

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Regular Meeting**

7:00 PM
March 16, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Mark Mullet, Councilmember Paul Adair, Deputy Council President Kelly Jiang, Councilmember Russell Joe, Council President Tola Marts, Councilmember Kevin Nichols, and Councilmember 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 Mullet called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mullet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) ID 1954 - Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Mullet presented the proclamation to Urban Forest Supervisor Dan Hintz and Urban Forestry interns Milo Armstrong and Quinault Filo.

b) ID 1961 - 2026 Transportation Advisory Board Work Plan

Deputy City Administrator Andrea Lehner and Erika Boyd, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Board, presented the 2026 Board Work Plan.

City Council input included:

- Recommend looking at pedestrian/bike gaps in the City's transportation system especially related to accessing transit.
- As part of micro transit services, recommend considering fixed route shuttle options as one of the options explored.
- Suggest exploring possible projects in the \$1-\$2 million range.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

- a) **ID 1940 - Accounts: Payables and Payroll of March 16, 2026, \$6,396,730.06;** Approved.
- b) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, Feb. 23, 2026;** Approved.
- c) **Minutes: City Council Special Meeting, Feb. 26, 2026;** Approved.
- d) **Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting, March 2, 2026;** Approved.
- e) **ID 1945 - Informational Update: 2025 Q4 Grant & Contract Report;** Received Report.
- f) **AB 9132 - Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Habitat Restoration at Squak Valley Park South Consultant Contract;** Authorized the Mayor to enter into a contract with Facet, LLC in the amount of \$492,401 for the design and permitting of the Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Habitat Restoration at Squak Valley South Project and authorized an additional \$278,300 of project funding, including \$225,000 from the King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grant and \$53,300 from the stormwater fund balance, in a subsequent 2026 budget amendment.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **AB 9159 - 2026 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations**
 Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by Economic Development Coordinator Jack Pedlow.

Councilmember Joe, Chair of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendation on this item.

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

MOTION: Approve the allocation of \$55,000 to fund business and non-profit tourism-related activities as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; and authorize the inclusion of \$3,500 in a subsequent 2026 budget amendment utilizing Lodging Tax funds.

RESULT:	Carried 6-0
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Deputy Council President Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	None
ABSENT:	None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) **ID 1993 - New Business Request: Public Reporting on Immigration Enforcement Activity**
 Councilmember Nichols introduced the request.

It was moved by Councilmember Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Walsh, to:

MOTION: Forward the Public Reporting on Immigration Enforcement Activity new business item to the April 20 City Council meeting for a preliminary staff response.

RESULT:	Carried 6-0
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Deputy Council President Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	None
ABSENT:	None

COMMITTEE / REGIONAL REPORTS

Councilmember Adair:

WRIA8 Salmon Recovery Council - Made report. Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Nichols:

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report.

Councilmember Joe:

Cascade Water Alliance Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Cascade Water Alliance Public Affairs Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Walsh:

ARCH Council of Elected Officials - Announced upcoming meeting.

Council Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Planning, Development & Environment Committee - Announced upcoming meeting.

Deputy Council President Jiang:

Eastside Transportation Partnership - Made report.

King County Regional Homelessness Authority - Announced upcoming meeting.

Council President Marts:

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee - Made report.

Sound Cities Association Board - Announced upcoming meeting.

Council President Marts announced the following new committee appointments.

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee: Joe (Chair), Marts, vacant

Planning, Development & Environment Committee: Walsh (Chair), Jiang, Nichols

Services, Safety & Parks Committee: Adair (Chair), Nichols, vacant

Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee: Joe, Nichols, Walsh (Chair)

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board: Walsh (Vice Chair), Adair, alternate vacant

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following topics:

- Now Accepting Issaquah Hall of Fame Nominations
- Save Issaquah Light Rail
- Upcoming Events

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilmember Joe:

Kiwanis Event - Thanked the City for using a generator to make this event possible despite the power outage.

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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 8:18 PM.

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk