

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Council Study Session**

6:30 PM
February 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

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). On March 24, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 relating to the COVID-19 emergency and open public meetings. The proclamation has been extended. Due to these factors, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform.

Councilmembers:

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

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember de Michele called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Public Comment** - None.

b) **ID 0813 - Wildfire Strategy**

Presented by:

Robert York, Public Works Director

Fire Chief Jeff Clark, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Lara Whitely Binder, King County Climate Action Team

Jared Schneider, King County Emergency Management

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including:

- Encouraged community fire prevention efforts, such as brush clearing, especially due to COVID-19 and the desire for outdoor activities
- Encouraged more work around communication, community awareness and evacuation planning

c) **ID 0814 - Police Accountability, Equity and Human Services Action Plan Update**

Presented by:

Gene Paul, Management Analyst

City Councilmembers requested an additional Council touch point on the Community Court.

d) **ID 0844 - Police Department Budget & Operations Update**

Presented by:

Scott Behrbaum, Police Chief

Lauren Truscott, Police Commander

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including:

- Support for the Administration's recommendation to not pursue body cameras in 2022
- Support for moving forward with a conversation about body cameras with a future equity commission and the community
- Concern with the current number of sworn police officers; interest in having a conversation regarding adding additional officers

e) **ID 0845 - School Resource Officers**

Presented by:

Scott Behrbaum, Police Chief

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including:

- Proceed with community engagement on the School Resource Officer (SRO) position
- Important to partner with the school and their communication tools to get student and parent feedback on this topic
- Request that the Administration pursue options to allow both the School Board and City Council to attend the public engagement meeting
- Provide multiple opportunities/formats for students to communicate their viewpoints

f) **ID 0847 - Human Services Commission Equity Work**

Presented by:

Monica Negrila, Human Services Manager

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including a desire for more information about the potential scope of any new board/commission as it relates to existing boards/commissions and gratitude for the process thus far.

g) **ID 0848 - City Council Equity Training Next Steps**

Presented by:

Stephanie Johnson, HR Director

City Councilmembers provided feedback, including:

- Support for equity training on March 29 *[Subsequently rescheduled to March 23.]*
- Request for more time to debrief and interact after training

h) **Good of the Order**

Councilmember de Michele:

Webex Events – Announced the upcoming transition to this meeting platform at the March 1 Council meeting.

Special Meeting – Announced that a special meeting will convene following this study session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:44 PM.

Tisha Gieser, Deputy City Clerk

Barbara de Michele, Designated Chair