



**City Council
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2026 - 7:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Backus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Backus acknowledged the Federally Recognized Muckleshoot Indian Tribe as the ancestral keepers of the land we are gathered on today.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City Council Meeting was held in person and virtually.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Backus led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Chief of Police Mark Caillier, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, and Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scholl.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Black History Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed February 2026 as "Black History Month" in the City of Auburn.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Auburn Junior City Council

City Council to approve the appointment of Erica Chen, Giovanni Russo, and Hakima Abdikadir to Auburn Junior City Council for a two-year term expiring August 31, 2027

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to approve the appointments of Erica Chen, Giovanni Russo, and Hakima Abdikadir to the Auburn Junior City Council for a two-year term expiring August 31, 2027.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

B. Business Improvement Area (BIA) Committee of Rate Payers

City Council to approve the appointment of Gabrielle Galloway to the Business Improvement Area (BIA) Committee of Rate Payers for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028

Councilmember Rakes moved and Deputy Mayor T. Taylor seconded to approve the appointment of Gabrielle Galloway to the Business Improvement Area (BIA) Committee of Rate Payers for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joyce Erath and Virginia Haugen provided comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for Council to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from the February 2, 2026, City Council Meeting

B. Minutes from the February 9, 2026, Study Session Meeting

C. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)

Claims voucher list dated February 11, 2026, which includes voucher numbers 482781 through voucher 482868, in the amount of \$5,706,207.92, twenty-one

electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$36,764.61, and two wire transfers in the amount of \$610,987.68

D. Payroll Vouchers (Thomas)

Payroll check numbers 539782 through 539789 in the amount of \$95,167.20, electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$3,081,073.18, for a grand total of \$3,176,240.38 for the period covering January 29, 2026, to February 11, 2026

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 7012 (Thomas)

An Ordinance establishing the Local Sales and Use Tax Rate for Local Revitalization Financing for 2026

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember Stirgus seconded to approve Ordinance No. 7012.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

B. Ordinance No. 7013 (Gaub)

An Ordinance providing for the acquisition by eminent domain of property located near or adjacent to R Street SE within the City of Auburn, Washington for roadway improvements and related upgrades for Project No. CP2308, R Street SE/21st St SE roundabout; declaring public use and necessity; and providing for severability and an effective date

Councilmember C. Taylor moved and Councilmember Stirgus seconded to approve Ordinance No. 7013.

Council discussed the purpose of the project, negotiations, and traffic studies.

Councilmember Lott moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to table Ordinance No. 7013 until the Traffic Study for Rainier Vista/Segale Pit can be completed.

Council discussed the Rainier Vista/Segale Pit, how additional traffic could impact future roundabout, the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), Comprehensive Plan, grant funds, and timelines.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED. 2-5, Councilmembers Lott and Rakes voted yes.

Councilmember Baldwin moved and Councilmember Lott seconded to postpone Ordinance No. 7013 for further discussion at the February 23, 2026, Study Session Meeting and action at the March 2, 2026, Council Meeting.

Council discussed grant funds.

MOTION TO POSTPONE FAILED. 3-4, Councilmembers Baldwin, Lott, and Rakes voted yes.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED. 3-4, Councilmembers Baldwin, Lott, and Rakes voted against.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 5889 (Thomas)

A Resolution authorizing the Transfer of Funds for the purpose of making loans from the General Fund and/or the Cumulative Reserve Fund to Funds sustained by Grants, Fees, or Tax Credits between February 2026 and February 2029

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember Rakes seconded to adopt Resolution No. 5889.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

B. Resolution No. 5891 (Whalen)

A Resolution declaring City-Owned Real Property located at 15603 SE 174th Street, Renton, Washington as surplus and authorizing its disposal

Councilmember Stirgus moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to adopt Resolution No. 5891.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. From the Council

Councilmembers provided reports on the events that they attended.

B. From the Mayor

Mayor Backus provided a report on the events she attended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

APPROVED this 2nd day of March 2026.

NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Hannah Scholl, Deputy City Clerk