

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM  
 May 5, 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; Ann Marie Soto, Deputy 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 1812 - Economic Development Week Proclamation**  
 Councilmember Reh presented the proclamation to Economic Development & Housing Manager Jen Davis Hayes.
- b) **ID 1813 - Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation**  
 Mayor Pauly presented the proclamation to Rabbi Berry and Nechama Farkash from the Chabad of the Central Cascades.
- c) **ID 1831 - Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation**  
 Deputy Council President de Michele presented the proclamation to Assistant to the City Administrator Dale Markey Crimp.
- d) **ID 1832 - Professional Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation**  
 Councilmember Jiang presented the proclamation to City Clerk Tisha Gieser and Deputy City Clerk Chris Grabowski.
- e) **ID 1833 - Drinking Water Week Proclamation**  
 Mayor Pauly presented the proclamation to Public Works Director Emily Moon.
- f) **ID 1834 - Corrections Officers Week Proclamation**  
 Councilmember Joe presented the proclamation to Commander Casey Allred and Sergeant Amandeep Shergill.

g) **ID 1835 - Water Safety Month Proclamation**

Councilmember Hall presented the proclamation to Aquatics Recreation Supervisor Zack Lisson.

h) **ID 1837 - Affordable Housing Week Proclamation**

Council President Walsh presented the proclamation to Sophie Glass, Governmental Affairs, Policy, and Communications Manager of A Regional Coalition for Housing.

i) **ID 1838 - Police Week Proclamation**

Councilmember Marts presented the proclamation to Police Commander Travis Neese and Officers Burtis, Michels and Warner.

j) **ID 1840 - Travel and Tourism Week Proclamation**

Mayor Pauly presented the proclamation to Visit Issaquah Executive Director Christy Garrard.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

The following individual provided public comment:

- 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.*

**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 1790 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of May 5, 2025, \$2,705,408.18**

**MOTION:** Approved.

b) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, April 7, 2025**

**MOTION:** Approved.

c) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, April 21, 2025**

**MOTION:** Approved.

d) **ID 1819 - Informational Update: Economic Development Quarterly Report - Q1 2025**

**MOTION:** Received Report.

e) **AB 8962 - NW Birch Place Water Quality Retrofit Project (ST 018) Construction Contract**

**MOTION:** Awarded the construction contract for the NW Birch Place Stormwater Treatment Retrofit Project in the amount of \$658,851.68 (including property tax) to Blackfish Civil Unit.

f) **AB 9014 - Public Defender Contract**

**MOTION:** Authorized the Mayor to execute a professional services agreement with Valley Defenders for public defender services for the City.

g) **AB 9023 - Hearing Examiner Agreement (Scheibmeir, Kelly & Nelson P.S.)**

**MOTION:** Confirmed the appointment of the Law Offices of Scheibmeir, Kelly & Nelson as Hearing Examiner for the City of Issaquah, for a three-year term commencing June 1, 2025 and expiring May 31, 2028, and authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute the related agreement in substantially the same form as the attached agreement (Exhibit A), as approved by the City Attorney.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**a) **ID 1878 - Transit Oriented Development Opportunity Center Housing Cooperation Agreement**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Deputy City Administrator Andrea Snyder and Dan Landes, Vice President of Development with the King County Housing Authority.

The City Council provided feedback on the following questions:

Does Council agree with the Administration's recommendation to approve the Housing Cooperation Agreement (HCA)?

- A majority of the City Council expressed support for approving the HCA.

Are there changes to the HCA Council would like to make?

- A majority of the City Council expressed support for the five exceptions to the City's code in the Housing Cooperation Agreement.

Other comments included:

- Support continuing to explore moving beyond the minimum requirements of the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard (ESDS) if possible.
- Concern that approving the exceptions will mean that the two buildings (market rate and affordable housing) will look different visually.
- Potential interest in considering similar changes for market rate building so the two buildings look more similar.
- Would like the City to consider more options for the setbacks requirements in the City's code.
- Concerned about the lack of a developer for the market rate building.
- Would like to see more commercial space in this project.
- Important to consider services that would support those in the affordable housing building when considering commercial tenants of the Opportunity Center.

This item is anticipated to return to the City Council for action in June 2025.

b) **ID 1875 - Social and Community Connection Initiative**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Assistant to the City Administrator Dale Markey Crimp.

The City Council provided feedback on the following questions:

Does the City Council agree with the overarching vision, City mission, and goals of the Social Connection Initiative?

- Yes at a high level.
- Recommend this work should go beyond just residents' "sense of belonging," "social connections," and "community bonds." Those terms are difficult to evaluate.
- The importance of social connection as a mitigation to natural disasters should be emphasized.
- For the mission statement, recommend that the role of the City of Issaquah is to "facilitate" rather than "create" social bonds.
- Consider changing "building connections based on shared values" to encourage connections amongst community members who have different backgrounds, values and experiences, such as "mutual understanding and shared experiences".
- Connection is a byproduct of purpose. Would like to see this reflected in the mission and vision.

Does the City Council have feedback on the aligned strategies and actions within the plan?

- **Goal 2 Enhance Behavioral Health Support:** Recommend a metric that captures both who we are serving and who we are not serving.
- **Goal 3 Raise Awareness and Encourage Engagement:** Not confident the newsletter clicks metric is the right metric.
- **Goal 4 Strengthen Neighborhood and Community Ties:** Recommend expanding the specifically named third spaces.

Other feedback included:

- Really glad the City is pursuing this initiative.
- Would like to see more emphasis on the benefits to the City such as civic engagement.
- Strong emphasis on mental health currently, also recommend highlighting benefits to physical health.
- Would like to see more of a City investment in spaces emphasized.
- Recommend having subject matter experts or case studies brought in to grow the knowledge of the Community Connection Action Group.
- It will be important to be intentional about outreach so this work doesn't just attract people who are already engaged.
- Recognize that this is a long-term investment.
- The City should not mandate this. Suggest supporting neighborhoods as they do this work.
- Like the pro-connection lense.
- Need to look broader than the City's boundaries on this issue; exceeds City boundaries.
- Concern about success with the lack of resources.
- Look to businesses for help with the third places.
- Community organizations are having to adapt to be relevant. It is important to identify barriers to the way things have been done in the past.

c) **AB 9009 - City Council Vacancy Process, Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure**

Due to the lateness, this item was postponed to a future meeting.

## COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

*Councilmember Joe:*

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Made report.

Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce - Next meeting is canceled.

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

*Councilmember Hall:*

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

*Councilmember Marts:*

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

*Deputy Council President de Michele:*

Eastside Human Services Forum - Announced upcoming meeting.  
 Eastside Transportation Partnership - Announced upcoming meeting.

*Council President Walsh:*

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will not be an Executive Session this evening.
- Upcoming Events

**GOOD OF THE ORDER***Council President Walsh:*

Board/Commission Thank You's - See email regarding availability to attend and welcome board and commission members.

*Mayor Pauly:*

Non-Profit Partners - Will be summarizing the concerns being heard by the City's non-profit partners at convenings with elected officials.  
 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 10:23 PM.

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Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk