

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council  
Services, Safety & Parks Committee**

6:30 PM  
January 27, 2026

**MINUTES**

Council Chambers, 135 E.  
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Committee Members:*

Lindsey Walsh, Chair (*Excused Absence*)  
Tola Marts, Acting Chair  
Kevin Nichols

*Administration/Staff:*

Autumn Monahan, Director of Administrative  
Services  
T. Cassidy Mueller, Deputy City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Marts called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

No members of the public spoke.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of November 18, 2025. There being no changes, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

a) **COM 0202 - Issaquah Housing Investment Pool (IHIP) Funding Recommendation**

Presented by:

Alexis Fitzsimmons, Economic Development & Housing Manager

No public comment was provided.

The Committee recommended this item to be placed on Consent on the February 23, 2026 Council Regular Meeting agenda, adding the full presentation as presented tonight as an exhibit. The Committee also recommended that staff encourage collaboration with the developer for Parq by Vintage to make their proposal viable for the next IHIP funding cycle.

b) **COM 0206 - Park Rules and Regulations**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director

No public comment was provided.

The Committee recommended that Issaquah's peer cities' rules and code be reviewed and considered during this process, along with a focus on equity.

c) **COM 0207 - 2026 Arts Grant Recommendations**

*Presented by:*

*Amy Dukes, Arts Program Administrator*

No public comment was provided.

The Committee recommended that the item be brought to the February 2, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting for consideration under Consent, with Deputy Council President Marts agreeing to note during his report to Council that the SSP Committee recommends Council to consider further discussion of the City's arts budget. They also recommended that the agenda bill include all grant applications and more information on the grant evaluation process, along with additional options for Council to consider.

Other Committee comments included:

- Interest in learning how much the Village Theatre receives in funding from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC).
- Interest in learning all revenue sources for arts funding in Issaquah.
- Request for staff to create examples for applicants to review prior to applying of successful and unsuccessful applications.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE**

No announcements were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 PM.

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T. Cassidy Mueller, Deputy City Clerk



# Staff Report

## COM # 0229 – Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

**Meeting Date** February 24, 2026  
**Department** Administrative Services  
**Staff Lead** Jared Schneider, Emergency Manager

### Attachments

- A. Draft 2025-2030 City of Issaquah Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex
- B. 2025-2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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### Direction Needed from Committee

The Services, Safety and Parks Committee is asked to:

1. Review the Draft 2025–2030 City of Issaquah Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex (Exhibit A).
2. Provide feedback or direction on hazard mitigation strategies.
3. Recommend that the City Council adopt the annex as part of the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Exhibit B).
4. Provide feedback on the broader Emergency Management program.

### Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Committee recommend adoption of the 2025–2030 City of Issaquah Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex to the full City Council.

Adoption of the annex:

- Maintains the City’s eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants (Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, etc.).
- Aligns hazard mitigation strategy with the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Program, Climate Action Plan, and emergency management priorities.
- Establishes a five-year mitigation strategy focused on seismic resilience, flood risk reduction, wildfire adaptation, energy resilience, and protection of critical infrastructure and our community.

## Background

The proposal is adoption of the City of Issaquah's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex (Exhibit A) as part of the 2025–2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Exhibit B). The City's hazard mitigation plan is a foundational document that guides the City's efforts to reduce exposure to natural and human-made hazards.

Hazard mitigation and risk-reduction is one of three priority-focus areas for Issaquah's Emergency Management program. The other two focus areas are Operational Readiness and Community Preparedness.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are federally-approved plans that must meet criteria and standards established by FEMA. Jurisdictions annexing on to King County's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan must first provide their draft annex to King County Office of Emergency Management and Washington State Department of Emergency Management for feedback and assurance that the plan meets federal standards. In January 2026, Issaquah received feedback from both parties and has since incorporated their recommendations. The plan meets or exceeds all federal requirements. The final step before federal approval is City Council adoption.

The plan:

- Identifies Issaquah's hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities
- Establishes mitigation strategies for the next five years and beyond
- Aligns mitigation efforts with City planning, infrastructure, and climate resilience goals

Issaquah has participated in the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for multiple planning cycles. Previous mitigation plan accomplishments include seismic resiliency planning, community resilience programming, and Community Rating Score improvements.

Since the last update, the City has conducted cross-department mitigation workshops, integrated the hazard mitigation plan with the Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Plan, developed new resilience hub and energy resilience strategies, and enhanced wildfire mitigation planning in response to changing west-of-Cascades fire conditions.

In addition, several City Councilmembers expressed interest in discussing potential growth areas for Emergency Management during its Jan. 31, 2026 retreat. Opportunities in emergency response, community preparedness and risk reduction will be presented for initial discussion and feedback from the Services, Safety, and Parks Committee members.

## Analysis

The 2025–2030 Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex was developed through a coordinated, cross-department effort designed to ensure that hazard mitigation is integrated into the City’s broader planning efforts rather than treated as a standalone emergency management document. Twenty-one staff participated in the plan development, representing a variety of departments, divisions, and perspectives.

The process began with a City-led hazard identification and risk assessment workshop in May 2025, where representatives from across departments evaluated Issaquah’s most significant risks, including earthquake, flooding, wildfire, extreme weather, infrastructure failure, and climate-driven hazards. This discussion was grounded in data from the [King County Risk Report](#), [FEMA flood mapping](#), local hazard history, [climate projections from Issaquah's Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#), and the City’s own infrastructure inventory. GIS mapping was used to visualize vulnerabilities and critical facilities, helping the planning team identify areas where mitigation investments would have the greatest long-term benefit.

Following risk identification, the City convened a mitigation strategy development workshop in June 2025. Departments collaborated to identify feasible, cost-effective, and implementable actions aligned with City priorities. Emphasis was placed on protecting critical infrastructure, strengthening seismic resilience, reducing flood risk, addressing wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface, and improving energy resilience at key facilities. Strategies were evaluated through the prioritization framework established by King County and FEMA to ensure consistency with regional standards and funding eligibility requirements.

The annex was synchronized with other major City planning efforts. Staff coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan update to ensure land use and development strategies reflect current hazard data. The Climate Action Plan was reviewed to align climate adaptation and hazard mitigation investments. The Capital Improvement Program was consulted to ensure that mitigation priorities can realistically be incorporated into long-term infrastructure planning. This integration ensures that hazard mitigation informs how the City builds, invests, and grows — rather than existing as a separate plan.

The development process also included regional and community engagement. Issaquah coordinated monthly with peer cities including Bothell, Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond to promote consistency in approach and strategy. Locally, the City engaged community members and businesses at public events such as Salmon Days, National Night Out, Farmers Markets, Providence Point Disaster Expo, and the

Issaquah Library. Community members were asked to rank hazards of concern and provide feedback on proposed strategies, ensuring that the annex reflects both technical analysis and community perspective.

The result is a five-year mitigation strategy that is data-informed, regionally coordinated, publicly supported, and integrated into existing City planning frameworks. Adoption of this annex formalizes that work and positions Issaquah to continue proactively reducing risk while maintaining eligibility for federal mitigation funding.

## Options

Option 1 – Adopt the Annex (Recommended)

- Maintains FEMA grant eligibility
- Positions the City for BRIC, FMA, and HMGP funding
- Aligns mitigation with climate and infrastructure planning

Option 2 – Do Not Adopt

- Loss of eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants
- Reduced competitiveness for resilience funding

## Impacts – Financial, Policy & Community

### Financial Impacts

- No immediate fiscal impact from adoption
- Enables access to federal mitigation funding
- Positions projects for grant competitiveness
- May leverage millions in external funding over the five-year cycle

Mitigation projects that require funding will be brought forward through the appropriate financial mechanism such as the CIP process, grant applications, and budget deliberations.

### Policy Impacts

- Supports implementation of the Comprehensive Plan
- Reinforces Climate Action Plan goals
- Strengthens integration of seismic, flood, wildfire, and infrastructure resilience policy

The plan itself is not regulatory and does not impose mandates.

### Community Impacts

- Enhances community resilience
- Improves public safety and infrastructure reliability
- Reduces long-term disaster recovery costs
- Continues public engagement on preparedness and risk reduction

### Timing & Next Steps

- Committee review: February 24, 2026
- Full Council adoption: Anticipated March 2026
- Submission to FEMA following adoption for final approval
- Public posting and further community engagement on hazard mitigation efforts

