

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
City Council Special Meeting**

6:30 PM  
October 27, 2025

**MINUTES**

Council Chambers, 135 E.  
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Mayor Mary Lou Pauly; Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele; Councilmember Zach Hall; Councilmember Russell Joe; Councilmember Chris Reh; Council President Lindsey Walsh; and Councilmember Kelly Jiang

**Excused Absence:** Councilmember Tola Marts

**Staff Present:** Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator; Andrea Lehner, 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.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

a) **Police Chief Update on Federal Immigration Enforcement in Issaquah**

Police Chief Schwan and Mayor Pauly made comments regarding the City's role in federal immigration enforcement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public comment was provided:

- James Marquardt urged City cameras not be used towards immigration enforcement.
- Corby Casler, Executive Director of the Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA), urged additional funding for DIA.
- Ann Fletcher, resident, urged funding for the MetroFlex program.
- David Kappler, resident, urged funding for the MetroFlex program.
- Pat Martin, spoke regarding the need for clearer communication on important City issues.

The following individuals spoke regarding concerns with the current federal immigration enforcement efforts, and urged the City to protect residents:

- Ric Shewell, pastor of Faith United Methodist Church
- Kristin-Luana Baumann, resident and representative of Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Jenn Hagedorn, pastor of Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ
- Ken Konigsmark
- Marion Clair
- Julia Carr, also spoke in support of the MetroFlex program
- Tera [No Last Name Provided]

Mayor Pauly acknowledged the comments and provided additional clarifying information.

Councilmember Joe left the Chambers at 7:36 PM and returned at 7:47 PM.

**AGENDA ITEMS**a) **ID 1922 - 2025-26 Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment****Presented by:*****Kristin Garcia, Finance Director***

A majority of the City Council recommended:

- Getting to 12% in reserves this year and getting to 15% in the next biennium budget.
- Forming an Audit Committee.
- Increasing Human Services grant funding for local non-profits who provide immigration support.

Additional City Council feedback is listed under the categories below.

Reserve target levels:

- Concerned about getting to the target undesignated ending fund balance by end of next biennium if continuing with current trend
- Interested in cutting other services to get closer to 15% undesignated ending fund balance this biennium
- Avoid cuts to public safety and human services
- Avoid cuts to transportation
- Consider cuts to pavement management program
- Consider delaying capital improvement projects
- Consider trying to renegotiate software contracts to save funds
- Supportive of proposed update to reserve policy

Final budget adjustments:

- Support using Transportation Benefit District funds for MetroFlex program
  - Interest in exploring strategic use of TBD funds in the future
  - Recommend Mobility & Infrastructure Committee develop program goals and alternatives for MetroFlex in 2026
- Support funds for implementation of EconNW Report
- Would consider removing funds for Housing Strategy Workplan
- Recommend keeping Fourth of July funding out for now

Miscellaneous feedback:

- Prefer to keep revenue from the sale of properties in the general fund to remain flexible

Request for additional information:

- How much is budgeted for human services strategic plan community engagement?
- How much of \$150,000 in proposed funding is for EconNW Report implementation versus for Housing Strategy Workplan?
- How is construction sales tax being used in 2026?
- What cuts would be needed to get to 15% reserve in 2026?
- Request information on Fleet Fund and Pavement Management Program
- Request information on where the remaining public safety sales tax funds are reflected in the budget adjustment
- Request learning if Lodging Tax Advisory Committee funds could be used towards World Cup costs

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

*Council President Walsh:*  
Immigration Enforcement Statement - Shared a desire to bring a statement forward regarding the immigration incident in Issaquah at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

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Tisha Gieser, City Clerk