



Snohomish County Council

Public Hearings

Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 **10:30 AM** **Jackson Board Room - 8th Floor**
Robert J. Drewel Building
& Remote Meeting

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT:

Council Chair Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nehring
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Dunn
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff
Ken Klein, Executive's Office
Lacey Harper, Executive's Office
Kara Main-Hester, Executive's Office
Nathan Kennedy, Finance Director
Jason Cummings, Prosecuting Attorney
Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense Director
Tom Teigen, Conservation and Natural Resources Director
Sharon Swan, Parks Division Director
Judge Jennifer Rancourt, Cascade District Court
Cheri Danner, Asst. Clerk of the Council
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mead called the public hearing to order at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

The clerk read the titles of each budget ordinance and motion into the record. Jim Martin, Sr. Legislative Analyst, provided an overview of the 2024 Budget process and thanked staff for their work.

Chair Mead opened the hearing for public testimony. There being no persons present wishing to testify, he closed the testimony portion of the hearing.

Prior to Council action, Analysts Jim Martin, Deb Bell, Ryan Countryman, Nicole Gorle, and Cynthia Foley proceeded with staff reports for each budget ordinance and motion in order on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Budget Ordinance 23-113, relating to Property Taxes, Fixing the 2024 General Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and Preserving Future Levy Capacity [2023-1067](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-113. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-113 carried unanimously.

2. Budget Ordinance 23-114, authorizing an increase in General Tax Revenues for Property Taxes collected in 2024 [2023-1068](#)

Vice-Chair Nehring spoke in opposition of this ordinance and explained why he will be voting against. He said he has prepared an amendment if this ordinance should not pass.

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-114. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-114 carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

3. Budget Ordinance 23-115, relating to Property Taxes; Fixing the 2024 Road Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and Preserving Future Levy Capacity [2023-1069](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-115. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-115 carried unanimously.

4. Budget Ordinance 23-116, authorizing an increase in Road Tax Revenues for Property Taxes collected in 2024 [2023-1070](#)

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-116. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-116 carried four to one, with Vice-Chair Nehring voting against.

5. Budget Ordinance 23-117, relating to Property Taxes, Fixing the 2024 Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and Preserving Future Levy Capacity [2023-1071](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-117. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-117 carried unanimously.

6. Budget Ordinance 23-118, authorizing an increase in Conservation Futures Tax revenues for Property Taxed collected in 2024 [2023-1072](#)

Vice-Chair Nehring spoke briefly in opposition of this ordinance.

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-118. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-118 carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

7. Budget Motion 23-423, approving the 2024 Surface Water Management Annual Construction Program [2023-1059](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-423. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Budget Motion 23-424, approving the 2024 - 2029 Surface Water Management Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2023-1060](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-424. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Budget Ordinance 23-119, approving the 2024 Annual Construction Plan for County Transportation Improvements [2023-1108](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-119. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 23-119 carried unanimously.

10. Budget Motion 23-425, adopting the 2024-2029 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program [2023-1074](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-425. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Budget Motion 23-426, approving the 2024 Solid Waste Management Division Annual Construction Program [2023-1075](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-426. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. Budget Motion 23-427, approving the 2024 - 2029 Solid Waste Management Division Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2023-1076](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-427. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

13. Budget Ordinance 23-120, relating to the Growth Management Act, adopting the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program as part of the Snohomish County Capital Facilities Plan [2023-1092](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-120. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 1. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve Ordinance 23-120, as amended, carried unanimously.

14. Budget Motion 23-428, approving the 2024 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Office of Energy & Sustainability (OES) Grant Work Plan [2023-1077](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-428. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

15. Budget Motion 23-429, approving the 2024 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Surface Water Management (SWM) Grant Work Plan [2023-1078](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-429. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

16. Budget Motion 23-430, approving the 2024 Department of Emergency Management Grant Work Plan [2023-1079](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-430. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
17. Budget Motion 23-431, approving the 2024 Snohomish County Health Department Grant Work Plan [2023-1080](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-431. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
18. Budget Motion 23-432, approving the 2024 Human Services Department Grant Work Plan [2023-1081](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-432. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
19. Budget Motion 23-433, approving the 2024 Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) Grant Work Plan [2023-1082](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-433. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
20. Budget Motion 23-434, approving the 2024 Sheriff's Office Grant Work Plan [2023-1083](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-434. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
21. Budget Motion 23-435, approving the 2024 Superior Court Grant Work Plan [2023-1084](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-435. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
22. Budget Motion 23-436, approving the schedule of rental rates to be charged by Fleet Services Division in 2024 [2023-1087](#)
- ACTION:** Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Substitute Motion 23-436. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

23. Budget Ordinance 23-121, adopting the 2024 Budget and Making Appropriations for the Operation of County Agencies and Departments and Capital Improvements for the period beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024 [2023-1073](#)

Mr. Martin provided an overview of the 2024 Budget Ordinance and explained there are multiple amendments to be considered. Council staff provided high-level summaries, with input from sponsoring councilmembers for each proposed amendment. Council and Department staff responded to councilmembers' questions and concerns, if any were raised, and discussion ensued as each amendment was considered.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-121. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Amendment 1 - Council Consensus Amendment

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring a motion to approve Amendment 1. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

Amendment 2 - Condition/Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health

No Action, replaced by Amendment 2A

Amendment 2A - Condition/Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health

No Action, Councilmember Low withdrew Amendment 2A.

