

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting

7:00 PM
 July 7, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
 135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

Present: Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele, Councilmember Zach Hall, Councilmember Kelly Jiang, Councilmember Russell Joe, Councilmember Tola Marts, and Council President Lindsey Walsh (*attended virtually*)

Excused Absence: Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Councilmember Chris Reh

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

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Barb de Michele, Mayor pro tem, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Pauly and Councilmember Reh were excused.

Mayor pro tem de Michele suggested that AB 9040 - Policy for Naming Public Facilities/Parks/Trails, which is under Regular Business, be postponed until the July 21 Council meeting. There being no objection, this item was postponed to the July 21 Council meeting.

Mayor pro tem de Michele announced that ID 1883 - Recognition of Tina Eggers would be delayed to a future meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor pro tem de Michele led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) **ID 1883 - Recognition of Tina Eggers**

This item was delayed to a future meeting.

b) **ID 1847 - Parks & Community Services Month Proclamation**

Councilmember Marts presented the proclamation to Human Services Manager Brenda Parker, Park Planning and Development Manager Robin Spear, and Parks Maintenance Worker Leo Albrecht.

c) **ID 1848 - Disability Pride Month Proclamation**

Mayor pro tem de Michele presented the proclamation to Roshni Karthikeyan, Kindering Communications Specialist.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following public comment was provided:

- Chris Reichley, resident, spoke regarding the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project (ID 1898) and the need for childcare facilities.
- Jim Hayes, resident, spoke in support of the Transit Oriented Development project (ID 1898) and the need for affordable housing in Issaquah.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

It was moved by MARTS, seconded by HALL, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion Carried (6-0).

- a) **ID 1794 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of July 7, 2025, \$6,633,585.15**

MOTION: Approved.

- b) **Minutes: City Council Committee of the Whole, June 16, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- c) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, June 23, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- d) **ID 1892 - Informational Update: Issaquah Climate Action Plan Mid Year Update**

MOTION: Received Report.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **ID 1898 - Transit Oriented Development - Opportunity Center (TOD-OC) Housing Cooperation Agreement**

Introduced by Mayor pro tem de Michele and presented by Deputy City Administrator Andrea Snyder, Management Analyst Gillian Straub, King County Housing Authority Vice President of Development Dan Landes, and Consultants Carissa Iris and Maggie Carson.

A majority of the City Council expressed support for the following changes to the Housing Cooperation Agreement:

- Waive tree retention requirements.
- Reduce transparency requirements for facades of both buildings facing the natural area, and
- Allow bike storage without transparency facing the natural area for the TOD-OC development.
- Waive the 5th floor stepback for the market rate building.

Other feedback included:

- Concerned about code challenges that arose through the course of this project
- Interest in a future conversation about comprehensive land use code amendments to include consideration of:
 - commercial height
 - expanding sustainability options
 - tree retention requirements

This item will return to the City Council for final action on the Consent Calendar of the July 21, 2025, City Council meeting.

b) **AB 9040 - Policy for Naming Public Facilities/Parks/Trails**

This item was postponed to the July 21, 2025, City Council meeting.

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

Councilmember Joe:

Fourth of July Commission - Announced upcoming meeting.

Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce - Announced upcoming meeting.

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Public Affairs Committee – Meeting canceled.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Marts:

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Services, Safety & Parks Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor pro tem de Michele reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will not be an Executive Session this evening.
- Mayor Pauly's Sister City Exchange Trip to Sunndal, Norway
- Upcoming Events

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilmember Joe:

Farmer's Market - Accepting plastic film and batteries this Saturday, July 12.

Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce Event - Event will be held at Boehm's Chocolates on July 10.

Mayor pro tem de Michele:

Association of Washington Cities Conference - Summarized her experience.

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 8:30 PM.

Barb de Michele, Mayor pro tem

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk