

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM
April 7, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele, Councilmember Zach Hall, Councilmember Kelly Jiang, Councilmember Russell Joe, Councilmember Tola Marts, Councilmember Chris Reh, and Council President Lindsey Walsh

Excused Absence:

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator, Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator, Rachel Bender Turpin, City Attorney and Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pauly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pauly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) **ID 1807 - Public Safety Telecommunications Week Proclamation**

Council President Walsh issued the proclamation to Police Dispatch Supervisor Tricia Bellizzi and Police Communications Specialists Ryan Rouillard and Kirsten Widner.

b) **ID 1809 - Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month Proclamation**

Deputy Council President de Michele issued the proclamation to Karen Sharp, Chief Operating Officer for King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

c) **ID 1830 - Food Waste Prevention Week Proclamation**

Councilmember Jiang issued the proclamation to Solid Waste Program Analyst Sam Tarvin.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following public comments were provided:

- Kyung Han, resident, expressed concern with a recent charge brought against him.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Councilmember Jiang stated that one of the recipients of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Funding (AB 9007, Consent Calendar item “f”) is the Issaquah Alps Trail Club and she serves as their Board President. She has confirmed that this does not preclude her from voting on the agenda item, but she is disclosing this relationship for the record.

It was moved by Council President Walsh; seconded by Deputy Council President de Michele, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion Carried (7-0).

- a) **ID 1788 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of April 7, 2025, \$7,384,919.15**

MOTION: Approved.

- b) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, Feb. 24, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- c) **Minutes: City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 10, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- d) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, March 31, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- e) **AB 8970 - Highwood & Westside Reservoirs Improvements (WT018), Change Order 1**

MOTION: Authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$140,001.36 including sales tax, to T. Bailey, Inc. for the combined project of the Highwood Reservoirs Retrofit WT 018 and Westside Reservoir Retrofit WT 029, adjusting the contract total to \$2,985,070.08, and authorized inclusion of \$195,000 in a subsequent 2025 budget amendment utilizing the Water Fund balance.

- f) **AB 9007 - 2025 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations**

MOTION: Approved the allocation of \$90,000 to fund business and non-profit tourism-related activities as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; and authorized the inclusion of \$40,000 in a subsequent 2025 budget amendment utilizing Lodging Tax funds.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **AB 8955 - Central Issaquah Station Area Vision and Guiding Principles**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Senior Transportation Planner Thomas Valdriz.

It was moved by Council President Walsh; seconded by Deputy Council President de Michele, to:

MOTION: Approve Resolution No. 2025-09, adopting the Central Issaquah Station Area Vision and Guiding Principles.

RESULT:	Carried 7-0
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, and Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	None

b) **AB 9009 - City Council Vacancy Process Debrief**

City Councilmembers provided the following feedback on the vacancy process:

- High number of well qualified candidates.
- Understand survey comments regarding not having an equal opportunity to consider and respond to questions among applicants.
- Understand survey comments about not having questions in advance. Interested in providing those in advance, or at least some of them in advance.
- If not providing some of the questions in advance, make them unique so no unfair advantage in how much time to contemplate them. Comments in support of and opposition to this approach.
- Liked having the second meeting with questions and answers on the floor rather than on the dias.
- Understand survey comments regarding presenting from the side of the room.
- Liked having an elected officials informational session before applications were due and would like to consider having this formalized.
- It would be beneficial to have some time between Executive Sessions and the Open Session to collect thoughts as a Councilmember.
- Important to be more transparent and explain why things were done, such as why nominations were made.
- Consider putting top four things that should be included in the verbal presentation in the materials so everyone has access to the same information.
- Make sure applicants know they can reach out to Councilmembers directly before the process. Consider providing contact information for the Councilmembers.
- Would like some of this guidance memorialized in the City Clerk's office but don't think it all needs to be put in the Council Rules.
- Consider changing the Rules regarding the duration of verbal presentations to be as determined by the size of the group rather than leaving it at 10 minutes.

The following feedback was provided on the nomination process:

- Interest in putting a cap on the number of nominees who can move forward in the process.
- Understand survey comments regarding order of nominees. Didn't like unfair advantage of first nominee being voted on first.
- Consider adding a section on how nominees would be narrowed in the Rules.
- Like the option of requiring a second.

The Mayor stated that, without objection, the meeting would take a recess at 8:08 PM.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:25 PM.

It was moved by Council President Walsh; seconded by Deputy Council President de Michele, to:

MOTION: Direct the Administration at the May 5 City Council meeting to bring forward amendments to the City Council Rules of Procedure around:

- verbal presentation length,
- requiring nominees to have a second,
- and criteria Council should discuss before applications are opened.

RESULT:	Carried 7-0
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, and Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	None

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

Councilmember Joe:

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Cascade Water Alliance Board & Public Affairs Committee - Announced upcoming meetings.

Councilmember Hall:

Planning, Development & Environment Committee - Made report.
 Eastside Fire & Rescue Board - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Public Safety & Civic Facilities Task Force - Made report.

Councilmember Marts:

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Services, Safety & Parks Committee - April meeting canceled.

Deputy Council President de Michele:

Regional Transit Committee - Made report. Was appointed as Vice Chair.
 Board of Health - Made report.
 Eastside Human Services Forum - Announced upcoming meeting.
 Eastside Transportation Partnership - Announced upcoming meeting.

Council President Walsh:

Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board - Made report. Announced upcoming meeting.
 King County Affordable Housing Committee – Made report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will not be an Executive Session this evening.
- Issaquah's 2025 Community Survey
- Recruiting Fourth of July Commission Members
- Sustainability Fair Returns on April 26th
- Seeking Hall of Fame Nominations

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Council President Walsh:

Appointment - Kelly Jiang appointed as alternate to the Eastside Transportation Partnership.

Councilmember Joe:

Arbor Day Event - Reported on this tree planting event with City staff and community volunteers.

City Administrator Bobkiewicz:

2026 Planning - Would like to pursue booking a City Council retreat facilitator for Jan. 31, 2026.

Mayor Pauly:

Community Challenges - There is uncertainty regarding loss of federal funding and a lot of community anxiety, especially among non-profits. It's important to stay in touch with the community.

King County Parks Levy - Proposal has a very small local share and may not receive support from cities.

Council President Walsh:

Hands Off Protest - Appreciation for demonstrators staying off of the streets and being well organized.

Mayor Pauly:

Upcoming Council Meetings - Announced anticipated agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None.**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk