

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Special Meeting – COVID-19**

7:00 PM
March 23, 2020

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Alternate Meeting Format: On March 6, 2020 the Mayor declared a civil emergency due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to the emergency, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform. The Council Chambers remained open to the public. Unless otherwise indicated below, attendees participated remotely.

Councilmembers:

Barbara de Michele
Stacy Goodman
Zach Hall
Victoria Hunt
Tola Marts
Chris Reh
Lindsey Walsh

Administration/Staff:

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Jim Haney, City Attorney
Christine Eggers, City Clerk *(In Person)*
Tisha Gieser, Deputy City Clerk
Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director
Monica Negrila, Human Services & Social Sustainability
Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager
Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Other Guests:

Lori Birrell, Issaquah Community Services
Elaine Davis, Issaquah Community Services
Jim & Carol Halas, St. Vincent de Paul - St. Joseph
Conference – Issaquah
Lucy Pyeatt, Hopelink

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **COVID-19 Reports**

- Mayor's Report - Proclamations of Emergency
- City Administrator's Report

Reports were provided by Mayor Pauly and City Administrator Bobkiewicz.

b) **AB 7948 - Issaquah Rental and Mortgage Emergency Assistance Program**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by City Administrator Bobkiewicz. Following Council discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY HUNT, SECONDED BY REH, TO:

- 1) Establish the Issaquah Rental and Mortgage Emergency Assistance Program and authorize funding of \$100,000 for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis as outlined in AB 7948;

- 2) Authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute contract amendments with Issaquah Community Services, St. Vincent de Paul - St. Joseph Conference - Issaquah, and Hopelink to provide these emergency funds; and
- 3) Authorize the Finance Director to include \$100,000 from the General Fund in a subsequent 2020 budget amendment.

IT WAS MOVED BY GOODMAN, SECONDED BY HUNT, TO:

Amend the program by limiting the program to rental assistance.

AMENDMENT CARRIED, 7-0.

IT WAS MOVED BY HUNT, SECONDED BY GOODMAN, TO:

Amend the program's eligibility criteria to be:

"Residents of Issaquah meeting income requirements at or below 80% of the area median income who need temporary financial assistance resulting from financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis."

AMENDMENT CARRIED, 7-0.

IT WAS MOVED BY HUNT, SECONDED BY GOODMAN, TO:

Add the following reporting requirements to the program:

"The City Council will receive a report summarizing invoices received once 50% of the funding has been distributed. This report will provide the metrics identified in the contract requirements section of AB 7948 as well as information about the ways the funding needs were connected with the COVID-19 crisis."

AMENDMENT CARRIED, 7-0.

The motion before the Council was to:

- 1) Establish the Issaquah Rental and Mortgage Emergency Assistance Program and authorize funding of \$100,000 for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis as outlined in AB 7948 and as amended; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to enter into and execute contract amendments with Issaquah Community Services, St. Vincent de Paul - St. Joseph Conference - Issaquah, and Hopelink to provide these emergency funds; and
- 3) Authorize the Finance Director to include \$100,000 from the General Fund in a subsequent 2020 budget amendment.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED, 7-0.

c) **AB 7950 - Temporary Suspension of Pass-Through Carryout Bag Charge**

Introduced by Mayor Pauly and presented by City Administrator Bobkiewicz. Following Council discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY HUNT, SECONDED BY REH, TO:

Adopt Ordinance No. 2904, suspending the pass-through charge on recycled paper carryout bags imposed under IMC 8.05 for the duration of the emergency proclaimed by the Mayor; ratifying and approving the Mayor's actions in suspending the charge retroactive to March 19, 2020; declaring an emergency and providing for an immediate effective date.

IT WAS MOVED BY DE MICHELE, SECONDED BY MARTS, TO:

Amend Section 3 of the ordinance to add:

"The suspension provided for in this ordinance shall remain in effect for the duration of the civil emergency proclaimed by Mayor Pauly on March 6, 2020 and shall terminate upon the termination of that emergency proclamation, or no later than January 18, 2022, whichever comes first."

AMENDMENT FAILED, 3-4. (*Proponents: de Michele, Hall, Marts*)

MAIN MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

- d) **Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Re: Requirement for a Meeting Place**
- Discuss WA State Potential Suspension

Mayor Pauly and City Administrator Bobkiewicz provided an update on an anticipated suspension to certain requirements of the OPMA in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:09 PM.

Christine Eggers, City Clerk

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor