



**City Council
Regular Meeting
April 20, 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 Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger, and Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scholl.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, Mayor's proclamations, or presentations.

APPOINTMENTS

- A. Municipal Court Judge
City Council to confirm the appointment of Matthew Leyba to Auburn Municipal

Court Judge Position No. 1, for a three-year appointed term from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2029

Councilmember Stirgus moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to confirm the appointment of Matthew Leyba to Auburn Municipal Court Judge Position No. 1, for a three-year appointed term from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2029.

Council discussed references and the background process.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

B. Transportation Advisory Board

City Council to confirm the reappointments of Tyson Hiffman and Derek Ronnfeldt to the Transportation Advisory Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Rakes seconded to confirm the reappointments Tyson Hiffman and Derek Ronnfeldt to the Transportation Advisory Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

C. Auburn Junior City Council

City Council to confirm the appointment of Benjamin Rolls to the Auburn Junior City Council for a two-year term expiring August 31, 2027

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor moved and Councilmember C. Taylor seconded to confirm the appointment of Benjamin Rolls to the Auburn Junior City Council for a two-year term expiring August 31, 2027.

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 Jolene Rhodes, Billy Hetherington, Peter Hasegawa, Ronald Morgan, Bonnie Helms, and James DeLay which were forwarded to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting.

In-Person Comments:

Sarah Rose, CeCe Collins, Luke Anderson, Peter Hasegawa, Jullian Loh, and Bonnie Helms provided comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for Council to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the April 6, 2026, City Council Meeting
- B. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher list dated April 1, 2026, which includes voucher number 483265, in the amount of \$16,068.50
- C. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher list dated April 2, 2026, which includes voucher number 483266, in the amount of \$9,429.12
- D. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)
Claims voucher list dated April 8, 2026, which includes voucher numbers 483267 through voucher 483382, in the amount of \$3,327,261.92, nineteen electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$8,888.86, and three wire transfers in the amount of \$281,751.37
- E. Payroll Vouchers (Thomas)
Payroll check numbers 539807 through 539814 in the amount of \$88,417.22, electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$3,069,980.78, for a grand total of \$3,158,398.00 for the period covering March 26, 2026, to April 8, 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. 6999 (Krum)
An Ordinance relating to Critical Areas Ordinance Update, amending Sections 16.10.010, 16.10.020, 16.10.030, 16.10.040, 16.10.050, 16.10.070, 16.10.080, 16.10.090, 16.10.100, 16.10.110, 16.10.130, 16.10.140, and 16.10.150 of the

Auburn City Code

Deputy Mayor T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to approve Ordinance No. 6999.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

- B. Ordinance No. 7014 (Krum)
An Ordinance relating to Battery Energy Storage Systems, amending Sections 18.07.020, 18.23.030, 18.35.030, Chapter 18.29 and establishing two new Sections 18.04.174 and 18.31.240 of the Auburn City Code

Councilmember Stirgus moved and Deputy Mayor T. Taylor seconded to approve Ordinance No. 7014.

Director Krum reminded Council that the City currently has no regulations in place once the moratorium expires.

Council discussed safety, regulations, Planning Commission recommendation, data, and research.

Councilmember Baldwin moved and Councilmember Lott seconded to postpone Ordinance No. 7014 to the May 4, 2026, City Council Meeting.

MOTION TO POSTPONE FAILED. 3-4 Deputy Mayor T. Taylor, Councilmembers C. Taylor, Stirgus, and Amer voted against.

Council discussed prior presentations regarding BESS, research, and risks.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED. 4-2 Councilmembers Lott and Rakes voted against. Councilmember Baldwin abstained.

- C. Ordinance No. 7017 (Thomas)
An Ordinance amending the City's 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

Councilmember Lott moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to approve Ordinance No. 7017.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

- D. Ordinance No. 7019 (Martinson)
An Ordinance amending Chapter 2.14 of the Auburn City Code to provide necessary updates and housekeeping amendments in preparation for the opening of the Auburn Municipal Court

Councilmember Stirgus moved and Councilmember Rakes seconded to approve Ordinance No. 7019.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 5895 (Krum)

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of Auburn and the Port of Seattle to accept and expend Grant Funds for Economic Development

Councilmember C. Taylor moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to adopt Resolution No. 5895.

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 8:02 p.m.

APPROVED this 4th day of May 2026.

NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Hannah Scholl, Deputy City Clerk