

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

6:30 PM
September 29, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Kelly Jiang
Russell Joe
Tola Marts (*Absent*)
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

The following public comment was provided:

- Kaylee Jaech, Executive Director of The Garage Teen Cafe, spoke in support of continuing the MetroFlex program.
- Ann Fletcher, resident, spoke in support of continuing the MetroFlex program.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0178 - Amendments to Financial Policy & Travel & Procurement Card Policies**

Presented by:
Kristin Garcia, Finance Director

The City Council provided feedback, including:

- Recommend an annual purchase card inventory rather than every two years as proposed.

The City Council expressed support for placing this item on the Consent Calendar at the Nov. 10, 2025 City Council meeting. [*The item was subsequently delayed to the Nov. 17 City Council meeting.*]

b) **COM 0176 - MetroFlex Contract Update**

Presented by:
Andrea Lehner, Deputy City Administrator

The following public comment was provided:

- Kaylee Jaech, Executive Director of The Garage Teen Cafe, reiterated support of continuing the MetroFlex program.

- Ken Esemann, Talus resident, spoke in opposition to continuing the MetroFlex program.

A majority of the City Council expressed support for contract renewal with a commitment to review program criteria and goals in the first half of 2026.

Other City Council feedback included:

- Recommend exploring other transportation solutions for the last mile of service using the \$200,000 currently budgeted for MetroFlex.
- Would like to see data as to whether this service is really helping the City meet transportation goals of fewer car trips.
- Would like to explore more targeted approach to serving low income households, such as a targeted connector.
- Need to better identify the problem(s) being solved by MetroFlex in order to evaluate it and measure its success.
- Would like to understand the impact of continuing to fund MetroFlex. Interest in having funding discussed as part of the mid-biennium budget process.
- Concern about sustaining funding for the service over time.
- Would like to explore the service area boundaries of this program and potential extension further into the Issaquah Highlands.
- Would like to get a data-based analysis and a goals-based analysis of this program.
- Would like to get Transportation Advisory Board input on the goals for this program.
- Need to work to increase ridership.
- Not comfortable eliminating this service without having something else in place.
- Important to commit to reviewing the 2026-2027 contract by June 30, 2025.

The City Administrator shared that the City Council would need to direct the Administration to prepare a contract to continue the MetroFlex contract.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Deputy Council President de Michele:

FY2024 Audit Exit Conference – Attended the event. Thanked the Finance Department for their work.

Councilmember Joe:

Issaquah Arts – Named as a finalist for a Washington State Tourism Award in the community impact category for the Issaquah Film Festival.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk