



**City Council
Study Session
PW & CD Special Focus Area
September 22, 2025 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Study Session Meeting was held in person and virtually.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes, Hanan Amer, Kate Baldwin, Lisa Stirgus, Tracy Taylor, Clinton Taylor, and Yolanda Trout-Manuel.

Mayor Nancy Backus and the following staff members present included: City Attorney Jason Whalen, Assistant Chief of Police Samuel Betz, Director of Community Development Jason Krum, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Candis Martinson, Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger, Assistant Director of Community Development Steven Sturza, Economic Development Coordinator Emerson Folker, Senior Project Engineer Matt Larson, Planning Services Manager Alexandria Teague, Arts Program Supervisor Allison Hyde, Theater Operations Coordinator Jim Kleinbeck, and Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scholl.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, reports, or presentations.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 2025 Downtown Auburn Cooperative Update (Krum) (15 Minutes)
A presentation by the Downtown Auburn Cooperative to summarize 2025

accomplishments and upcoming items anticipated through the end of this year

Councilmember T. Taylor, Chair of the Public Works and Community Development Special Focus Area, chaired this portion of the meeting.

Coordinator Folker introduced Stephanie Cox and Kelly Murray with the Downtown Auburn Cooperative (DAC), who provided Council with a presentation on the DAC including the purpose of the DAC, connections with the Business Improvement Area (BIA), and DAC Board meetings. They provided an overview of past and upcoming events in 2025, future special projects in the BIA, social media presence and outreach, and volunteers.

Council discussed special projects in the BIA, partnership with the City, funding, partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, social media and outreach, Board meetings, support for new businesses, and upcoming events.

B. Capital Projects Status Update and Featured Capital Projects (Gaub) (20 Minutes)

Auburn Ave. Theater Replacement Project, Downtown Park, and Theater & Park Artwork

Engineer Larson provided Council with an update on the City's Capital Projects including current status and projects currently under construction.

Council discussed lighting downtown and partnership with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Director Krueger, Supervisor Hyde, Coordinator Kleinbeck, and Engineer Larson provided Council with an overview of the featured Capital Projects including the Auburn Avenue Theater Replacement, Downtown Park, and Theater and Park Artwork.

Council discussed artwork, grant funding, the Auburn Avenue Theater, and future events.

C. Ordinance No. 6982 (Krum) (20 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending Chapters 14.03 and 18.60 of the Auburn City Code relating to Home Occupations

Manager Teague provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 6982 including the background and purpose of Home Occupation Permits, summary of Code changes, and next steps.

D. Ordinance No. 7001 (Krum) (10 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending Sections 15.20.020, 15.20.030, 15.20.040, 15.20.050, 15.20.60, and 15.20.070 of the Auburn City Code relating to the International Property Maintenance Code

Assistant Director Sturza provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7001 including a summary of Code changes.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Ordinance No. 7002 (Whalen/Martinson) (30 Minutes)

An Ordinance establishing a Municipal Court, and adding Chapter 2.14 of the Auburn City Code

Director Martinson provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7002 including Code updates to establish the Auburn Municipal Court, and next steps.

Council discussed the number of judges, timeline for appointments, elections, terms, Code changes, Community Court, funding, current active cases, and deferment of minor charges.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED this 6th day of October 2025.

CHERYL RAKES, DEPUTY MAYOR

Hannah Scholl, Deputy City Clerk