

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM  
November 17, 2025

Council Chambers  
135 E. Sunset Way

**MINUTES**

**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**

City Administrator Bobkiewicz introduced Janie Bube, Executive Director for the Fourth of July Commission.

**a) ID 1867 - Small Business Saturday Proclamation**

Mayor Pauly presented the proclamation to Ellen Mohl with the Gilman Village Merchants Association.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

The following public comment was provided:

- Kevin Nichols, resident, expressed concern with AB 9017, Central Issaquah Multimodal I-90 Crossing Study Update.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

Councilmember Reh made comments regarding AB 9064, Amendments to Financial Policy & Travel & Procurement Card Policies.

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

**a) ID 1933 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of Nov. 17, 2025, \$6,847,489.70**

**MOTION:** Approved.

b) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, Oct. 20, 2025**

**MOTION:** Approved.

c) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, Oct. 27, 2025**

**MOTION:** Approved.

d) **AB 9064 - Amendments to Financial Policy & Travel & Procurement Card Policies**

**MOTION:** Adopted Ordinance No. 3123, adopting amendments to the City of Issaquah's Financial Management Policy; and Approved Resolution No. 2025-21, amending the Travel and Meals Policy; and Approved Resolution No. 2025-22, amending the Procurement Card Policy.

e) **AB 9070 - Issaquah Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy Update**

**MOTION:** Approved Resolution No. 2025-23, updating the City's Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy and repealing the policy adopted by Resolution No. 2004-11.

f) **AB 9086 - Franchise Agreement with Forged Fiber 37, LLC**

**MOTION:** Adopted Ordinance No. 3124, granting to Forged Fiber 37, LLC, a nonexclusive franchise to install, operate, and maintain a communication system in, on, over, upon, along, and across certain designated public rights-of-way of the city of Issaquah, Washington, prescribing certain rights, duties, terms, and conditions with respect thereto, and establishing an effective date.

g) **AB 9093 - 2025 Flood Reduction Grant for Sunrise PI to Sycamore Emergency Access Project (ST 021)**

**MOTION:** Authorized acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$322,000 and execution of the grant agreement with the King County Flood Control District to complete the design, securing permits, and develop a bid ready package for the Sunrise Place to Sycamore Drive Emergency Access improvement project; and authorized inclusion of the grant revenue and related expenditures in a subsequent 2026 budget amendment.

h) **AB 9094 - 2025 Unclaimed Property: Cancellation of Unredeemed City Checks**

**MOTION:** Approved Resolution No. 2025-24, ordering the cancellation of checks reported as stale to the Washington State Department of Revenue.

i) **AB 9102 - Eastside Transportation Partnership Interlocal Agreement**

**MOTION:** Authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute the Eastside Transportation Partnership Interlocal Agreement.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

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

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Finance Director Kristin Garcia.

Mayor Pauly reopened the public hearing at 7:42 PM. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed at 7:43 PM.

Action on this item will take place later on the agenda under Regular Business.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

a) **ID 1938 - MetroFlex Contract Extension**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Deputy City Administrator Andrea Lehner.

A majority of the City Council expressed support for shifting the MetroFlex contract service area from Squak Mountain to the Issaquah Highlands.

Other City Council feedback included:

- Think overall this is an expensive option
- Would like to explore other options like a circulator shuttle in the future
- Concerned that expanding the service could impact response times
- Goals and outcome conversation will be important before the end of the next contract to understand what this program is solving for
- Oppose shifting service area away from Squak Mountain
- Important to figure out to increase MetroFlex ridership overall

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

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

**MAIN MOTION:** Adopt Ordinance No. 3125, amending the 2025-26 budget as set forth in Ordinance No. 3083 and amended in Ordinance No. 3090 concerning revenues, expenditures, and fund balance for various funds.

**It was moved by Councilmember Jiang, seconded by Councilmember Marts, to:**

**AMENDMENT:** Amend the ordinance to remove \$150,000 for consulting fees to implement the EcoNW Report.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Amendment Defeated. 3-4</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marts, and Councilmember Reh
<b>OPPOSED:</b>	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Joe, and Council President Walsh

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Main Motion Carried. 6-1</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, and Council President Walsh
<b>OPPOSED:</b>	Councilmember Reh

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

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

**MOTION:** Adopt Ordinance No. 3126, levying property taxes for the City of Issaquah for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026, on all property, both real and personal, in said city which is subject to taxation for the purpose of paying sufficient revenue to carry on the services of said city for the ensuing year as required by law.

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

d) **AB 9017 - Central Issaquah Multimodal I-90 Crossing Study Update**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by Deputy City Administrator Andrea Lehner and Senior Transportation Engineer Greg Lucas.

Councilmember Joe, Chair of the Mobility & Infrastructure Committee, and the members of the Committee (Reh and de Michele) summarized the Committee's recommendation on this item.

**It was moved by Councilmember Joe, seconded by Councilmember Reh, to:**

**MOTION:** Accept the Central Issaquah Multimodal I-90 Crossing Study and approve its preferred crossing location of 11th Ave NW to 11th Ave NW.

There being no objection, the motion was withdrawn.

**It was moved by Deputy Council President de Michele, seconded by Councilmember Joe, to:**

**MOTION:** Receive the Central Issaquah Multi-Modal I-90 Crossing report and prepare a memorandum of concerns to be included with the study.

The City Council expressed concerns with the preferred crossing location identified in the study, including:

- The need for robust community engagement considering the significant impacts of this project
- The overall cost of the project
- The importance of integration with a light rail station
- The importance of ensuring walkability, bike ability and connectivity to businesses
- Concerns that the project does not fit the City's Central Issaquah Plan vision
- Concerns about accommodating parking
- Disappointment that the study did not encompass the cost of pedestrian overcrossings envisioned by the Central Issaquah Plan

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Carried 7-0</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, and Council President Walsh

<b>OPPOSED:</b> None
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**COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS***Councilmember Joe:*

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee - November meeting is canceled.

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Public Affairs Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

*Councilmember Hall:*

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board - Made report. Announced upcoming meeting.

*Councilmember Reh:*

Fourth of July Commission - Made report.

*Councilmember Marts:*

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Made report. Announced annual meeting.

Services, Safety & Parks Committee - Made report.

*Deputy Council President de Michele:*

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report.

Regional Transit Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Board of Health - Announced upcoming meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Executive Session: There will not be an executive session this evening.
- Former Issaquah City Council Member Eileen Barber Memorial
- Upcoming Events

**GOOD OF THE ORDER***Councilmember Joe:*

Veterans' Day Event - Provided a summary of the event.

Leadership Eastside 20th Anniversary Gala - Provided a summary of the event.

*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 10:15 PM.

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Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk