



**City Council
Special Meeting
May 2, 2025 - 8:00 AM
Postmark Center for the Arts
20 Auburn Avenue, Auburn**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nancy Backus called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Postmark Center for the Arts, 20 Auburn Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes, Hanan Amer, Kate Baldwin, Lisa Stirgus, Clinton Taylor, Tracy Taylor, and Yolanda Trout-Manuel. Deputy Mayor Cheryl Rakes left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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, Director of Community Development Jason Krum, Director of Human Services Kent Hay, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Candis Martinson, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, Chief Prosecutor Charlotte Storey, Director of Innovation and Technology David Travis, City Council Administrative Assistant Melissa Bailey, and City Clerk Shawn Campbell

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT DAY TWO

A. Breakfast - 8:00am to 8:25am

Those present shared breakfast.

B. Ice Breaker - 8:25am to 8:30am

Mayor Backus led the group in an ice breaker.

C. Overview of the Day - 8:30am to 8:35am

Deputy Mayor Rakes provided Council with an overview of the agenda, the retreat objectives, and reviewed the Code of Conduct.

D. Visioning - 8:35am to 11:15am

Director Gaub led those present in the Visioning exercise. The Council chose their top 10 weighted priorities. The combined top items were:

1. Police Expansion
2. Facility Master Plan
3. Main Street Closure to Traffic
4. Incentives Downtown Businesses in Vacant Spaces
5. Homeless Housing
6. Auburn Community Resource Center (ACRC) Build-Out
7. Financial Wellness Center
8. More youth programs
9. Year-round Farmers Market
10. Non-profit services expansion

The Council discussed the options and pros and cons for the top combined options.

E. Community Engagement - 11:15am to 12:00pm

Director Gaub, Director Krueger, and Director Krum shared the current opportunities for community engagement for Council in the City.

F. Lunch - 12:00pm to 12:30pm

Those present shared lunch.

G. Council Commitments - 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Deputy Mayor Rakes led the Council and Directors through a discussion on the Council's Core Values.

H. Federal Funding Status - 1:30pm to 2:15pm

Nina Collier from Washington 2 Advocates provided the Council with an update on Federal Funding. She reviewed the potential impact of Presidential Executive Orders on grant funding for the City of Auburn.

Director Thomas provided the Council with an update on potential Federal funding impacts on the City. She reviewed the grants the City has received over the last three years.

Council discussed the proposed cuts to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds and grant funding.

I. Cybersecurity - 2:30pm to 3:15pm

Director Travis provided the Council with a training on Cybersecurity Awareness.

J. Economic Development - 3:15pm to 4:00pm

Director Krum provided the Council with a presentation on Economic Development.

K. Networking Social Hour - 4:00pm

Those present networked.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

APPROVED this 19th day of May 2025.

NANCY BACKUS, MAYOR

Shawn Campbell, City Clerk