorities reflected in proposed budget?

Feedback included:

- Generally supportive
- Concern around Metro Flex reductions
- Appreciate judiciousness of budget
- Support maintaining 15% general fund ending fund balance
- Support focus on equity and sustainability
- Feel transportation priority is unclear; "as much as possible" wording is confusing

Is the Council supportive of increasing revenues as presented?

Feedback included:

- Yes
- Want to better understand resident impacts on Utility Tax rate increases being proposed

Other questions/concerns, included:

- Supportive of increases to public safety and justice
- Concerns about cuts to non-profits that provide basic services
- Keep a close eye on regional arts funding
- Capital facilities funding is going to be important next year
- Consider scaling back pavement management to save costs due to big investments made to the program in recent years
- Infrastructure and fish passage projects are important

Metro Flex:

- Supportive of having King County absorb cost of MetroFlex
- Important to consider impacts of reduced MetroFlex funding due to equity and environmental impacts

Light Rail Study:

- Concerns about reduction in light rail analysis and design study
 - Important to keep this in line with I-90 crossing study
- Okay with light rail study being delayed

GOOD OF THE ORDER - None.**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

 Lindsey Walsh, Council President

 Tisha Gieser, City Clerk