

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council Special Meeting**

6:30 PM
March 9, 2026

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Mark Mullet, Councilmember Paul Adair, Deputy Council President Kelly Jiang, Councilmember Russell Joe, Council President Tola Marts, Councilmember Kevin Nichols, and Councilmember Lindsey Walsh

Excused Absence:

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 Mullet called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

a) **AB 9168 - Election of Council President and Deputy Council President**

Councilmember Walsh nominated Councilmember Marts as Council President.

MOTION: Elect Councilmember Marts as Council President.

RESULT:	Carried 6-0
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Councilmember Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	None
ABSENT:	None

Councilmember Nichols nominated Councilmember Jiang as Deputy Council President.

MOTION: Elect Councilmember Jiang as Deputy Council President.

RESULT:	Carried 6-0
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	None
ABSENT:	None

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **AB 9167 - City Council Vacancy Process, Council Position No. 3**

Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by City Clerk Tisha Gieser.

The City Council provided the following feedback on the vacancy and appointment process:

- Add an Elected Official Information session to the timeline.
 - Include a link to the presentation as part of the notification process.
- Emphasize that applicants are encouraged to reach out to Councilmembers individually.
- Request Council Leadership develop new interview questions for this vacancy process.
- Extend the application period to April 2.

It was moved by Council President Marts, seconded by Deputy Council President Jiang, to:

MOTION: Approve the process and timeline for filling the 2026 City Council vacancy of Position No. 3 as amended [to include the Elected Official Information session and extend the application deadline to April 2].

RESULT:	Carried 6-0
IN FAVOR:	Councilmember Adair, Deputy Council President Jiang, Councilmember Joe, Council President Marts, Councilmember Nichols, and Councilmember Walsh
OPPOSED:	None
ABSENT:	None

b) COM 0215 - Informational Update: Permit Process Improvements

The informational update was provided by Community Planning & Development Director Minnie Dhaliwal and Permit Coordinator Aronia McLean.

c) COM 0210 - Promoting Building Investments in Issaquah

Introduced by Mayor Mullet and presented by Community Planning & Development Director Minnie Dhaliwal, Economic & Housing Development Coordinator Alexis Fitzsimmons, and Planning Manager Christen Leeson.

City Council feedback included:

- Important to develop goals and measurements to ensure there is a way to track the effectiveness of changes.
- Concern about unintended consequences and not getting the kind of development that is most desired.
- Interested in finding ways to continue increasing the City's diverse housing types.
- Request having a wide array of options when being presented code changes.
- Discussion around the extent of exploring parking alternatives and the resulting impacts on timing due to staff capacity.
- Interest in distinguishing between issues that are barriers to development versus issues that are increasing costs of development.
- Potential goals may be to enable smaller homes to increase natural affordability, being efficient with land use to ensure density, and achieving more affordability.
- Support for work plan and pace of work being proposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) ID 1992 - Executive Session - Property Acquisition per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)

The Executive Session was not conducted.

GOOD OF THE ORDER*Council President Marts:*

Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee – The Committee is considering a position on the potential King County Transportation Benefit District sales tax requiring revenue sharing with cities. Requested Councilmember feedback. Feedback included:

- Do not have concerns with lack of city share.
- Support for revenue sharing.

Councilmember Joe:

Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference - The 2026 conference will be held June 23-25 in Spokane.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk