

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

6:30 PM
June 16, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele, Chair
Zach Hall
Kelly Jiang
Russell Joe
Tola Marts
Chris Reh
Lindsey Walsh (*Attended Virtually*)

Administration/Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Council President de Michele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comment was provided:

- Brad Finegood, resident, made comments regarding two deaths in the Issaquah jail.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0143 - Wildfire Evacuation Time Estimate Study**

Presented by:

Jared Schneider, Emergency Manager

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including:

- Recommend the City explore partnering with the Issaquah School District to use their variable signs at local schools in case of an emergency for evacuation notices.
- Recommend the City explore clearing brush from the right of way along roads needed for evacuation purposes.
- Recommend the City explore methods to limit the spread of embers from buildings, such as foams, with Eastside Fire & Rescue.
- Expressed concern about the evacuation times from the Issaquah Highlands. Interested in long-term improvements to address this.
- If emergency access routes are established, people may need help knowing they exist.
- Early emergency alerts are important.
- Having calm professional staff or volunteers on site is important during an emergency.
- Interest in the City exploring transit or carpool options in time of an evacuation.
- Interest in receiving an update on the emergency management exercises.

The City Administrator announced that a subsequent update will be provided in the fall of 2025.

b) **COM 0102 - 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

Presented by:

Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator

A majority of the City Council expressed support for the CIP's prioritization of maintenance of existing assets over new assets.

A majority of the City Council expressed support for prioritizing the NW Sammamish Road Non-Motorized Improvement Project.

Other feedback included:

- Would like to see Fire Station 71 in the Plan utilizing fire mitigation fees.
- Focus on things we can accomplish in the short term, such as maintenance projects and projects that focus on pedestrian and mobility safety.
- Difficult year to build the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Facilities maintenance is overdue.
- Investments in light rail planning are important.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Renaming East Sunset Trailhead in Memory of Senator Bill Ramos – Council President Walsh requested the City Council waive the New Business request process and the Administration bring forward a proposal for renaming the trailhead at the July 7 City Council meeting. There was no objection. This item will be scheduled for the July 7 City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:33 PM.

Barbara de Michele, Deputy Council
President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk