

06-08-26 City Council Committee of the Whole
Minutes

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

6:30 PM
June 8, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Paul Adair
Erika Boyd
Kelly Jiang, Deputy Council President
Russell Joe
Tola Marts, Council President (*Excused
Absence*)
Kevin Nichols
Lindsey Walsh

Administration/Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Council President Jiang called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals provided public comment:

- Ann Fletcher, resident, made comments around urgency, priorities and targeted actions regarding COM 0273 - Issaquah Climate Action Plan Review.
- David Kappler, resident, spoke regarding the City's early implementation of urban villages and urged the City to continue to stay ahead.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COM 0225 - Economic Development 2026 Work Plan**

Presented by:

Alexis Fitzsimmons, Economic Development & Housing Manager

City Council feedback included:

- Doing a lot of work in this area. Interested in understanding what is working and what isn't and letting go of some of the work that is less effective.
- Support continued work with homegrown retail to take businesses to the next stage.
- Not sure workforce development needs to be a City role.
- Would like to understand how equity is used in building the workplan. Suggest better understanding the diverse needs of businesses so the City can adapt to meet their individual needs.
- Interested in targeting businesses that work with Costco to attract jobs to Issaquah.

b) **COM 0277 - Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA) Operations & Potential 2026 Funding**

Presented by:

Corby Casler, Executive Director, Downtown Issaquah Association

City Council feedback included:

- Appreciative of all of DIA's work in historic Issaquah.
- Suggest looking at what's not working and what is working:
 - Which events bring the most revenue to local business?
 - How is success being measured?
- Encourage a rotating governance model to ensure the sustainability and health of the organization.
- Interested in more specifics on the return on investment.

c) **COM 0273 - Issaquah Climate Action Plan Review**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

City Council feedback included:

- Important for the City to contribute to regional decarbonization.
- Would like to explore additional resilience hub capacity.
- 100% EV ready can be a barrier; suggest something below EV readiness to remove barriers, while ensuring compatibility in the future (EV pre-wire).
- For multi-family EV requirements, consider having the tubing installed, but not necessarily the wiring.
- Support change to tree canopy target.
- Interested in building on and expanding heating and cooling equipment replacement
- Important to partner any equipment replacement requirements with incentive programs as this requirement could create financial barriers.
- Support green energy battery storage infrastructure, including grid-scale battery storage to make an impact regionally.
- Support for local solar projects.
- Some concern over moving to a 10-year plan.
- Suggest considering how existing City stormwater planning may impact reducing local air and stream pollutants.

A majority of the City Council expressed support for this item returning on July 20 for adoption, following final review by the July 7 Planning Development & Environment Committee.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Deputy Council President Jiang:

Legislative Breakfast – The event will be on June 18. The City Council discussed the topics to be covered at the event. There was general agreement to focus on networking and broader policy areas given that there is not an adopted legislative agenda yet. There was also an opinion expressed that there is value in advocating early for projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:19 PM.

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk