



**City Council
Study Session
PW & CD Special Focus Area
July 27, 2026 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Tracy Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Brian Lott, Cheryl Rakes, Lisa Stirgus, and Clinton Taylor. Councilmember Kate Baldwin arrived at 5:34 p.m.

The following staff members present included: City Attorney Jason Whalen, Assistant Chief of Police Samuel Betz, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Assistant Director of Public Works Jacob Sweeting, Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation Julie Krueger, Senior Project Engineer Matt Larson, Transportation Planner Veronica Bean, Project Engineer Samim Qayoomi, Parks Planning and Development Manager Thaniel Gouk, and Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scholl.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

An Executive Session was added to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no announcements, reports, or presentations.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Capital Projects Status Update and Feature Capital Project (Neighborhood Traffic Safety and Sidewalk Repair) (Gaub) (20 Minutes)

Councilmember Baldwin, Vice Chair of the Public Works & Community Development Special Focus Area, chaired this portion of the meeting.

Engineer Larson provided Council with an overview of the Capital Projects Status Update, including the status of all projects and the Capital Project Status report. He provided updates on projects: CP2414 Auburn Avenue Theater Rebuild, CP2507 Theater Park Plaza, CP1622 Auburn Way South Widening, CP2107 Public Works M&O Facility Improvements Phase 1, CP2419 City Parking Lot Replacement, and CP2424 1st Street NE/NW & Division Street Pedestrian Improvements.

Planner Bean and Engineer Qayoomi provided Council with an overview of the Feature Capital Project: CP2512 Neighborhood Traffic Safety and Sidewalk Repair, including the purpose of the project, project area map, existing conditions, pre-design community outreach, improvements, budget, and schedule.

Council discussed truck aprons, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, community outreach, sidewalk repairs, budget, the employee parking lot, Rapid Ride I-Line, grant funding, and bike lanes.

B. Parks Projects 2026 Status Update (Krueger) (20 Minutes)

Manager Gouk provided the Council with an overview of the Parks Projects 2026 Status Update, including current projects, Recreation and Conversation Office (RCO) Grants for Brannan Park, Veteran's Memorial Park, and Terminal Park. He discussed the Soos Creek Botanical Gardens purchase, Veteran's Memorial Park Inscribed Brick Replacement, Dykstra Pedestrian Bridge, and the First Step Horticultural Program.

Director Krueger provided an update on the December Flooding Event including, impacts on the Auburn Golf Course Clubhouse, Golf Course Pumphouse, Fleet of Rental Carts, Isaac Evans Park Playground, and insurance claims. She also provided an update on the Senior Activity Center Renovation Project.

Manager Gouk provided an update on community partnership projects, including Clean Sweep 2026, Your Money Matters Mentoring at Mary Olson Farm, Puget Sound Tree Climbing Competition, and the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties tree planting.

Council discussed preventative measures for future flooding, Your Money Matters Mentoring Program, First Step Horticultural Program, bathroom facilities at City parks, Golf Course insurance claims, Dykstra Pedestrian Bridge repairs, and the Brannan Park Cricket Field.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deputy Mayor Taylor adjourned into an Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is or is likely to become a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency for 20 minutes. The City Council, Mayor Backus, City Attorney Whalen, and Director Gaub were required to attend. There was no action after the Executive Session.

Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 10 minutes at 7:13 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 10 minutes at 7:23 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 10 minutes at 7:43 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 10 minutes at 7:53 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 5 minutes at 8:03 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 5 minutes at 8:13 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 5 minutes at 8:15 p.m.
Deputy Mayor Taylor extended the session by 10 minutes at 8:18 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Stirgus provided a report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

APPROVED this 3rd day of August 2026.

TRACY TAYLOR, DEPUTY MAYOR

Hannah Scholl, Deputy City Clerk