



**City Council
Study Session
Finance & Internal Services SFA
January 12, 2026 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Tracy Taylor 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 Tracy Taylor, Hanan Amer, Kate Baldwin, Brian Lott, Cheryl Rakes, Lisa Stirgus, and Clinton Taylor.

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, Parks, Arts, and Recreation Director Julie Krueger, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember Stirgus seconded to suspend Council Rules of Procedure Section 2.2(C) to allow for final action at a Study Session meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Auburn Symphony Orchestra – 2025 Annual Report (Krueger) (15 Minutes)

Gabi Galloway, Executive Director of the Auburn Symphony Orchestra and
Wesley Schulz, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Auburn Symphony

Orchestra, provided Council with a presentation on the 2025 Annual Report, including Board member recruitment, grant funding, subscriber sales and single event ticket sales, and programs.

Council discussed the upcoming performances, suggestions on an audience's first performance, subscribers, regional access, and return on investment.

FINANCE AND INTERNAL SERVICES DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 3rd Quarter 2025 Financial Report through September 2025 (Thomas) (20 Minutes)

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

Director Thomas provided Council with an overview of the 3rd Quarter 2025 Financial Report including General Fund revenue, tax revenue including Property Tax, Retail Sales and Use Tax, Business and Occupation Tax, and other taxes. She also discussed licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenue, charges for services, fines and penalties, and interest and investment earnings, expenditures, ARPA Funds update, and Real Estate Excise Tax.

Council discussed costs for repairs at the Auburn Golf Course.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- A. Resolution No. 5886 (Mayor) (30 Minutes)
A Resolution adopting the 2026 State Legislative Agenda

Councilmember Stirgus moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to adopt Resolution No. 5886.

Mayor Bakus provided Council with a brief overview of the suggested Legislative Priorities.

Council discussed tort liability, tiny home villages, flock camera usage, criminal justice sales tax, impact fees, and paid family medical leave changes.

Councilmember Baldwin moved and Councilmember Rakes seconded to amend the Legislative Priorities by removing the 1st and 3rd bullet point from Labor and Workforce Impacts.

Council discussed the impacts.

AMENDED MOTION FAILED. 2-5, Councilmembers Baldwin and Rakes voted in favor.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED. 5-2, Councilmembers Baldwin and Rakes voted against.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor, Councilmembers Stirgus, and Councilmember Amer shared their reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

TRACY TAYLOR, DEPUTY MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk