

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

6:30 PM  
May 13, 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 (*Excused Absence*)  
Chris Reh  
Lindsey Walsh

*Administration/Staff:*

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator  
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator  
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

a) **COM 0145 - Recognition of Sergeant Fairbanks**

Council President Walsh and Police Chief Paula Schwan recognized Sergeant Paul Fairbanks for twenty-seven years of service with the Issaquah Police Department.

b) **COM 0095 - 2025 Community Survey**

*Presented by:*

*Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

*Derek Harvey, ETC Institute*

City Council feedback included:

- Interest in allowing the public to respond to the survey results.
- Observed an emphasis on infrastructure, streets and public transit, which are areas where some budget cuts have been made.
- Appreciated more useful questions regarding community concerns about planning for future growth.
- Response to property crime was interesting, especially in the context of jail operations which will be discussed later on tonight's agenda.
- Noted positive response to a paper newsletter.
- Noted responses regarding the high cost of living.
- Interest in seeing difference between those who were requested to participate in the survey by ETC versus those who opted to respond to the survey.
- Noted that areas of high satisfaction weren't necessarily identified as high priorities, such as response times for emergency services. The prioritization might change if the satisfaction was lower.

- The survey results raised more questions around the flow of traffic concerns. Would be interested in a focus group on this topic.
- Noted that the number of transit users was low and dissatisfaction was high.
- Found the open-ended comments enlightening.
- Interested in the shift regarding concerns on school-related traffic.
- Recommend separating out the planning for future growth category further in the future so that resident concerns can be better distilled.

The City Council is expected to discuss the results of the Community Survey at the July City Council retreat.

**c) COM 0146 - Informational Update: 2024 Citywide Performance Measures**

*Presented by:*

*Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

City Council feedback included:

- Growth & Development - Suggested break down of new affordable housing units at various levels of the area median income (AMI).
- Environment - Recommend adding a climate related target. The current electricity use target may not be the right target.
- Social Economic Vitality - Social connectedness work could be added here.
- City Leadership & Services - Number of hours of equity training may not be the right metric. Recommend focusing more on demographic diversity of staff.
- City Leadership & Services - Interest in relationship between equity training and increased diversity of City staff and volunteers. Does equity training truly impact that?
- Support for focus on the proposed measures that are missing their targets.
- Interest in looking at performance measures together with the community survey to see if the performance measurements and targets correlate with community interest and satisfaction.
- Look forward to the performance measures that will come out of the strategic plan update and using that as an opportunity to review the current metrics.
- Social Economic Vitality - Would appreciate being notified of the measures expected in June when they are finalized.

**d) COM 0096 - Jail Operations Financial Analysis**

*Presented by:*

*Dale Markey-Crimp, Assistant to the City Administrator*

A majority of the City Council expressed support for Option 2, Operate Jail with Operational and Safety Improvements and recommended the City consider additional rate increases for providing jail services to contract cities to fully recover costs the cost of providing those services.

Other feedback included:

- Appreciate the quality and humaneness of the Issaquah jail.
- Appreciate that Option 2 allows the City to continue booking both mandatory and non-mandatory offenses to meet community expectations.
- Recognition that there are long term facility needs in 15-20 years that will need to be considered at a future date.
- Interest in regional approach to jail services in the future.
- Consider an inflationary increase to jail rates in the future.
- Appreciate human services supports that Issaquah has. Would appreciate data on whether it is effective in recidivism.

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- Questioned whether the jail services conversation should be part of larger City Hall facility needs conversation given that eliminating the jail would open up additional space for other facility uses.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER – None.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:56 PM.

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Lindsey Walsh, Council President

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk