

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

6:30 PM
April 28, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Kelly Jiang
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 0135 - Windstorm Follow-Up**

Presented by:

Jared Schneider, Emergency Manager

The following public comment was provided:

- Mr. Han, resident, expressed concerns regarding a pending assault charge.

The City Council provided feedback which is noted under the following questions.

Are there any additional lessons learned or items you would like us to explore from the bomb cyclone?

- The situation highlighted the need to explore alternative communication methods given that phone and internet service were impacted by the event.
- Interested in mitigating financial impacts of the bomb cyclone. Recommend pursuing alternatives to federal funding now and in the future locally, regionally or statewide.
- The food and hydration plan needs more of a focus. In future emergencies, we may not have neighboring cities with operational restaurants like we did during the bomb cyclone.
- Shortage of power cords was an issue.
- Recommend having a centralized area to notice roadway closures.

What level of Emergency Management staffing should the City pursue?

- Believe there is a need for additional emergency management services, but wonder if some of them could be provided with existing staffing, especially around community engagement.
- Would like to understand how potential new positions would help with the emergencies of the future.

- Potentially support some increased staffing given the importance of this issue.
- Interested to know how volunteers could be further leveraged.
- Given the City's current fiscal realities, it's hard to move forward with adding a new position at this time.

Other input included:

- Recommend focusing on regional approach to emergency management.
- Request email update on development of resilience hubs.

b) **COM 0136 - First Quarter Update**

Presented by:

Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator

The City Council provided the following feedback on exploring new revenue sources as enabled by the state:

- A majority of the City Council expressed interest in considering the public safety sales tax further.
- Other feedback included:
 - Cautioned against pursuing another regressive sales tax.
 - Interest in better understanding exactly what the sales tax revenue could be used toward.
 - Interest in learning more about a public safety levy when this topic comes back for consideration.

The City Council provided the following feedback on potential budget additions to address Council priorities.

- A majority of the City Council cautioned against any major changes in the budget to address City Council priorities given the outstanding bomb cyclone expenses, other funding challenges and the overall economic uncertainty.

GOOD OF THE ORDER - None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk