

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM
April 4, 2022

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Victoria Hunt
Russell Joe
Tola Marts
Chris Reh
Lindsey Walsh, Mayor pro tem

Administration/Staff:

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor (*Excused Absence*)
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Rachel Bender Turpin, City Attorney
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor pro tem Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor pro tem Walsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

- a) **ID 1060 - National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation**
- b) **ID 1071 - Introduction of Issaquah Police Department New Hires**

Interim Police Chief Paula Schwan introduced five Communications Specialists Rachel Brown, Taylor Casey, Holly Lebron, Grace Balich, and Carina Keen.

Mayor pro tem Walsh presented the proclamation and provided the oath of office to the Communications Specialist staff.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following public comment was provided:

- Diana Schuetz, representing King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, thanked the City Council for their support and the proclamation designating April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City.

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

Councilmember Joe:

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Made report.

Councilmember de Michele:

HealthierHere Governing Board - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Eastside Transportation Partnership – Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Hunt:

Regional Water Quality Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Kokanee Interlocal Agreement Management Committee - Made report.
 Council Rules Ad Hoc Committee - Made report.

Councilmember Reh:

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Marts:

Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Council President Walsh:

King County Affordable Housing Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor pro tem Walsh reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will be an Executive Session this evening to discuss potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The items are expected to take approximately 30 minutes; no action is anticipated to follow in open session.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Lifetime Achievement Award Proclamation
- 2021 Community Awards Ceremony
- 2022 Down Home 4th of July
- Upcoming Community Events

CONSENT CALENDAR

Items listed were distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and were enacted with one motion.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL, SECONDED BY MARTS; MOTION CARRIED (7-0), TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

- a) **ID 0994 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of April 4, 2022, \$3,635,383.87;** Approved.
- b) **Minutes: City Council Study Session, March 1, 2022;** Approved.
- c) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, March 21, 2022;** Approved.
- d) **ID 1083 - Informational Update: Earth Day Activities;** Received Report.

- e) **AB 8315 - Water System Improvements;** Awarded the construction contract for the Water System Improvements project to McClure and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$1,952,017.95 (including sales tax).
- f) **AB 8335 - Department of Ecology Water Quality Stormwater Capacity Grant;** Authorized acceptance of the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Stormwater Capacity Grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 and execution of the grant agreement.
- g) **AB 8348 - Department of Ecology Inter-Agency Agreement for PFAS;** Authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute the Interagency Agreement (IAA) with Washington State Department of Ecology to further improve the hydrogeologic model for the Lower Issaquah Valley Aquifer.
- h) **AB 8358 - Newport and SR-900 Intertie Project;** Awarded the construction contract for the Newport and SR-900 Intertie Project (WT 027) to Oceanside Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$406,796.30 (including sales tax).
- i) **AB 8361 - Amendment to Financial Policy re: Contract Signing Authority;** Adopted Ordinance No. 2971, amending the financial management policy regarding the Mayor's signing authority and establishing an effective date.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **AB 8363 - Amendments to IMC 5.02, Business Licenses**

Introduced by Mayor pro tem Walsh and presented by City Attorney Rachel Bender Turpin. Following Council discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL, SECONDED BY MARTS, TO:

Adopt Ordinance No. 2972 repealing and replacing Chapter 5.02 of the Issaquah Municipal Code, regarding City business licenses.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL, SECONDED BY MARTS, TO:

Amend Section 5.02.140, Notification of suspension, revocation, or denial, of the ordinance to:

Strike "ten (10)" in both instances and
Insert "fourteen (14)"

And amend Subsection 5.02.150(C), Time and Place to Appeal; Appeal Fee, to:

Strike "ten (10)" and
Insert "fourteen (14)"

AMENDMENT CARRIED, 7-0.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED, 7-0.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilmember Hunt:

Sunset of Cable TV Commission - Inquired about the process for City Council consideration of sunsetting an advisory board, such as the Cable TV Commission. City Administrator Bobkiewicz stated that the item is anticipated to come before a standing committee in the next 60-90 days.

Mayor pro Tem Walsh:

Committee Appointments - Asked Councilmembers to respond to survey with committee appointment preferences.

Upcoming Council Meetings - Announced anticipated agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:54 PM, Council recessed into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending/potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The item is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. The session was extended by 25 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:48 PM. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Lindsey Walsh, Mayor pro tem

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk



Informational Update

ID # 1085 – Carbon Credit Program

Meeting Date	5/2/22
Department	Parks & Community Services
Staff Lead	Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director and Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator
Attachments	Click or tap here to enter text.
	A. Urban Forest Credits Nation Sale Fact Sheet 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this update is to update Council on the final details of the City's first carbon credit sale for the Harvey Manning Park Expansion Project.

Background

On 10/18/21, Council authorized via [AB 7901](#) – Forest Carbon Credit Program Application (Harvey Manning Park Acquisition) the submission of the City's first forest carbon credit application to City Forest Credits (CFC) a local 501(c)(3). The City's partnership with CFC also presented a unique opportunity for the City to participate in the first national (aggregate) carbon sale.

Update

On 1/20/22 the City entered into a purchase and sale agreement with other organizations and governmental entities (all of which followed CFC protocols for acquisition or preservation), to sell our collective carbon credits to one buyer, Regen Network Development, Inc. Regen purchased 31,533 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) for a total purchase price exceeding \$1 million.

In addition to the City's Harvey Manning Park Expansion Preservation project, the other participants in the national carbon sale are:

- Allegheny Land Trust, (Buena Vista Heights Conservation Area Preservation Project), Pittsburgh, PA
- Enrichmond Foundation, (Evergreen and East End Preservation Project), Richmond, VA
- Kendall County Forest Preserve District, (Kendall County Forest Preserve), Kendall County, IL
- King County, (King County Urban Forest Preservation Program), King County, WA

- Lake County Forest Preserve District, (Lake County Forest Preserve – 2021), Lake County, IL
- Lookout Mountain Conservancy, (St. Elmo Preservation Project), Chattanooga, TN
- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, (Ballinger Open Space Restoration), Shoreline, WA
- Treasure Valley Canopy Network, (Treasure Valley Municipal Parks Project), Boise, ID
- TreeFolks, (Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program) Travis County, TX
- Trees Forever, (Reforestation Des Moines – 2021), Des Moines, IA
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, (Bainbridge Forest Preservation), Cleveland, OH
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, (Sandy Cross Forest Preservation), Mansfield, OH

The City's carbon project was found to contain 6,409 carbon credits determined through a series of complex calculations based upon the 15.14 acres that would have been deforested as shown in the proposed Bergsma development application. Once sold, these 6,409 credits were yielded the City \$217,906 in proceeds after all closing costs and attorney fees. Other costs associated costs with the sale are two invoices to CFC: Invoice 1 – is for the application fee (\$1,500), and Invoice 2 – is for final collective fees \$24,290.60 (registry fee (\$1,000), national sale closing/legal expenses (\$21,790.60) and verification fee (\$1,500)). [AB 7901](#) identified that the proceeds from this sale (the remaining balance of \$192,115.40) are to be deposited in the general fund and tracked for use as a funding component for the Green Issaquah Forest Management Program including stewardship of the Harvey Manning Park site.

Due to the complexity of monitoring and tracking the trees within the 15.14-acre site, and due to the sites extensive critical areas, and overlying conservation easements, Parks will manage all 33.53 acres of the Harvey Manning Park Expansion area as if they were enrolled in the carbon credit program.

Though this sale took place earlier in the year, per the purchase and sale agreement, the buyer reserved the right to publicize their purchase of the first national sale before each entity could do so. That national announcement has taken place, the City can now publicize its sale. With the assistance of the City's Communication team, we are also coordinating a regional announcement/press release with King County and some of the other local entities involved in this national sale.

Next Steps

Per the City's agreement with CFC, the City must continue to uphold all protocol requirements found in:

- The Tree Preservation Protocol Version 10.4 dated 2/7/21 for a 40-year period (expiring 10/26/2061),
- The executed project implementation agreement,
- The executed attestations (No Net Harm, and No Double Counting of Credits),

- The Declaration of Development Restrictions (OPR 20211210000480) barring tree removal,
- Submit triennial reporting on the anniversary of the first 3rd party verification report (dated 12/14/2021) for the 40-year project lifespan.

Other next step activities include sharing the news of the City's sale and participating with other entities in the area to share our regional news of both the national sale and local efforts to combat climate change.

Urban Forest Carbon Credit National Sale Fact Sheet April 2022

National Sale:

- 13 urban forestry projects from across the United States sold their carbon credits in one aggregated bundle.
- The national aggregated carbon credit bundle represents all the verified city forest carbon credits in the U.S.
- The national sale is the first-ever transaction of its kind and largest urban forestry carbon sale ever.
- The credits include social impacts such as work force training, planting in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods, and forest preservation in two historic African American cemeteries. Other social impacts include physical, mental, and social health benefits, such as public access to green spaces, cooling of urban heat, and air and respiratory improvements.
- The credits also provide quantified ecosystem impacts including storm water reductions, air quality improvements, and energy savings.
- The projects in the aggregated sale have direct impacts on local communities in cities with over 20 million Americans.
- Projects are all managed by non-profits or local governments with roots in their communities, not by specialized for-profit carbon developers.

The Buyer:

- Regen Network Development, Inc. is a blockchain software development company developing a global marketplace for earth's ecosystem assets, services, and data via it's layer-1 blockchain, Regen Ledger, designed for global carbon accounting.
- Regen Network expects to sell the credits on their blockchain ledger in the spring of 2022.

Sale Numbers:

- 31,533 carbon credits representing 31,533 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) for a total purchase price exceeding \$1 million.
- The price per ton was between \$34 and \$45 per metric ton.
- Price of 4x or 400% greater than rural forest carbon shows value of these projects in cities and town (the most recent published reports on rural forest carbon

pricing date from 2020 and show prices between \$1 and \$9.70/credit).

Advisors on the Sale

- American Forests
- Nature-Based Climate Initiative

Third Party Verified Credits:

- The credits were issued by City Forest Credits, a non-profit carbon registry dedicated solely to urban forest carbon.
- City Forest Credits worked with leading climate scientists and urban forest professionally across multiple subject fields and regions to develop carbon protocols for tree projects in cities and towns. The credits quantify rainfall interception, energy savings, and air quality benefits in addition to CO₂.
- The City Forest Credits protocols are available at its website:
<https://www.cityforestcredits.org/carbon-credits/carbon-protocols/>

The Need:

- 80% of the US population live in cities.
- We lose 175,000 acres of urban and community tree cover per year; about 35,000,000 trees per year.
- Urban forestry programs are underfunded across the country. Cities book trees as expenses, not as assets on their balance sheets. As expenses only, without the countervailing asset value, trees fall below human service needs in budgeting priority.
- City forests are not equitably distributed or maintained, creating environmental injustices that disproportionately and adversely affect minority communities.

Value of City Forests

- City forests have been linked to improved health and avoided healthcare costs.
- City trees reduce urban heat. Some urban neighborhoods with minimal tree cover and lots of impervious surfaces can be 11 degrees warmer than neighborhoods with high tree cover and reduced impervious surfaces.

- Increasing tree cover in communities can increase social equity and begin to improve environmental justice.
- City trees improve air quality by removing ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter from the air.
- City trees can remove over 800,000 tons of air pollution annually, because they are in environments with heavier pollution.
- City forests provide significant energy savings by buffering against cold winds and provide significant cooling in paved urban environments
- City trees reduce erosion, stormwater runoff, and flooding risk.
- City forests improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat, including for birds and pollinators like honeybees.

List of Projects Operators, Project Names and Locations:

Project Operator	Project Name	Location
Allegheny Land Trust	Buena Vista Heights Conservation Area Preservation Project	Pittsburgh, PA
City of Issaquah	Harvey Manning Park Expansion Project	Issaquah, WA
Enrichmond Foundation	Evergreen and East End Preservation Project	Richmond, VA
Kendall County Forest Preserve District	Kendall County Forest Preserve - 2021	Kendall County, IL
King County	King County Urban Forest Preservation Program	King County, WA
Lake County Forest Preserve District	Lake County Forest Preserve - 2021	Lake County, IL
Lookout Mountain Conservancy	St. Elmo Preservation Project	Chattanooga, TN