

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM  
January 20, 2026

**MINUTES**

Council Chambers, 135 E.  
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Mayor Mark Mullet, Council President Barbara de Michele, Councilmember Kelly Jiang, Councilmember Russell Joe, Deputy Council President Tola Marts, Councilmember Kevin Nichols, and Councilmember Lindsey Walsh

**Excused Absence:**

**Staff Present:** Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator, Andrea Lehner, Deputy City Administrator, and Rachel Bender Turpin, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Mullet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

The following public comment was provided:

- Kaylee Jaech, representing The Garage Teen Cafe, provided an update and thanked the City Council for their support.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**It was moved by Council President de Michele, seconded by Deputy Council President Marts, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion Carried (6-0).**

- a) **ID 1934 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of Jan. 20, 2026, \$4,375,532.86**

**MOTION:** Approved.

- b) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, Dec. 2, 2025**

**MOTION:** Approved.

- c) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, Jan. 5, 2026**

**MOTION:** Approved.

- d) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, Jan. 12, 2026**

**MOTION:** Approved.

- e) **AB 9069 - Collective Bargaining Agreement with Public, Professional and Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers (Teamsters 763) re: One Year Contract Extension**

**MOTION:** Approved the terms of the 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Public, Professional and Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers (Teamsters 763) regarding the one year contract and authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute the Agreement; and directed the Human Resources Director to amend the 2026 salary ordinance to incorporate the revised wages in a subsequent amendment.

- f) **AB 9104 - Appointments to Cascade Water Alliance Board Position**

**MOTION:** Approved Resolution No. 2026-02, designating representatives to serve on the Cascade Water Alliance Board of Directors.

- g) **AB 9110 - Petty Cash Authority & Imprest Fund Authorization**

**MOTION:** Approved Resolution No. 2026-03, increasing the City's maximum authorized petty cash imprest fund limit to \$20,000 and authorizing the establishment of a police confidential imprest fund not to exceed \$15,000 for undercover drug-enforcement activities.

- h) **AB 9111 - 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy Agreement**

**MOTION:** Authorized acceptance of 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy funds and execution of the Parks Property Tax Levy Agreement with King County in substantially the same form as the attached agreement (Exhibit A), as approved by the City Attorney.

- i) **AB 9119 - King County Independent Force Investigation Team (IFIT) Interlocal Agreement Second Modification**

**MOTION:** Authorized the Mayor to enter into and execute the Second Modification of the Independent Force Investigation Team of King County (IFIT-KC) Interlocal Agreement.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a) **AB 9134 - Issaquah School District's 2026 Levies, Feb. 10 Special Election Ballot Items**  
Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by City Clerk Tisha Gieser.

Mayor Mullet opened the public hearing at 7:08 PM.

The following individuals spoke in support of the proposed resolution in support of the Issaquah School District levies:

- Derona Uzzle, resident
- Janet Kelly, Community member
- Christie Santodomingo, teacher
- Harlan Gallinger, Issaquah School Board member

The following individual spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution in support of the Issaquah School District levies:

- Kurt Strickland, resident
- Jay Sternoff, resident

The public hearing was closed at 7:23 PM.

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

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution No. 2026- 05, supporting the Issaquah School District's levies, Proposition Nos. 1, 2 and 3, scheduled for the February 10, 2026, special election.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Carried 6-0</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Council President de Michele, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Deputy Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
<b>OPPOSED:</b>	None

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

a) **ID 1956 - Informational Update: WSDOT Fish Passage Project**

The update was presented by Public Works Director Emily Moon, Utility Engineering Manager Matt Ellis and Chris Brown, City's Liaison and Project Manager (Perteet), Tom Pearce, WSDOT Communications and Matt Rugh, Atkinson Construction.

There was no action as this item was informational only.

b) **AB 9133 - City Council Vacancy, Position No. 2**

The City Council finalized the following five questions to be asked of the remaining four applicants:

1. There are a lot of issues in front of the City Council and none of us can know everything. What is one issue facing the City that you don't know very well and how will you learn more about it?
2. The public has told us that housing and affordability and cost of living are important. Speak to what you know about housing, what you see as the problem and any ways you would want to address that on the Council.
3. The public has told us that traffic and mobility are critical challenges for the city. How do you see the problem, and in a time of reduced city revenues how would you prioritize city mobility investments?
4. If you were given a million dollars to spend on a community project, and were told that the project had to be completed by the end of your two-year term, what would you choose to spend the money on?
5. Why should we pick you?

The questions were asked of the following four applicants one at a time in the following order:

1. Katherine Hurt
2. Paul Adair
3. Landon Halverson
4. Jeffrey Newell

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:10 PM, Council recessed into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing qualifications of appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h). The item was expected to take approximately 20 minutes. The City Council took a 7 minute break as they moved into the meeting room. The Executive Session began at 9:17 PM.

At 9:37 PM the Executive Session ended and the City Council took approximately 4 minutes to move back into meeting room.

a) **ID 1960 - Executive Session: Qualifications of Appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)**

**REGULAR BUSINESS, CONTINUED**

The open meeting reconvened at 9:41 PM.

a) **AB 9133 - City Council Vacancy, Position No. 2**

The Mayor opened nominations of appointment to City Council Position No. 2.

Councilmember Walsh nominated Paul Adair for Council Position No. 2. Councilmember Jiang seconded.

**MOTION:** Appoint Paul Adair to Council Position No. 2.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Carried 6-0</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Council President de Michele, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Deputy Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
<b>OPPOSED:</b>	None

Mayor Mullet issued the oath of office to Paul Adair to serve as City Council Position No. 2 through certification of the Nov. 2027 general election.

**COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Nichols:*

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report.  
King Conservation District - Appointed to this group.

*Councilmember Jiang:*

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report. Announced upcoming meeting.  
King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee - Appointed to this group.  
King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee - Appointed to this group.

*Councilmember Joe:*

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Cascade Water Alliance Public Affairs Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

*Councilmember Walsh:*

A Regional Coalition for Affordable Housing Elected Officials - Appointed to this group.  
King County Affordable Housing Committee - Appointed to this group.  
Eastside Fire & Rescue Board - Made report.

*Deputy Council President Marts:*  
Sound Cities Association Board - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Services, Safety & Parks Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

*Council President de Michele:*  
Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board - Made report  
PSRC Annual Meeting - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Regional Transit Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.  
Seattle/King County Board of Health - Announced upcoming meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- The Mayor reported on the following topics:
- Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board
  - Board/Commission Applications are Open!
  - Community Meeting Saturday, January 24th 11:00am at Gibson Hall

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

a) **ID 1957 - 2026 City Council Appointments**

Council President de Michele announced the City Council standing committee appointments:

<b>Mobility &amp; Infrastructure Committee</b>	Chair: Russell Joe Barbara de Michele Paul Adair
<b>Planning, Development &amp; Environment Committee</b>	Chair: Kelly Jiang Tola Marts Kevin Nichols
<b>Services, Safety &amp; Parks Committee</b>	Chair: Lindsey Walsh Tola Marts Kevin Nichols

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

**MOTION:** Approve an exception to the City Council Rules of Procedure Section 2.04, Appointments, Standing Committees, to allow a member of Council leadership to be appointed to two standing committees in 2026.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Carried 7-0</b>
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Councilmember Paul Adair, Council President de Michele, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Deputy Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
<b>OPPOSED:</b>	None

*Deputy Council President Marts:*  
Council Appointments – Shared that he was excited to see so much Issaquah representation regionally.

*Mayor Mullet:*  
Upcoming Council Meetings - Announced anticipated agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 PM.

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk