

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

6:30 PM
March 10, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Kelly Jiang
Russell Joe (*Attended Virtually*)
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

No members of the public spoke.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0100 - Light Rail Station Area Vision and Guiding Principles**

Presented by:

Thomas Valdriz, Senior Transportation Planner

Following the staff presentation no one spoke at public comment.

Council comments included the following:

- Council members felt this was a good visioning tool.
- Overall, members felt it is a good aspirational document.
- Still some portions of the document are awkward.
- The document helps focus on principles so the City can be ready for discussions with future partners.
- Councilmembers liked the specific actions contained in the document and thought they were clear.
- Members expressed concerns over this being an “end of line” station and the issues that arise from that.
- This is a regional issue, not just the City.
- Need to think about transit users to the east, e.g. Snoqualmie and North Bend.
- Councilmembers felt that infrastructure should be extended out to these areas.
- Siting of the station should be amenable to extending transportation services to the east.
- City has zoning and permit power regarding placement.
- City will have to navigate bus connectivity and walkability around the station.
- Councilmembers urged staff to see how other end of line cities are handling these challenges.
- Council felt that reading through the public comments on the document was helpful.

- Conflict is inherent in this topic, and compromises should be looked for during the planning process.
- The Mobility & Infrastructure Committee will look further at parking and access issues.

b) **COM 0106 - Utility Rate Study: Introduction and Revenue Requirements**

Presented by:

Emily Moon, Public Works Director

Matt Ellis, Utility Engineering Manager

Sergey Tarasov, Consultant

Following the staff presentation no one spoke at public comment.

Council comments included the following:

- Councilmembers thanked staff for their work on this topic.
- Council agreed these were difficult decisions.
- Concerns were raised around the ability of low-income residents' ability to handle sudden, large rate increases.
- Council felt a balanced approach was best, with slower, incremental rate increases.
- Of the scenarios presented by staff, Council preferred those that kept the combined average, annualized rate increases to between 5-6%.
- Councilmembers urged hybrid (debt and cash) funding of capital projects where possible.
- Look into what grants may be available for non-critical Stormwater Fund project funding.
- City needs to make good decisions keeping both current and future users in mind.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There were no items for Good of the Order.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:08 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk