

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

6:30 PM  
November 12, 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  
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Judy Eklund – resident and volunteer with Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA) – spoke in support of DIA and asked the Council to keep funding the organization.
2. Lealani Ash - resident and volunteer with Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA) – spoke in support of DIA and asked the Council to keep funding the organization.
3. Corby Casler – executive director of DIA – urged Council to continue funding DIA.
4. James (no last name) – Issaquah High School student – expressed concerns about public transit funding and the MetroFlex program. He asked Council to continue funding MetroFlex.
5. Jenna (no last name given) – resident – asked Council to continue funding MetroFlex.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

a) **COM 0077 - 2025-26 Budget: Deliberations**

*Presented by:*

*Andrea Snyder, Assistant City Administrator*

After the staff presentation, the following residents spoke at Public Comment:

1. Connie Marsh – resident of Squak Mountain – expressed her dissatisfaction around reducing public transit funding and increasing the fleet budget for 2025. She also spoke about asset management as it relates to budgeting and funding for non-profits.

Committee comments included the following:

**MetroFlex**

- A majority of the City Council requested keeping MetroFlex funding.
- Asked staff to find a way to fund the program for one year and look for grants beyond that.
- Asked staff what budget impacts there would be if City funded the program for the Biennium.
- Requested the City work with Sound Transit to make sure the City gets a good product for its money.
- Look into adding Squak and Highlands neighborhoods into the mix.

**Light Rail Study**

- A majority of the City Council felt it was okay to postpone this study.
- Questions around surface parking facility.
- There is less urgency because of Sound Transit's schedule.
- Talk to our State legislators about possibly adding a budget proviso to the State budget.
- Continue to work with community to get feedback.

**Parking & Housing Studies**

- A majority of the City Council generally felt it would be alright to postpone these studies.
- Need more information on the relevant Senate Bills and their effects.
- There is a lot to work through on the policy side without the studies currently.
- Need time to see Multi Family Tax Exemption and Eco Northwest report work out.

**Fleet Budget**

- A majority of the City Council felt the City should look for savings in the Fleet budget.
- Possibly look at Pavement Management fund since Federal funds have been used to make progress on pavement management to this point.
- Phase in Fleet budget increases.
- Possibly move some funds from Fleet to fund MetroFlex.
- Dive into Fleet goals and outcomes.
- Look into electric vehicles and community expectations.

Mayor Pauly addressed the Council and thanked them for their work on this budget.

The City Council will next deliberate the 2025-26 budget on November 18, 2024.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER****ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 PM.

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Lindsey Walsh, Council President

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Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk