

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**City Council**  
**Mobility & Infrastructure Committee**

6:30 PM  
February 27, 2023

**MINUTES**

Council Chambers, 135 E.  
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Committee Members:*

Chris Reh, Chair  
Barbara de Michele  
Zach Hall

*Administration/Staff:*

Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator  
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Councilmember Reh called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals provided public comment:

- Michael Immel, resident on Juniper Ave., made comments regarding his property and septic system.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of January 10, 2023.

**IT WAS MOVED BY HALL, SECONDED BY DE MICHELE, TO:**

Approve the Jan. 10, 2023 minutes.

**MOTION CARRIED, 3-0.**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) **ID 1277 Sewer Master Plan: On-site Septic Policy Recommendations**

After the staff presentation, the following public comment was provided:

- Ellen Mohl Barouh, 1321 Sycamore Dr. SE, spoke regarding the need for City support for extending sewer into the Sycamore neighborhood.
- Katie Cannon, 1544 Hillside Dr. SE, asked for clarity on the distance of homes from sewer lines are impacted by the proposed new policy, asked for mindful development in the Sycamore neighborhood and encouraged looking into grant funding opportunities.
- Lonnie Spivey, 21023 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> St., expressed concern over proposed new requirements and the homeless population along Issaquah Creek.
- Joseph Amedson, property owner, asked for assistance in potentially connecting to a sewer line in the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District.
- Dale Timmons, resident of the Overdale neighborhood, asked questions about the water testing that has been done in Issaquah Creek and future enforcement and concerns about growth of sewer is brought into the neighborhood.

- Heidi Fuhs, 1564 Hillside Drive SE, resident of the Sycamore neighborhood, spoke against paying for the sewer main using property taxes.
- Tom Hufnagle, 280 NE Juniper Ave., posed questions about the location of his property and how it is impacted by the proposed plan.
- Katie Hibbard, resident in the Sycamore neighborhood, asked for clarification on whether if an inspection is failed, whether a sewer connection would be required. Also inquired about why the sewer plan is being finalized prior to more complete testing of the measuring in Issaquah Creek.

The Committee members provided input on the proposed questions:

**1. Proposed changes to septic inspection requirements that require more frequent testing, but no enforcement?**

- Majority opinion: requested more information about the inspection process and how it will work before being comfortable supporting this approach.
  - Follow-up questions include, with no enforcement, will City's goals be met?
  - Are other cities seeing success with a similar no enforcement policy?
- Minority opinion: support for proposed approach

**2. Proposed tiered approach to sewer extensions, focusing on sewer service in critical areas?**

- Committee members expressed support for this approach

**3. To support sewer extensions with the sewer fund to share costs among rate payers and customers with new service?**

- Committee members expressed support for this approach

General comments included:

- Support moving this forward to the full City Council
- Support for this proposal, which does not mandate sewer but provides opportunity
- Planning is important given City's large funding role
- Better clarify the motivations behind this plan in the future
- Consider additional funding options for homeowners impacted, such as loan programs
- Need clear direction on interacting with Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District
- Request to ensure the public has answers to some of the questions brought up at the Committee meeting at the next City Council touchpoint on this item, including:
  - Clarify how we're defining sensitive areas
  - Clarify when someone would need to hook up to sewer
  - Acknowledge concern about rates
  - Grant support for homeowners
  - Clarify how contamination might be occurring
  - Clarify the roles of Issaquah and the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District
  - Provide a more clear map
  - Clarify impact on neighborhood character and development

**b) ID 1386 Public Works Department Resources**

*Presented by:*

*Emily Moon, Director, Public Works*

The Committee members provided input on the proposed questions:

**Does the Council Committee support the additional requested positions to complete capital projects, enhance capital program and franchise management, and improve the City's ability to maintain its traffic signal systems?**

- Committee members expressed support for this approach

Additional comments included:

- Long term financial sustainability is important to consider
- Workforce development needed in these areas

**Does the Council Committee support the allocation and use of professional services to ensure the delivery of projects while the Public Works Department completes recruitment, hiring and training?**

- Committee members expressed support for this approach

General comments included:

- Discipline is needed regarding projects
- Recognize some delays may be necessary due to staffing shortages
- Emphasize effectiveness over efficiency

The Committee recommended placement of this item on Regular Business at the April 3, 2023 City Council meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - None.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

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Chris Reh, Chair

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk