

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**City Council Committee-of-the-Whole – Special Meeting**

7:15 PM  
May 22, 2023

**MINUTES**

Council Chambers  
135 E. Sunset Way

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Councilmembers:*

Barbara de Michele  
Zach Hall  
Victoria Hunt  
Russell Joe  
Tola Marts  
Chris Reh  
Lindsey Walsh

*Administration/Staff:*

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator  
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator  
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

a) **Public Comment**

The following public comment was provided:

1. Brian Runberg - Red Robin/Pickering site owner – spoke about the Central Issaquah Plan, housing, and how it relates to the redevelopment of the former Red Robin site.
2. Rachel Wright – Co-chair of the Issaquah Arts Commission and representative of the Issaquah Creative District – spoke about the need for artist space in the City.
3. Juliette Ripley-Dunkelberger – shared her experiences and perspective as an artist, teacher, and musician regarding the need for an arts center.
4. Leslie Pflug – former Arts Commission member – spoke about need for an arts center.

b) **ID 1431 - Affordable Housing Goals for Future Capital Investment**

*Presented by:*

*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

After the staff presentation the following people spoke during public comment:

1. Brian Runberg – Ownership group representative for the former Red Robin site – Mr. Runberg spoke about the Transit Oriented Development and Pioneer projects.

City Councilmembers were supportive of the Pioneer Project outlined by staff.

Other City Council comments included the following:

- Prioritize the preservation of existing affordable housing. Need more information on this.
- Encourage Transit Oriented Development (TOD). If TOD is struggling, let Council know.
- Pursue possible partnership with A Regional Coalition on Housing (ARCH) for multiplier effect.
- \$2.4 million is not much money to put toward the problem of affordable housing. Staff will need to be creative and innovative.

c) **ID 1343 - Police, Court and City Hall Planning: Future Options and Funding**

*Presented by:*

*Autumn Monahan, Administrative Services Director*

*Robert Hamud, Chief Financial Officer*

Item was postponed to the June 5, 2023 City Council meeting by consent of the City Council.

d) **Good of the Order**

Deputy Council President Hall thanked members of the City's various boards and commissions and encouraged residents to volunteer.

Council President Walsh reminded Committee members of the Summer Employee Recognition Event (SERE) on July 20, 2023, from 11 AM to 3 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:56 PM.

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Lindsey Walsh, Designated Chair

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Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk