



**City Council
Study Session
PW & CD Special Focus Area
November 24, 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 Tracy Taylor. Councilmembers Lisa Stirgus and Yolanda Trout-Manuel were excused.

Mayor Nancy Backus and the following staff members present included: City Attorney Jason Whalen, Assistant Chief of Police Samuel Betz, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Human Resources and Risk Management Director Candis Martinson, Parks, Arts, and Recreation Director Julie Krueger, Assistant Director of Public Works Jacob Sweeting, Parks Planning and Development Manager Thaniel Gouk, Senior Project Engineer Jeffrey Bender, Project Engineer Sheli Moyer, Senior Planner Dinah Reed, Planner II Gabriel Clark, and Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scholl.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, reports, or presentations.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Soos Creek Botanical Garden Conservation Efforts Presentation (Krueger/Whalen) (15 Minutes)

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

Manager Gouk provided Council with a presentation on the Soos Creek Botanical Garden conservation efforts, including background on the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Grant and recent City of Auburn CFT projects. He discussed the timeline for the Soos Creek Botanical Garden CFT purchase, history of the Gardens, area map and amenities, public benefits, boundary/property line locations, and potential next steps.

Council discussed maintenance and partnerships with the City.

- B. Capital Projects Status Update and Featured Capital Project: 1st Street NE/NW & Division Street Pedestrian Improvements (Gaub) (20 Minutes)

Engineer Bender provided Council with an overview of the Capital Projects Status Update including the current status of the City's 41 active Capital Projects and the Capital Projects Interactive Mapping Tool. He highlighted four projects currently under construction, including CP1622: Auburn Way S Widening — Hemlock to Poplar, CP2211: 49th Street NE Improvements, CP2412: 2025 Local Street Preservation, and CP2332: Lea Hill Safe Routes to School.

Engineer Moyer provided Council with an overview of the Featured Capital Project CP2424: 1st Street NE/NW & Division Street Pedestrian Improvements, including a vicinity map of the project, existing conditions, and the purpose for improvements. She discussed the scope of improvements to be completed, the Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) program, and the project budget and schedule.

Council discussed parking and notifications to businesses and the public.

- C. Ordinance No. 6990 (Krum) (10 Minutes)

An Ordinance relating to Planning; Adopting the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Plan Text Amendments and Plan Map Amendment pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 36.70A RCW and adopting a corresponding Rezone

Planners Reed and Clark provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 6990, including the Privately-initiated and City-initiated Map Amendments and the Planning Commission recommendations to City Council.

Council discussed the proposed amendments.

- D. Ordinance No. 7009 (Krum) (5 Minutes)
An Ordinance adopting School Impact Fees for 2026, amending Chapter 19.02 of the Auburn City Code

Planner Clark provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7009, including the background of Auburn City Code Chapter 19.02, current 2025 fees and proposed 2026 fees for the Auburn School District and Dieringer School District, and staff recommendations.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- A. Ordinance No. 7010 (Martinson) (15 Minutes)
An Ordinance affirming that Councilmembers and the Deputy Mayor are eligible for optional participation in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and authorizing payment of the required employer contribution for those who elect membership

Director Martinson provided Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7010, including eligibility, enrollment, service credits, and contributions.

Council discussed contribution costs and budget.

- B. Update to Council Rules of Procedure (Council)

Deputy Mayor Rakes recessed the meeting at 6:29 p.m. for ten minutes. She reconvened the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Councilmember Baldwin, Chair of the Council Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee, provided Council with an overview of the Committee's presentation.

City Attorney Whalen provided Council with an overview of the Legislative Branch.

Councilmember C. Taylor called for a Point of Order regarding Councilmember Amer's back and forth comments. Councilmember Baldwin ruled that the point stands.

Councilmember Amer appealed the ruling, then withdrew her appeal.

Councilmember Amer called for a Point of Order stating Councilmember Baldwin was not being respectful. Councilmember Baldwin stated her intent was to be respectful.

Councilmember C. Taylor called for a Point of Order regarding the remark Councilmember Amer made about Councilmember Baldwin. Councilmember Baldwin ruled the point stands.

Council discussed the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee, the review process, and the proposed edits.

There was consensus from the Council to move the Council Rules of Procedure forward for a vote at the December 1, 2025, City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

APPROVED this 15th day of December 2025.

CHERYL RAKES, DEPUTY MAYOR

Hannah Scholl, Deputy City Clerk