

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

6:30 PM
October 13, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:
Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall (*Arrived at approximately 6:50 PM*)
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 0166 - North-South Traffic Study**

Presented by:
Emily Moon, Public Works Director

City Council input is summarized under the following headings:

A majority of the City Council requested the City to reach out to WSDOT to explore the use of the center turn lane leading to NW Talus Drive.

City Council comments regarding NW Talus Drive, included:

- Not in support of extending merge lane along SR-900 south of NW Talus Drive.
- Would like to better understand the traffic impact of moving the merge point by looking at examples.
- Interest in exploring ways to relieve the southbound turn lane along Newport Way NW onto SR-900.

City Council comments regarding Issaquah-Hobart Road, included:

- Unsure any improvements will make a notable difference given how people are making decisions about their driving routes.
- Funding is limited for County road projects. Unsure if the City should be prioritizing advocating for funding for these projects rather than projects within the City limits.
- Interest in transit options that take single riders off the road along Issaquah Hobart Road.

Overall City Council comments, included:

- Interest in solutions that benefit residents and help them circulate around town despite the commuter traffic.
- This problem will require creative problem solving.
- Think transportation demand management is a useful tool.
- Interest in tools that give residents more predictability when driving around town.

b) **COM 0170 - 2025-26 Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment**

Presented by:

Kristin Garcia, Finance Director

City Council input included:

- Would like to achieve 15% undesignated ending fund fund balance through the mid-biennium budget process.
- Would like to achieve 15% undesignated ending fund fund balance, but okay doing it more incrementally over a few years.
- Recommend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee funds be used for 4th of July/World Cup funding.
- Support putting affordable housing funds in a designated fund.
- Support funding emergency management reader boards as they can also help issues occurring during the World Cup.
- Requested history of pavement management program funding. Could be a potential approach to bridging the ending fund fund balance gap.
- Interest in exploring debt service for NW Sammamish Road project to make some Transportation Benefit District funds available.
- Requested more information about how the reduction in ending fund fund balance got to this point.
- Interest in exploring whether the 15% ending fund fund balance needs to be maintained throughout the biennium or upon initial budget adoption.
- Concern about using public safety sales tax funds differently in 2026 than intended for 2027-28.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Deputy Council President de Michele:

Pumpkin Derby – Emailed ideas to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Council President

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk