

	City Council Study Session Finance, Technology and Economic Development Special Focus Area July 10, 2023 - 5:30 PM City Hall Council Chambers MINUTES Watch the meeting LIVE! Watch the meeting video Meeting videos are not available until 72 hours after the meeting has concluded.
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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Public Participation

The City Council Meeting was held in person and virtually.

B. Roll Call

Councilmembers present: Deputy Mayor James Jeyaraj, Kate Baldwin, Larry Brown, Robyn Mulenga, Cheryl Rakes, and Councilmember Yolonda Trout-Manuel. Councilmember Bob Baggett attended the meeting virtually.

Department directors and staff members present included: City Attorney Kendra Comeau, Chief of Police Mark Caillier, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Director of Equity and Inclusion Brenda Goodson-Moore, Director of Innovation and Technology David Travis, Director of Human Resources Jamie Thomas, Financial Planning Manager Frank Downard, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator Chris Lovings, Utility Engineering Manager Ryan Vondrak, Water Engineer Senait Gebreeyesus, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Analyst Kia McGlone, Economic Development Manager Jenn Francis, Business Systems Analyst Jonathan Barbano, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

III. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Ordinance No. 6912 and Inclusive Auburn Coalition presentation were moved to presentations.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Ordinance No. 6912 (Thomas) (10 Minutes)

Manager Downard and Vice President, Angie Sanchez, with FCS Group provided Council with an overview of the Wholesale Water Rate Update including background, customers, methodology, the continual service rates, and standby charges.

Council discussed continuous water costs and water demands in regards to Tacoma Water.

B. Inclusive Auburn Coalition Presentation (Goodson-Moore) (20 Minutes)

Director Goodson-Moore and Analyst McGlone provided Council with an overview of the Office of Equity. She explained they are working on normalizing racial equity in the City and explained what normalizing racial equity means.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Consultant, Sapna Sopori, with Sapna Strategies provided Council with the plan for the Coalition. She reviewed the purpose of creating the Coalition, shared the job description for the Auburn Coalition membership, reviewed the groups that will be apart of the Coalition, the dispositions and skills to be a Coalition member, and reviewed the nomination process. Scott Miller reviewed what the goal for the Coalition is.

Council discussed makeup of the Coalition, the meeting locations, creating a toolbox, the work from the previous consultant, and frequency of updates to Council.

V. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Ordinance No. 6911 (Thomas) (20 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6879, the 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget Ordinance, and Ordinance No. 6888, the 2023-2024 Biennial Capital Budget, authorizing amendment to the City of Auburn 2023-2024 Budget as set forth in schedule "A" and schedule "B"

Director Thomas provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 6911 regarding the second Budget Amendment including the adjustment of the beginning fund Balances, new requests, addition of grant funds, and adjustments to Capital Projects.

Council discussed the closure of the BIA fund.

B. 2023 National Night Out Presentation (Tate) (15 Minutes)

An update on Auburn's 2023 National Night Out event

Neighborhood Coordinator Lovings provided Council with the 2023 National Night Out Presentation. He reviewed the Neighborhood Programs, provided a recap of the National Night Out event from 2022, and discussed the plan for the 2023 National Night Out.

Council discussed getting neighborhoods involved, and appreciation of the inclusive nature of the event.

C. Water System Comprehensive Plan Update - Policy Review (Gaub) (30 Minutes)

Manager Vondrak and Engineer Gebreeyesus provided Council with an overview of the Water System Comprehensive plan update, they reviewed the goals and polices of the update, an introduction into the water system including removal, addition and modification of polices in regarding business practices, service area goal, operation and maintenance goals, financial goals, planning, environmental stewardship, and design and construction goals.

Council discussed the reduction goals.

VI. FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Economic Development Update – 2nd Quarter 2023 (Tate) (15 Minutes)
An update on Economic Development Division activity

Councilmember Baldwin Chaired this section of the meeting.

Manager Francis provided Council with an overview of the Economic Development Second Quarter update. She reviewed the Downtown Auburn Cooperative and the BIA update including the partnership projects, downtown engagement, murals in the downtown, downtown business ribbon cutting, the Outlet Collection Marketing Campaign, the Pacific Raceway Marketing Campaign, Pacific Raceways NHRA FanFest 2023, Business Connect Events, the Economic Development element of the Comprehensive Plan, business outreach meetings, tourism, Good Neighbor Agreement, National Night Out, Request for Proposals for Web Location Intelligence Application, and plans for the next update.

Council discussed the SHAG allowance for tenant improvements, the advertising signs and return on investment, the Explore Auburn website, the Muckleshoot Tribal Hotel, the Muckleshoot Canoe Journey event, and partnership opportunities with the Muckleshoot Tribe.

Deputy Mayor announced that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Council Rules of Procedure has been formed and consists of himself, Councilmember Brown, and Councilmember Rakes. Councilmember Rakes will Chair the Committee and their first meeting is July 11, 2023.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVED this 17th day of July, 2023.


JAMES JEYARAJ, DEPUTY MAYOR


Shawn Campbell, City Clerk

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