Amendment 3 - Housing Programs

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 3. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment 4 - Condition/Facilities New Start Center

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 4. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried three to two, with Councilmembers Dunn and Peterson voting against.

Amendment 5- 1 New FTE Park Ranger

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 5. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, and Dunn voting against.

Amendment 6 - Note/DCNR Park Ranger Lord Hill Park

No Action, Councilmember Low withdrew Amendment 6.

Amendment 7 - Condition/Lord Hill Parking Lot Improvements

No Action - Included in Amendment 1/Consensus Amendment.

Amendment 8 - Additional Entertainment Fair Funding

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 8. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment 9 - Note/DCNR Fair Park Improvement Plan

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 9. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 10 - Early Learning Research

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 10. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 11 - Condition/Early Learning Research

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 11. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 12 - Eliminate \$50,000 from Professional Services/Executive Office

No Action, Vice-Chair Nehring withdrew Amendment 12.

Amendment 13 - \$30,000 for Spanish language Voter Pamphlets

No Action, replaced by Amendment 13A

Amendment 13A - \$30,000 for Spanish language Voter Pamphlets -General Fund

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 13A. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 14 - Social Justice Initiatives

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 14. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Dunn, and Peterson voting against.

Amendment 15 - Social Justice Initiatives PA

No Action, Vice-Chair Nehring withdrew Amendment 15.

Amendment 16 - Condition/Social Justice Initiatives

No Action, Vice-Chair Nehring withdrew Amendment 16.

Amendment 17 - .5 FTE Shift Assessor

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 17. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 18 - Remove Increase for OPD Conflict Panel

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 18. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried three to two, with Councilmembers Dunn and Peterson voting against.

Amendment 19 - Remove Increase for OPD Contempt of Court

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 19. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Dunn, and Peterson voting against.

Amendment 20 - Funding for OPD Executive Assistant

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment 20. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, and Low voting against.

Amendment 21 - ARPA OPD

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment 21. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, and Low voting against.

Amendment 21A - ARPA OPD

No Action, Councilmember Low withdrew Amendment 21A.

Amendment 22 - OPD Expert Services

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment 22. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 23 - Note/OPD Expert Services

No Action, Councilmember Peterson withdrew Amendment 23.

Amendment 23A - Note/OPD Expert Services

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment 23A. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 24 - Condition/OPD Expert Services

No Action, Vice-Chair Nehring withdrew Amendment 24.

Amendment 25 - District Court Human Resources FTE

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment 25. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, and Low voting against.

Amendment 26 - Therapeutic Courts FTE Funding

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment 26. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 27 - Condition/Therapeutic Courts FTE Funding

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 27. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 28 - PA Victim Witness Advocate

No Action, Councilmember Peterson withdrew Amendment 28.

Amendment 28A - PA Victim Witness Advocate

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment 28A. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 29 - Note/PA Victim Witness Advocate

No Action, Councilmember Peterson withdrew Amendment 29.

Amendment 29A - Note/PA Victim Witness Advocate

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment 29A. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

(Amendments taken out of order)

Amendment 37 - FTE and Associated Funding for PA Hate Crime /Project Positions

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 37. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 38 - Note/PA Hate Crime FTEs

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 38. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 30 - Sheriff Deputies Funding

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment 30. Chair Mead seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Nehring, Dunn, and Peterson voting against.

Amendment 31 - Condition/Sheriff Deputies Funding

No Action, Councilmember Low withdrew Amendment 31.

Amendment 32 - ITA Facility at the Jail

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 32. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment 33 - Condition/Corrections Architectural Analysis

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment 33. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 34 - Partnership Projects

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 34. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 35 - Social Justice Initiatives

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 35. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment 36 - Condition/Social Justice Initiatives

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment 36. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further amendments to consider, Chair Mead turned to the Council for any additional discussion. Each councilmember provided closing remarks and shared their appreciation for staff and the budget process.

ACTION: The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve Ordinance 23-121, as amended, carried unanimously.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to instruct staff to enter all amendments and to produce final documents and tables, adjusting as necessary for DACs and nominal changes in amounts, due to system calculations. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

24. Motion 23-475, establishing reimbursement allocations for Council office travel expenses in the 2024 Budget pursuant to SCC 3.36.010 [2023-1313](#)

Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff, provided a staff report.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-475. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Mead adjourned the Council for the day at 1:09 p.m.