



**City Council
Special Meeting
April 7, 2025 - 5:30 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 Special 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 Cheryl Rakes, Hanan Amer, Kate Baldwin, Clinton Taylor, Tracy Taylor, and Yolanda Trout-Manuel.

Mayor Nancy Backus and the following staff members present included: Senior City Staff Attorney Taryn Jones, Chief of Police Mark Caillier, Assistant Director of Community Development Steve Sturza, Director of Human Services Kent Hay, Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger and City Clerk Shawn Campbell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Spirit Fest Recognition Day

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 1, 2025, as "Spirit Fest Recognition Day" in the City of Auburn.

The representatives from Spirit Fest thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition and recognized all the volunteers in the audience.

B. Arbor Day

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 16, 2025, as "Arbor Day" in the City of Auburn.

Bryce Landrud, Chair of the Urban Tree Board, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

C. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 13, 2025, through April 16, 2025, as "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week" in the City of Auburn.

Vonnie Mayer and Sheryl Kowalczyk with Valley Communications accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition of the staff at Valley Communications.

D. Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 2025, as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the City of Auburn.

E. Sikh Heritage Month

Mayor Backus proclaimed April 2025 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in the City of Auburn.

Jaskaran Singh Sarao and members of the community accepted the proclamation and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and recognition.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Planning Commission

City Council to approve the appointment of Kirk Hiller to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2027

Deputy Mayor Rakes moved and Councilmember C. Taylor seconded to approve the appointment of Kirk Hiller to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2027.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Written Comments:

Keoni Perez, Auburn

Keoni expressed frustration regarding the vacant Council position application deadline and provided comments regarding the Pacific Islander community in Auburn.

In-Person Comments:

Mark Celich, Auburn

Mark expressed concerns regarding HPM's.

Skylar Nickals, Auburn

Skylar expressed frustration at not being selected to move forward to the second phase of the selection process for the vacant Council position.

Virginia Haugen, Auburn

Virginia expressed appreciation for groups that feed the community.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for Council to review.

COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Council Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee (Baldwin)

Councilmember Baldwin, Chair of the Council Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the Committee is working through each section of the Rules of Procedure.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from the March 17, 2025, City Council Meeting

B. Minutes from the March 24 and 31, 2025, Study Session Meetings

C. Claims Vouchers (Thomas)

Claims voucher list dated March 26, 2025 which includes voucher numbers 479283 through voucher 479398, in the amount of \$6,300,440.62, nine electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$21,676.37, and two wire transfers in the amount of \$894,239.65

D. Payroll Voucher (Thomas)

Payroll check numbers 539663 through 539665 in the amount of \$686,280.97, electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,839,244.09, for a grand total of \$3,525,525.06 for the period covering March 13, 2025 to April 2, 2025

Deputy Mayor Rakes moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 6972 (Krum)
An Ordinance amending Sections 16.06.020, 16.06.055 and 16.06.130 and adding Sections 16.06.085 and 16.06.095 of the Auburn City Code relating to the State Environmental Policy Act

Councilmember T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Trout-Manual seconded to approve Ordinance No. 6972.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

- B. Ordinance No. 6976 (Krum)
An Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Zoning Map

Councilmember T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to approve Ordinance No. 6976.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 5820 (Caillier)
A Resolution accepting a Grant Award from the Seattle Police Department on behalf of the Washington State Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
- Deputy Mayor Rakes moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to adopt Resolution No. 5820.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Backus adjourned into executive session at 6:20 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. However, any interview of such candidate and final action appointing a candidate to elective office shall be in a meeting open to the public for 30 minutes. In addition to Mayor Backus, Councilmembers and Senior City Staff Attorney Jones were required to attend.

Mayor Backus reconvened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

COUNCIL POSITION VACANCY

- A. Council to Select Candidates to Interview for Vacant Position (Council)
- Councilmember T. Taylor moved and Deputy Mayor Rakes seconded to interview six candidates during the April 14, 2025, Special City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to amend the motion to interview seven candidates.

MOTION CARRIED. 4-2, Councilmembers C. Taylor and T. Taylor voted against.

Council discussed staff time, and increasing the number of applicants to ten.

Councilmember Baldwin moved and Councilmember Trout-Manuel seconded to amend the previous amendment motion to interview ten candidates.

MOTION FAILED. 2-4

Council discussed the amount of time it takes to interview each candidate and Mayor Backus reviewed the interview process.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED. 4-2, Councilmembers C. Taylor and T. Taylor voted against.

Mayor Backus recessed the meeting for five minutes at 7:59 p.m. She reconvened the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor Backus called each applicant's number and asked Council for comments and votes for this person to move forward with the interview process.

Candidates moving forward are Candidate No's. 21, 29, 32, 35, 38, 41 and 45.

Council discussed the time for the interviews.

Councilmember Amer moved and Councilmember C. Taylor seconded to limit the time of each interview to 20 minutes.

Councilmember T. Taylor moved and Councilmember Baldwin seconded to amend the motion to limit the time of each interview to 25 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

Councilmember Baldwin moved and Councilmember Amer seconded to reduce the introduction time from 10 minutes to 5 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 6-0

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. From the Council

Councilmembers had no reports.

B. From the Mayor

Mayor Backus had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED this 5th day of May 2025.

NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk