



Snohomish County Council

Committee of the Whole - Budget Deliberations

Meeting Minutes

Council Chair Jared Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nate Nehring
Councilmembers: Sam Low, Megan Dunn, Strom Peterson

Thursday, October 12, 2023

9:00 AM

**Jackson Board Room - 8th Floor
Robert J. Drewel Building
& Remote Meeting**

PRESENT:

Council Chair Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nehring
Councilmember Low (*remote*)
Councilmember Dunn
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman Council Staff
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff
Brian Sullivan, Treasurer
Alex Lark, Chief Deputy Treasurer
Nancy Miller, Treasurer's Office
Alessandra Durham, Executive's Office
Kara Main-Hester, Office of Recovery and Resilience
Lacey Harper, Executive's Office
Kristie Hoagland, Executive's Office
Linda Hjelle, Assessor
Laura Washabaugh, Chief Deputy Assessor
Nathan Kennedy, Finance Director
Garth Fell, Auditor
Connie Barndt, Auditor's Office
Gricelda Montes, Public Advocate
Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Director
Rob Sprague, Human Resources
Debbi Mock, Finance
Cheri Danner, Assistant Clerk of the Council

2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS - DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Mead called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment for both in-person and remote via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and stated that all five members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons present wishing to provide public comment.

Department Presentations - Q&A:

1. Treasurer [2023-1241](#)
Brian Sullivan, Treasurer, provided an introduction and an overview of the Treasurer's Office. Alex Lark, Chief Deputy Treasurer, provided the presentation for the 2024 Treasurer's Budget.

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Lark responded to questions from councilmembers concerning American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollar interest reliance and employee reclassification.
2. Executive (Office of Recovery & Resilience, Office of Social Justice, & Economic Development) [2023-1242](#)

Alessandra Durham, Executive's Office, provided the presentation for the 2024 Executive's Budget and reviewed the reorganization of the Executive's Office.

Kara Main-Hester, Office of Recovery and Resilience (ORR), provided the presentation for the 2024 ORR Budget. She discussed appropriations and investments of ARPA funding.

Executive Office Staff Members Alessandra Durham, Kara Main-Hester, Lacey Harper, and Kristie Hoagland answered various questions from councilmembers regarding customer service for the Health Department, sponsorship of events, Office of Social Justice and ARPA funding, employee reclassification approval process, and professional service increase contracts.

Vice-Chair Nehring shared his appreciation for work on the Sustainable Aviation Fuels.

Chair Mead expressed concerns about the status of the efficiency study and pandemic recovery full-time employees. Ms. Durham said she will get back to him on these concerns.

At 10:09 a.m., Chair Mead recessed the Council until 10:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., Chair Mead called the Council back to order.

3. Assessor

[2023-1243](#)

Linda Hjelle, Assessor, provided the presentation for the 2024 Assessor's Office Budget and discussed successful projects in 2023.

She responded to questions by councilmembers concerning staffing and increases of tax parcels.

4. Finance (Non-Departmental & Debt Service)

[2023-1244](#)

Nathan Kennedy, Finance Director, provided the presentation the 2024 Finance, Non-Departmental, and Debt Service Budgets.

Vice-Chair Nehring questioned the future of project positions and P-Card revenue. Mr. Kennedy clarified staff funding and discussed the rebate program for use of the P-Cards.

Councilmember Peterson expressed concerns on real estate excise tax (REET) revenue.

At 10:09 a.m., Chair Mead recessed the Council until 12:45 p.m.

At 12:45 p.m., Chair Mead called the Council back to order.

5. Auditor

[2023-1245](#)

Garth Fell, Auditor, provided the presentation for the 2024 Auditor's Office Budget.

Chair Mead thanked Mr. Fell for his presentation.

6. Public Advocate

[2023-1246](#)

Gricelda Montes, Public Advocate, provided the presentation for the 2024 Office of the Public Advocate Budget.

Councilmember Dunn made an inquiry on travel and training funds and Ms. Montes indicated there is \$4,000.00 allocated for travel and training.

Chair Mead shared his appreciation for Ms. Montes and her continued work.

7. Human Resources

[2023-1247](#)

Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Director, provided the presentation for the 2024 Human Resources Budget.

Responding to Councilmember Dunn's inquiries, Rob Sprague, Human Resources Deputy Director, discussed labor negotiations and Debbi Mock, Finance Department, clarified accounting procedures.

There being no further business, Chair Mead adjourned the Council for the day at 1:15 p.m.