

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Special Meeting**

6:30 PM
February 10, 2025

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele, Councilmember Zach Hall, Councilmember Russell Joe, Councilmember Tola Marts (*Attended virtually*), Councilmember Chris Reh, and Council President Lindsey Walsh

Excused Absence:

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator; Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator; Rachel Bender Turpin, City Attorney; and Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pauly called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Public Comment**

The following individual provided public comment:

- James Marquardt, resident, expressed concern over recent safety incidents that have occurred along the Rainier Trail.

b) **AB 8952 - City Council Position No. 6 Vacancy**

The following applicants were moved forward in the appointment process from the Feb. 3 City Council meeting:

1. Kelly Jiang
2. Katia Zakharoff
3. Mary Newcomer Williams
4. Eric Oliner
5. Tina Hayes
6. Chris Reichley
7. Jeff Newell

The City Council asked the following questions of each Council applicant:

1. How should the Council prioritize the issues of the city while dealing with limited resources?
2. After hearing from the other candidates, why should we pick you?"

c) **ID 1779 - Executive Session - Qualifications of Appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)**

At 7:12 PM, Council moved into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing qualifications of appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h). The item was expected to take approximately 30 minutes and action was anticipated in open session. The Executive Session was preceded by a 5-minute break.

The City Council moved into Executive Session at 7:17 PM. The 30-minute session was extended by 10 minutes. An additional five minutes was required for the City Council to relocate back to the City Council Chambers.

AB 8952 - City Council Position No. 6 Vacancy

The open meeting reconvened at 8:02 PM.

The Mayor opened nominations of applicants to move forward in the selection process for City Council Position No. 6.

Councilmember Reh nominated Chris Reichley.

Deputy Council President de Michele nominated Tina Hays.

Council President Walsh nominated Kelly Jiang.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor announced the nominations were closed.

MOTION: Move Chris Reichley, Tina Hays and Kelly Jiang forward in the appointment process.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, and Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	None

There being no objection, the City Council took a five-minute recess at 8:06 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:11 PM.

The City Council asked additional questions of the remaining three applicants: Chris Reichley, Tina Hays and Kelly Jiang.

1. There are a lot of issues in front of the City Council and none of us can know everything. What is one issue facing the City that you don't know very well and how will you learn more about it?
2. One of the issues that is at crisis point is housing and the affordability and cost of living. Speak to what you know about housing, what you see as the problem and any ways you would want to address that on the Council.
3. America is reeling under historic levels of partisan divisiveness both across the red/blue divide and across the political parties. This Council is non-partisan. How would you help firewall the upcoming Council from partisan anger and obstinacy both in the community and beyond?
4. Hypothetical question: Let's say that phase two of the Community Center is coming in and the environmental concerns and zoning have been addressed. We have two competing groups. The youth want the center expanded so they have space to do all the things they do but there is the possibility of putting a brand new senior center there. The seniors are concerned that having all the youth around might pose physical challenges for them and the youth don't necessarily want the older people around.

What process would you engage in to help you get to a decision on which project to pursue?

- 5. How would you go about structuring public outreach so that the Council could hear more of the voices, particularly the voices of those we don't typically hear for a myriad of reasons?

Executive Session - Qualifications of Appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)

At 8:48 PM, Council moved into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing qualifications of appointment per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h). The item was expected to take approximately 30 minutes and action was anticipated in open session. An additional five minutes was required for the City Council to relocate back to the City Council Chambers.

AB 8952 - City Council Position No. 6 Vacancy

The open meeting reconvened at 9:23 PM.

The Mayor opened nominations of appointments to City Council Position No. 6.

Council President Walsh nominated Kelly Jiang.

Councilmember Reh nominated Chris Reichley.

Deputy Council President de Michele nominated Tina Hays.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor announced the nominations were closed.

The City Council discussed the nominees.

MOTION: Appoint Kelly Jiang to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 3-3.
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Marts, Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Reh

MOTION: Appoint Chris Reichley to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 3-3.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Reh
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Marts, Council President Walsh

MOTION: Appoint Tina Hays to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 1-5.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, Council President Walsh

Given that no nominee received a majority vote, the City Council further discussed the nominees and proceeded to take a second vote on the nominees.

MOTION: Appoint Kelly Jiang to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 3-3.
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Marts, Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Reh

MOTION: Appoint Chris Reichley to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 3-3.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Reh
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Marts, Council President Walsh

MOTION: Appoint Tina Hays to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED, 2-4.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh

Given that no nominee received a majority vote, the City Council requested the Mayor break a tie in the third round of voting.

MOTION: Appoint Kelly Jiang to City Council Position No. 6.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.
IN FAVOR:	Deputy Council President de Michele, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Reh, and Council President Walsh
OPPOSED:	None

Mayor Pauly issued the oath of office to Kelly Jiang to serve as City Council Position No. 6 through certification of the November 2025 general election.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 PM.

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk