



**City Council
Regular Meeting
April 6, 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

Members from Girl Scout Troop No. 46808 and 46057 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 Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Arab American Heritage Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 2026 as "Arab American Heritage Month" in the City of Auburn.

Councilmember Amer accepted the proclamation.

B. Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 2026 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the City of Auburn.

King County Sexual Assault Board Member Hira Singh Bhullar thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

C. Sikh Heritage Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 2026 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in the City of Auburn.

Members of the Gurudwara Sacha Marag and Degh Tegh Community Kitchen thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging Sikh Heritage Month and gave a brief history of the Sikh culture.

D. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 12–18, 2026, as "National Public Safety Telecommunications Week" in the City of Auburn.

Valley Communications Executive Director Vonnie Mayer accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

E. Earth Day

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 22, 2026, as "Earth Day" in the City of Auburn.

Special Events Coordinator Amanda Valdez accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging Earth Day.

F. Arbor Day

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 21, 2026, as "Arbor Day" in the City of Auburn.

Auburn Tree Board Vice Chair Linda Bielejec accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging Arbor Day.

G. National Therapy Animal Day

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 30, 2026, as "National Therapy Animal Day" in the City of Auburn.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Parks & Recreation Board

City Council to approve the appointments of Adib Altallal and Kelly Murray to the Parks & Recreation Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028

Deputy Mayor Taylor moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to approve the appointments of Adib Altallal and Kelly Murray to the Parks & Recreation Board 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

Written Comments:

The City Clerk's Office received written comments from Tina Simmons, Linda Redmond, and Kynslie which were forwarded to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting.

In-Person Comments:

Bob Barigan, Rocky Salvador, and Virginia Haugen provided comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for Council to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the February 19, 20, and 25, 2026, Special City Council Meetings
- B. Minutes from the March 2, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting
- C. Minutes from the March 9 and 23, 2026, Study Session Meetings
- D. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher list dated March 11, 2026, which includes voucher numbers 483011 through voucher 483141, in the amount of \$7,506,208.74, fourteen electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$8,440.53, and two wire transfers in the amount of \$1,151,127.25
- E. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher list dated March 25, 2026, which includes voucher numbers 483142 through voucher 483170 and voucher numbers 483172 through voucher 483264, in the amount of \$6,576,765.09, nine electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$11,956.75, and two wire transfers in the amount of \$835,325.81

- F. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher number 483171 dated March 25, 2026, in the amount of \$9,429.12

- G. Payroll Vouchers (Thomas)
Payroll check numbers 539795 through 539801 in the amount of \$87,648.84 electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$3,055,652.86, also a special payroll for our Teamster Contract, electronic deposit transmission in the amount of \$64,462.63, for a grand total of \$3,207,764.33 for the period covering February 26, 2026, to March 11, 2026

- H. Payroll Vouchers (Thomas)
Payroll check numbers 539802 through 539806 in the amount of \$827,088.40, electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$3,127,891.15, for a grand total of \$3,954,979.55 for the period covering March 12, 2026, to March 25, 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.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 5898 (Gaub)
A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute and administer agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation accepting grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration for two projects: 1) A Street SE Preservation (17th Street SE to 37th Street SE), and 2) 15th St NW Bridge Decks Preservation

Councilmember C. Taylor moved and Deputy Mayor T. Taylor seconded to approve Resolution No. 5898.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

B. Resolution No. 5902 (Whalen)

A Resolution authorizing the payment of Mayor Nancy Backus' necessary expenses of defense against recall charges

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember Stirgus seconded to approve Resolution No. 5902.

Council discussed fairness, the personal capacity of an elected official, the language of the statute, accountability of an elected official, the chilling effect of recalls, the judges' ruling, elected officials' protection, and equity for elected officials.

Councilmember Baldwin requested information on if this Resolution sets policy for the future. City Attorney Whalen explained it does not set a precedent for the future.

City Attorney Whalen explained the filing was made against the Mayor in her capacity as an elected official, an elected official's 1st Amendment's Rights,

Councilmember Baldwin moved to amend the Resolution to, not to exceed \$15,000. For the lack of a second, the motion failed.

Councilmember Amer Called for the Question and Councilmember Stirgus seconded.

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

Council discussed the letter Mayor Backus wrote in support of Josh Headly.

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

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 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED this 20th day of April 2026.

NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk