

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM
October 20, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

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 Lehner, 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

Moment of Silence for Eileen Barber

Mayor Pauly and Councilmembers recognized the passing of former Councilmember Eileen Barber. A moment of silence was held in her honor.

Agenda Announcement

The Mayor announced that AB 9026 - WSDOT Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Development Agreement Extension for Bellevue College, which was initially scheduled for the Sept. 8 Committee of the Whole and delayed to tonight's meeting, is now scheduled to come back to the City Council at the Nov. 10 Council meeting.

a) **ID 1864 - World Town Planning Day Proclamation**

Mayor Pauly presented the proclamation to Christen Leeson.

a) **ID 1917 - American Public Works Association Heroes Award, Washington Chapter**

Mayor Pauly announced the City's receipt of the American Public Works Association Heroes Award and recognized Public Works Director Emily Moon, Senior Maintenance Worker John White and Maintenance Senior Lead Kenny Steele for the exceptional work they did to help the City recover from the Bomb Cyclone event.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following public comment was provided:

- Anand Swaminathan, resident, requested an adjustment to his water leak charges.

- Corby Casler, representing the Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA), spoke regarding DIA activities.
- Ken Esemann, resident, spoke regarding the Bellevue College Development Agreement, the public safety sales tax, and MetroFlex.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Councilmember Marts, Chair of the Services, Safety & Parks Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendation on AB 9065, Water Leak Adjustment Policy.

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 1799 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of Oct. 20, 2025, \$8,143,138.28**

MOTION: Approved.

- b) **Minutes: City Council Committee of the Whole, Sept. 8, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- c) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, Sept. 15, 2025**

MOTION: Approved.

- d) **AB 9088 - Sole Source Authorization for SCADA and Telemetry Projects**

MOTION: Approved Resolution No. 2025-18, recognizing S&B, Inc. as the City's SCADA integrator and waiving state competitive bidding requirements for SCADA and telemetry projects based on compatibility, unique design, public utility services and sole source of supply pursuant to RCW 39.04.280(1)(a) and RCW 39.04.280(1)(b); and authorized the Mayor to execute contracts with S&B, Inc.

- e) **AB 9050 - Highlands and Front Street Lift Station Improvement Projects (SW011 and SW015)**

MOTION: Awarded the construction contract for the Highlands and Front Street Lift Station Improvement Projects (SW011 and SW015) in the amount of \$998,299.30 (including sales tax) to CR Construction, LLC; and authorized inclusion of \$206,000 of additional revenue and related expenditures for the project from the Sewer Fund in a future 2025 budget amendment.

- f) **AB 9065 - Water Leak Adjustment Policy**

MOTION: Adopted Ordinance No. 3115, adopting a new section 13.24.140 of the Issaquah Municipal Code regarding water leak billing adjustments.

- g) **AB 9076 - Appointment of Municipal Judge**

MOTION: Confirmed Mayor’s appointment of N. Scott Stewart to serve as an Issaquah Municipal Court Judge; appointment expiring December 31, 2029.

PUBLIC HEARING

a) **AB 9052 - 2026 Property Tax Levy**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Budget Manager Susie Monsell.

Mayor Pauly opened the public hearing at 7:37 PM. No comments were made, and the public hearing was closed at 7:37 PM.

This item will return to the City Council for potential action at the Nov. 17 City Council meeting.

b) **AB 9053 - 2025-2026 Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Budget Manager Susie Monsell.

Mayor Pauly opened the public hearing at 7:44 PM.

The following public comment was provided:

- Corby Casler, representing the Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA), urged the City to reconsider the reduction of funding to DIA in 2026.

There being no objection, the public hearing was continued to the Nov. 17, 2025, City Council meeting.

The City Council will further deliberate the budget adjustment at the Oct. 27 Special City Council meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **AB 8991 - Utility Rate Study & Utility Rates & Charges**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Public Works Director Emily Moon, Utility Engineering Manager Matt Ellis and Consultant Sergey Tarasov.

Councilmember Joe, Chair of the Mobility & Infrastructure Committee, summarized the Committee’s recommendation on this item.

It was moved by Councilmember Joe, seconded by Council President Walsh, to:

MOTION: Authorize the Mayor to accept the Utility Rate Study Report, in substantially the same form as the attached draft report as approved as final by the Public Works Director; and Adopt Ordinance No. 3116, amending Water General Facility Charges and Bi-monthly Rates, and Adopt Ordinance No. 3117, amending Stormwater General Facility Charges and Bi-monthly Rates, and Adopt Ordinance No. 3118, amending Sewer General Facility Charges and Bi-monthly Rates.

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) ID 1923 - Further Discussion: Public Safety + Civic Facilities

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Administrative Services Director Autumn Monahan and Finance Director Kristin Garcia.

The City Council provided feedback, which is listed under the categories below.

Financing Options:

- Maximize existing funds first
- Support using construction sales tax funds for capital construction projects
- Support preserving existing funds from sale of properties so the City is ready if a good opportunity arises
- Preference for a voter-approved bond for City Hall
- Interested in funding police renovations using Councilmanic debt
- Important to be sensitive to community willingness for bond measure

Requests for additional information:

- Request a continuum of funding options
- Request budget scenarios that include estimates of bond amount, debt service, interest, increase to levy rates and the impact to households for various scenarios
- Request knowing what debt will be retiring and might free up some funding options
- Request history of Councilmanic bond use to provide context
- Request guidance on any limitations on discussing bond [ballot] issues

Facility Locations:

- Acknowledged Task Force priority to address police space at City Hall
- Important to consider both the IPD renovations and finding a location for general government together
- Concerns about long-term leasing
- Think City Hall South is too small of an area for a City Hall without acquiring additional property; consider a cost benefit analysis in potentially acquiring property adjacent to site
- Support for the Pickering site as an option
- Need more conversation around the scope of a new City Hall

Next Steps:

- Supportive of proposed next steps
- Support starting to get some public engagement on this issue
- First quarter 2026 public engagement may be premature
- Need to be fully transparent about what the City needs from the community

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS*Councilmember Jiang:*

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report.

Councilmember Joe:

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Public Affairs Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Marts:

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Made report.

Services, Safety & Parks Committee - October meeting is canceled.

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Deputy Council President de Michele:
Regional Transit Committee - Made report.
Board of Health - Made report.
Seattle-King County Health Briefing - Made report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will not be an executive session this evening.
- Regional Impact
- Your Voice Matters – Vote Now
- Candidate Forum for Mayor of Issaquah
- Upcoming Events

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Council President Walsh:
Regional Involvement - Sound Cities Association applications are coming up.

Deputy Council President de Michele:
Pumpkin Report - The pumpkin derby pumpkin is in process.

Councilmember Joe:
Issaquah Arts – Announced that they received a Washington State Tourism Award for the Issaquah Film Festival.

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 9:31 PM.

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk