



**City Council
Study Session
Finance & Internal Services SFA
November 10, 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, Clinton Taylor, and Yolanda Trout-Manuel. Councilmember Lisa Stirgus attended the meeting virtually via Zoom and Councilmember Tracy Taylor was excused.

Mayor Nancy Backus and the following staff members present included: Deputy City Attorney Paul Byrne, Assistant Chief of Police Samuel Betz, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, Financial Planning Manager Frank Downard, Human Resources and Risk Management Director Candis Martinson, Parks, Arts, and Recreation Director Julie Krueger, Utilities Engineering Manager Ryan Vondrak, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, reports, or presentations.

FINANCE AND INTERNAL SERVICES DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance No. 7004 (Thomas) (60 Minutes)
A presentation to discuss Revenue Requirements, Cost of Service Analysis, and Rate Design for the Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drainage Utilities

Councilmember Baldwin, Chair of the Finance and Internal Services Special Focus Area, chaired this portion of the meeting.

Manager Downard introduced Project Manager Brooke Tacia with FCS Group, who provided Council with an overview of revenue requirements, low income rate impacts, cost of service study parameters, rate design parameters, proposed changes to the System Development Charges (SDC) and uses, methodology for cost development, a review of other jurisdictions SDC's, and wholesale water rate history and methodology.

Council discussed the low income rate impact analysis, staff time to facilitate the low income rebates, onsite storm water retention systems, the types of properties the charges will apply to, and the timeline for SDC payments.

B. Ordinance No. 7008 (Thomas) (10 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending Sections 3.60.010 and 3.60.020 of the Auburn Municipal Code to authorize an additional one tenth of one percent Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice purposes in accordance with Section 201, Chapter 350, Laws of 2025, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date

Director Thomas provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7008 including the details of House Bill 2015, requirements for imposing the Public Safety Sales and Use Tax, application qualification verification and notification of intent to collect, increased public safety costs and needs, the revenue impacts, tax rate comparisons, and the proposed steps for implementation and funding.

Council discussed benefits to the City from the proposed sales tax increase, the requirement to impose the sales tax to be able to apply for grants, deadline for imposing the tax, King County's plans for the funds, criteria for imposing the tax, and increases to SCORE costs.

C. Ordinance No. 7000 (Thomas) (30 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending the City's 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

Director Thomas provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7000 including the upcoming items for Council action and the three major components of the Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment. She discussed major revenue sources, including the 2026 Preliminary Property Tax levy, the general fund revenue realignment, regular budget amendments for operational needs, revenue impacts including adding the .1% Public Safety Sales Tax and estimated end fund balance adjustments.

Council discussed improvements at the Auburn Golf Course, the Cumulative Reserve Fund, police take-home vehicles, and ending fund balances.

D. Ordinance No. 7003 (Thomas) (10 Minutes)

An Ordinance establishing the levy for regular Property Taxes by the City of Auburn for collection in 2026 for general City operational purposes in the amount of \$25,843,584

Director Thomas provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7003 as part of Ordinance No. 7000.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

APPROVED this 17th day of November 2025.

CHERYL RAKES, DEPUTY MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk