

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Special Meeting – Social Gathering**

6:30 PM
November 29, 2022

Big Fish Grill
984 NE Park Drive

MINUTES

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Councilmembers in Attendance:
Barbara de Michele
Zach Hall
Victoria Hunt
Tola Marts
Chris Reh
Lindsey Walsh

Administration/Staff in Attendance:
Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

Certain attendees also brought a guest.

SOCIAL GATHERING

The purpose of this special meeting was to allow the City Councilmember to meet socially to share a meal at a local restaurant.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 PM.

Opening comments were made, and a meal was shared. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk



Informational Update

ID # 1396 – Economic Development Update

Meeting Date February 6, 2023
Department Economic Development
Staff Lead Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Attachments

- A. 2022 4th Quarter Report on Economic Development Activities
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Purpose

This informational report is to provide an overview of economic development staff activities and trends in the 4th quarter of 2022. This report also includes the 2022 Economic Vitality Commission Annual Report on their activities.

This report includes information about the following:

- Data regarding retail sales tax collection
- Data regarding one-on-one business assistance
- Small Business Saturday
- Issaquah Buzz podcast
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) updates
- Business Wish List survey follow-up activities
- New Economic Development staff
- Interdepartmental Coordination
- Upcoming Activities



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Q4 2022

Overview

Each year, Economic Development staff conduct what are called Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) visits. Through these one-on-one conversations, we learn more about their business, why they located in Issaquah, what challenges they are facing and if they have plans for growth in the near future. We visit businesses of all sizes, industries, and longevity.

As the year ends and there is an air of uncertainty about the economic future, we are reminded of the faith that business owners have put into our community. While struggles continue to find employees and cost of goods soar, business owners still see Issaquah as a great place to do business, with a supportive community and unrivaled beauty.

All in all, the City's retail vacancy rate of 1.9% and office vacancy rate of 5.5% during this quarter does not completely tell the story of our business community, but it does provide a glimpse of the strong business climate that the City has helped to create. No matter what happens in the broader economy in 2023 and beyond, the City's Economic Development team, in collaboration with other City staff, will be there to support businesses to grow and relocate to Issaquah.

This quarterly update provides an overview of the business climate, economic development activities, and a glimpse into select future activities in 2023.



Did You Know That Was Made in Issaquah?



Our podcast about business happenings has caused quite the buzz with over 1,400 subscribers listening in to hear the latest about businesses in Issaquah.

Episode #6 highlighted businesses that plan or produce items made here in Issaquah. From the big names of Costco, SanMar and REI to lesser known firms that have national or international presence such as Bogginhead, Marketing Masters, WATTSALPOAG, Northwest Playground Equipment and NW Makes - there are a lot of amazing businesses that claim Issaquah as home!

Check out the latest podcast [here](#).

Highlight



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

This year's Small Business Saturday and related Shop Local activities in Issaquah provided multiple opportunities to buy unique holiday gifts and services. From the pop-up retail at Highlands Village Market, Downtown's Artisan Market and Historic Shell Holiday Shop to Gilman Village's Santa Village, holiday spirit was abundant. Over 300 people shopped local at nearly 90 businesses to enter into the Issaquah Chamber's Shop Local contest. Want less stuff? Visit Issaquah promoted giving an Issaquah experience. Plans are already brewing for next year's efforts to support small businesses during the holiday season. Have a great idea or want to be involved? [Contact us!](#)