



**City Council
Study Session
Municipal Services Special Focus Area
April 13, 2026 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Tracy Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, Chief of Police Mark Caillier, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Candis Martinson, Director of Community Development Jason Krum, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger, Inspectional Services Commander Shaun Feero, Police Commander Christopher Burger, Real Estate Manager Josh Arndt, Parks Planning and Development Manager Thaniel Gouk, Senior Planner Alyssa Tatro, Planner II Gabriel Clark, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, reports, or presentations.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Police Department Annual Report (Caillier) (30 Minutes)

Councilmember Stirgus, Chair of the Municipal Services Special Focus Area, chaired this portion of the meeting.

Chief Caillier, Commander Feero, and Commander Burger provided the Council with an overview of the Police Department Annual Report including Use of Force incidents, the CIA review, 2025 Pursuit Analysis, and Annual Report Highlights.

Council discussed data from pre-COVID-19, procedure for an injured suspect, escalation in the use of force, requirements for when force is used, lessons learned, data that connects the force to the incident, union intervention in finding of misconduct, resignation of officers prior to misconduct, misconduct reporting, types of incidents not meeting job expectations, the difference between traffic and criminal traffic, reduction of pursuits, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course training, crime statistics, staffing, street racing, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit skimming.

B. Ordinance No. 7019 (Martinson) (15 Minutes)

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

Director Martinson provided the Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7019 including an overview of judicial appointment requirements.

Council discussed the presiding judge, the process for hiring a Court Administrator, and budget.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Ordinance No. 6999 (Krum) (20 Minutes)

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

Senior Planner Tatro provided the Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 6999 including the critical areas updates, background and purpose, the key objectives, proposed changes, classifications and rating of critical areas, exemptions and nonconforming uses sections, buffer areas and setback sections of the Code, and geologic hazard areas. She provided updates on the Stream Regulations including site potential tree height, technical analysis findings for the site-specific tree height, existing buffers, proposed stream buffers, vegetative standard, and the City of Auburn's Code compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

Council discussed site potential tree heights, requirements for critical areas, and the process to designate a critical area.

B. Ordinance No. 7014 (Krum) (25 Minutes)

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

Planner II Clark provided the Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7014 including the purpose of the Code update and applicable regulations for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). He reviewed the tiers that allow for the various types of BESS and the requirements for each tier, permissible zones for each tier, public concerns, and the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Council discussed accessory tier 1 requirements, the difference between administrative use and conditional use permits, expectation of burn hours if a BESS catches fire, and ongoing inspections for the lifecycle of the BESS.

C. Ordinance No. 7017 (Thomas) (30 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending the City's 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

Director Thomas provided the Council with an overview of Ordinance No. 7017 including the 4th Budget Adjustment to the 2025-2026 Budget. She reviewed fund balance true ups, the carry-forward items from 2025, new programs with offsetting revenues, new programs without offsetting revenue, Sales Tax changes, and flood recovery impacts on the General Fund.

Council discussed the Citywide Strategic Plan, and ongoing costs for photo enforcement.

D. Update for the Purchase of Soos Creek Botanical Gardens (Whalen/Krueger) (30 Minutes)

Resolution No. 5897, Resolution No. 5900, and Resolution No. 5901

Managers Arndt and Gouk provided the Council with an overview of the purchase of Soos Creek Botanical Gardens, including the three proposed Resolutions, the King County Conservation Futures Grant to purchase the Soos Creek Botanical Gardens, public benefits of the purchase, and appraised value of the property. They reviewed the process for the purchase of the property, and the Operating Agreement with the Soos Creek Botanical Garden Foundation.

Council discussed land preservation and the parking area purchase.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Baldwin, Deputy Mayor Tracy Taylor, and Mayor Backus provided reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

APPROVED this 4th day of May 2026.

TRACY TAYLOR, DEPUTY MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk