

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM
March 2, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

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

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.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) **ID 1985 - American Red Cross Month Proclamation**

Mayor Mullet issued the proclamation to Red Cross Board members and Issaquah residents Jenn Civitts and Emily Volpone.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following public comment was provided:

- Joe Kunzler spoke regarding Sound Transit.
- Mahesh Rapaka, business owner and early learning facility permit applicant, spoke in support of AB 9139, Early Learning Facility Traffic Impact Fee Waivers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Councilmember Walsh, Chair of the Services, Safety & Parks Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendation on AB 9160 - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

It was moved by Council President de Michele seconded by Deputy Council President Marts, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion Carried (7-0).

a) **ID 1939 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of March 2, 2026, \$14,018,213.92**

MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

b) **Minutes: City Council Committee of the Whole, Jan. 31, 2026**

MOTION: Approved.

c) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, Feb. 9, 2026**

MOTION: Approved.

d) **AB 9123 - 2026 Docket of Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

MOTION: Approved the 2026 Docket of Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments as presented.

e) **AB 9144 - Franchise Agreement with NFC Northwest, LLC**

MOTION: Adopted Ordinance No. 3133, granting to NFC Northwest, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, 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.

f) **AB 9160 - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

MOTION: Approved Resolution No. 2026-09, updating the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan as an annex to the Interjurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for state and federal acceptance.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **AB 9139 - Early Learning Facility Traffic Impact Fee Waivers**

Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by Planning Manager Christen Leeson.

Councilmember Jiang, Chair of the Planning, Development & Environment Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendation on this item.

It was moved by Councilmember Jiang, seconded by Deputy Council President Marts, to:

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance No. 3134, amending Chapter 3.71 of the Issaquah Municipal Code to allow for traffic impact fee waivers for early learning centers.

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

b) **AB 9091 - Newport Way Maple to Sunset Improvements Project (TR 023) Design Agreement Supplement**

Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by Transportation Engineering Manager John Mortenson.

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

MOTION: Authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute design agreement supplement #4 for the Newport Way Maple to Sunset Improvements (TR023) project with Perteet, Inc. in the amount of \$304,641.26, in substantially the same form as the attached agreement (Exhibit A), as approved by the City Attorney.

RESULT:	Carried 6-1
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Council President de Michele, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	Deputy Council President Marts

c) **AB 9147 - Blue Fern Development LLC Fee in Lieu of Frontage Improvement Agreement for Newport Way NW and NW Holly St**

Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by Community Planning & Development Director Minnie Dhaliwal.

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

MOTION: Authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute the Fee in Lieu of Frontage Improvement Agreement with Blue Fern Group in substantially the same form as the attached agreement (Exhibit A), as approved by the City Attorney.

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

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

Councilmember Nichols:

King Conservation District Advisory Board - Made report.

Councilmember Jiang:

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Announced Cross Lake Connection Light Rail event on March 28.

Councilmember Joe:

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Made report.

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Board Oversight Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Walsh:

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

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board - Made report.

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Deputy Council President Marts:

Sound Cities Association Board - Made report.

Sound Cities Association Networking Dinner - Announced upcoming event.

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Cascade Water Alliance Board
- Upcoming Events
- Update to Immigration Resources City Webpage

GOOD OF THE ORDER*Council President de Michele:*

Resignation - Announced her resignation from the City Council effective immediately due to health challenges.

Mayor Mullet and Councilmembers gave Council President de Michele a standing ovation and expressed their gratitude for her service on the City Council.

Mayor Mullet:

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 9:00 PM.

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk