

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

6:30 PM
November 18, 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 (*Excused Absence*)
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

Public comment on individual agenda items will also be accepted following Council Q&A.

The following public comment was provided:

- Brian Runberg, owner of the Runberg Group, encouraged administrative flexibility in the design standards as part of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.

The following individuals provided public comments in support of Downtown Issaquah Association funding:

- Sharon Freas, owner of Art by Fire
- Art Freas, owner, Art by Fire
- Barbara Mayfield, Issaquah business owner
- Rob Peters, resident, also spoke in support of holiday lighting
- Robert Lerch, owner of Pickles Playland

The following individuals provided public comments in support of funding the Metroflex program and thanked the City Council for restoring funding to the program:

- Kaylee Jaech, Executive Director of The Garage Teen Cafe
- Erin Longchari, employee of The Garage Teen Cafe
- Simon Field, patron of The Garage Teen Cafe

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0040 - Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update**

Presented by:

Stephen Padua, Planning Manager

City Council feedback included:

- Support for moving the Plan forward.
- Thanked boards and commissions and staff for the work that led to the Comprehensive Plan.

- Thanked Councilmember Walsh for bringing in the work of the Affordable Housing Committee into this process.

b) **COM 0072 - Citywide Strategic Plan Update**

Presented by:

Dale Markey Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator

City Council feedback included:

- Requested clarification on the meaning of the Environmental & Sustainability objective ES1: Issaquah has created a process for sustainable project and program management, demonstrating its commitment through continuous improvement and data and evidence-informed decision-making.
- Requested objective SEV4 be slightly reworded to more clearly tie to one of the problems it is attempting to solve regarding social isolation.
- Expressed support for the arts-related objective SEV4.
- Expressed support for the proposed update to the 2024 Success Measures re: aligning objectives to progress on individual objectives.
- Thanked the City Councilmembers who served on the Strategic Plan Update Task Force.
- Urged the City to consider ways to measure civic-engagement and community connectedness.
- In the Growth and Development Area, requested removing reference to protections on existing neighborhoods so as not to contradict actions in the Plan.
- In the Growth and Development Area, questioned the housing areas by type success measure related to the following objective, "Infrastructure is planned in anticipation of future growth...".

c) **COM 0039 - 2025-26 Budget: Deliberations**

Presented by:

Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator

Autumn Monahan, Administrative Services Director

The City Council provided the following input on the 2025-2026 draft budget & schedule:

1. Fund MetroFlex for 2025, remainder of contract, using \$162K Street Operating Fund Balance, \$50K Fleet Fund, \$50K General Fund.

- A majority of the City Council was supportive of restoring 2025 funding for MetroFlex.
- A majority of the City Council was also supportive of including funding for MetroFlex in 2026, but there was disagreement on whether that needed to occur in the proposed 2025-26 budget now, or whether it could be accomplished through a subsequent budget amendment.

2. Make no other changes to Fleet Fund levels.

- A majority of the City Council were supportive of making no changes to Fleet Fund levels.
- A minority recommended phasing to revisit the oldest vehicles first.
- Other input included:
 - Request this item come to a Council Committee in 2025.

3. Fund Light Rail Study with reduced scope (\$200K from General Fund).

- A majority of the City Council did not feel the study was a priority at this time.
- A minority were supportive of funding the reduced scope.
- Other input included:

- Interested to learn more from cities who have had successful relationships with Sound Transit, such as Federal Way and Redmond.
- What impact would this funding have? What does it achieve that can't be done internally?
- 4. Fund DIA \$93,900 in 2025 and \$68,232 in 2026.**
 - A majority of the City Council was supportive of the proposed DIA funding.
 - Other input included:
 - Suggest looking for other revenue sources for DIA as well.
- 5. Plan to adopt the budget on Dec 2, instead of Dec. 9.**
 - There was not a majority opinion. The following input was provided:
 - Supportive of proposed timeline.
 - Would like additional information on parks and acquisition open space funds, such as history of funding and trends.
 - Interested in being made more aware of future court needs.
 - Depends on decision making process re: MetroFlex.

City Administrator Bobkiewicz stated that the Administration would bring back an additional proposal regarding MetroFlex and more information on the Light Rail Study at the Dec. 2 City Council meeting and plan for adoption of the budget at that time.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:03 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk