



Snohomish County Council

Public Hearings

Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

10:30 AM

**Jackson Board Room
& Remote Meeting**

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT:

Council Chair Dunn
Council Vice-Chair Mead
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Nehring
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Interim Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Ken Klein, Executive's Office
Cheri Danner, Asst. Clerk of the Council
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Dunn called the public hearing to order at 10:30 a.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public testimony for both in-person and remote via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and stated that 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 2023 Budget process and he thanked staff for their work.

Chair Dunn opened the hearing for public testimony. There being no persons present wishing to provide testimony, she closed the testimony portion of the hearing.

Council Sr. Legislative Analysts Jim Martin, Nicole Gorle, Deb Bell, Ryan Countryman, and, Heidi Beazizo, provided staff reports for all budget items as listed on the agenda.

Ms. Gorle discussed Ord 22-056 related to the 2023-2028 CIP and explained the proposed amendments. She responded to clarifying questions related to the amendments.

Council proceeded and began with taking actions on each budget item.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Budget Ordinance 22-049, relating to property taxes, fixing the 2023 General Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and preserving future levy capacity [2022-0981](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-049. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-049 carried unanimously.

2. Budget Ordinance 22-050, authorizing an increase in general tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2023 [2022-0982](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-050. Chair Dunn seconded the motion.

Councilmember Nehring spoke in opposition of the property tax increase related ordinances in front of Council today. He said he expects the property tax ordinances to pass and explained that he has prepared an amendment included in the list [*in Ordinance 22-059*] which would make corresponding cuts to spending thereby eliminating the necessity of a property tax increase.

Chair Dunn spoke in support of the ordinance and explained this is a modest increase and there was compelling input from staff and public. She added that schools, libraries, and fire districts are voted on by the public.

The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-050 carried three to two with Councilmembers Low and Nehring voting against.

3. Budget Ordinance 22-051, relating to property taxes; fixing the 2023 Road Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and preserving future levy capacity [2022-0983](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-051. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-051 carried unanimously.

4. Budget Ordinance 22-052, authorizing an increase in Road Tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2023 [2022-0984](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-052. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-052 carried four to one with Councilmember Nehring voting against.

5. Budget Ordinance 22-053, relating to property taxes; fixing the 2023 Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and Preserving Future Levy Capacity [2022-0985](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-053. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-053 carried unanimously.

6. Budget Ordinance 22-054, authorizing an increase in conservation futures tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2023 [2022-0986](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-054. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-054 carried three to two with Councilmembers Low and Nehring voting against.

7. Budget Motion 22-412, approving the 2023 Surface Water Management Annual Construction Program [2022-0955](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-412. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Budget Motion 22-413, approving the 2023-2028 Surface Water Management Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2022-0956](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-413. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Budget Ordinance 22-055, approving the 2023 Annual Construction Plan for County Transportation Improvements [2022-0933](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-055. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-055 carried unanimously.

10. Budget Motion 22-414, adopting the 2023-2028 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program [2022-0934](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-414. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Budget Motion 22-415, approving the 2023 Solid Waste Management Division Annual Construction Program [2022-0935](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-415. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. Budget Motion 22-416, approving the 2023-2028 Solid Waste Management Division Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2022-0936](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-416. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

13. Budget Ordinance 22-056, relating to the Growth Management Act, adopting the 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program as part of the Snohomish County Capital Facilities Plan [2022-0919](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-056. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Bell briefly explained Amendment Sheet 2 and Mr. Martin clarified the necessary order of consideration of the amendments. He responded to questions from Chair Dunn.

Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 2. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Gorle provided a recap of Amendments 3, 3A, and 4, and responded to questions from councilmembers. She also explained Amendment 15C and 15B of the main Budget Ordinance 22-059

Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 4.
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 22-056, as amended, carried unanimously.

14. Budget Ordinance 22-057, adopting the 2022-2027 Capital Facilities Plans for the Arlington No. 16, Edmonds No. 15, Everett No. 2, Lake Stevens No. 4, Lakewood No. 306, Marysville No. 25, Monroe No. 103, Mukilteo No. 6, Snohomish No. 201, and Sultan No. 311 School Districts, and the 2022-2028 Capital Facilities Plan for the Northshore No. 417 School District Pursuant to SCC 30.66C.020 and Amending the School Impact Fee Schedule in SCC 30.66C.100 [2022-0921](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-057.
Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-057 carried unanimously.

15. Budget Motion 22-417, approving the 2023 Department of Human Services Grant Work Plan [2022-0957](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-417.
Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

16. Budget Motion 22-418, approving the 2023 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Surface Water Management Grant Work Plan [2022-0962](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-418.
Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

17. Budget Motion 22-419, approving the 2023 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Weatherization Program Grant Work Plan [2022-0963](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-419.
Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

18. Budget Motion 22-420, approving the 2023 Sheriff's Office Grant Work Plan [2022-0960](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-420.
Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

19. Budget Motion 22-421, approving the 2023 Prosecuting Attorney's Office Grant Work Plan [2022-0959](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-421. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

20. Budget Motion 22-422, approving the 2023 Superior Court Grant Work Plan [2022-0961](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-422. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

21. Budget Motion 22-423, approving the 2023 Department of Emergency Management Grant Work Plan [2022-0958](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-423. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

22. Budget Motion 22-424, approving the schedule of rental rates to be charged by Fleet Services Division in 2023 [2022-0929](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-424. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

23. Budget Motion 22-471, establishing reimbursement allocations for Council Office travel expenses in the 2023 Budget pursuant to SCC 3.36.010 [2022-1160](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Motion 22-471. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

24. Ordinance 22-039, approving a system of rates and charges proposed by the Snohomish Conservation District pursuant to RCW 89.08.405 for natural resource conservation purposes on all non-exempt real property located within Snohomish Conservation District and Snohomish County for a ten-year period beginning in 2023 [2022-0886](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-039. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-039 carried four to one with Councilmember Nehring voting against.

25. Budget Ordinance 22-058, relating to the Election Equipment Cumulative Reserve Fund 189, amending chapter 4.73 SCC [2022-0892](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-058. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 22-058 carried unanimously.

26. Budget Ordinance 22-059, adopting the 2023 Budget and making appropriations for the operation of County Agencies and Departments and Capital Improvements for the period beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 [2022-0987](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-059. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Amendment 1A - Council amendment

Chair Dunn provided comments related to the Council amendment and the clerk displayed the summary table.

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

Amendment Sheet 2A related to positions in the Assessor's Office

Chair Dunn spoke to Amendment Sheet 2. She explained Amendment Sheet 2 is for three project positions with the Assessor's Office and she has a substitute Amendment Sheet for one FTE position instead.

Vice-Chair Mead provided supportive comments for one FTE position.

Councilmember Low explained he would be voting against the walk-on amendment since this is the first he is hearing about it, yet he appreciated the compromise.

ACTION: Chair Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 2A. Vice-Chair Mead seconded the motion and it carried three to two with Councilmembers Low and Nehring voting against.

Amendment Sheet 3 related to facilities upgrades and moves

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 3. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Councilmember Nehring spoke in opposition of the amendment.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 3 carried four to one with Councilmember Nehring voting against.

Amendment Sheet 4 and 12 related to Diversity Equity and Inclusion Workgroup

Vice-Chair Mead spoke to Amendment Sheet 4. Brief discussion ensued related to Amendments 4 and 12 and Councilmember Nehring explained he would support the amendment.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 12. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 4. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 6 and 20 related to Office of Public Defense Conflict Panel

Councilmember Peterson spoke to Amendment Sheet 6 and a Walk-On Amendment Sheet 20.

Councilmember Low thanked Councilmember Peterson for bringing this amendment forward and stated he would be supportive. Councilmember Nehring also thanked Councilmember Peterson for bringing this forward but explained he would only be supporting the condition but not the underlying amendment.

Responding to Vice-Chair Mead, Ken Klein, Executive's Office, explained the Executive's Office supports Amendments 6 and 20.

Vice-Chair Mead and Chair Dunn expressed support. Mr. Klein responded to additional questions from Chair Dunn and Councilmember Nehring.

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 6. Vice-Chair Mead seconded the motion and it carried four to one with Councilmember Nehring voting against.

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 20. Vice-Chair Mead seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 7 related to reclass of two Deputy Sheriff Officers

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 7. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion.

Chair Dunn explained that she would be voting a “polite no” on this and explained she would like to see the results of the class and comp study completed on this.

Vice-Chair Mead and Councilmember Nehring provided supportive comments.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 7 carried four to one with Chair Dunn voting against.

Amendment Sheet 8 related to additional funds for Superior Court translation services

ACTION: Chair Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 8. Vice-Chair Mead seconded the motion. Council wanted to consider Amendment Sheet 17 prior to Amendment 8. Chair Dunn withdrew her motion.

Amendment Sheet 17 related to translation services in Superior Court - offset of funds

Chair Dunn provided an explanation for Amendment Sheet 17.

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

Amendment Sheet 8 related to additional funds for Superior Court translation services

ACTION: Chair Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 8. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 9 related to carryover of unspent 2022 Small Capital Project Partnerships Funds

Mr. Martin provided a summary of Amendment Sheet 9.

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

Amendment Sheet 10 related to General Fund cuts to eliminate 1% property tax increase

ACTION: Councilmember Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 10. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Mead shared his appreciation for Councilmember Nehring's work on this and how he looked for savings but said he didn't agree with where he found savings and explained he would be voting no on the amendment.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 10 failed two to three with Councilmembers Peterson, Mead, and Dunn voting against.

Amendment Sheet 11 related to carry over under expenditure for Social Justice Initiatives within Nondepartmental

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 11. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Nehring provided comment.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 11 carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

Amendment Sheet 13 related to funding for Domestic Violence Coordinators

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 13. Councilmember Nehring seconded the motion.

Councilmember Nehring thanked Councilmember Peterson for finding a funding source for this.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 13 carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 14 related to ARPA spending plan

ACTION: Councilmember Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 14. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 15C related to REET II Projects

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 15C. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Chair Dunn summarized Amendment Sheet 15C. Councilmember Low thanked Chair Dunn for working with him on this amendment.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 15C carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 15B related to CIP/Capital section of Operating Budget

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 15B. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 16B related to conditioning a portion of 2023 Nondepartmental Budget

Chair Dunn expressed her support for Amendment Sheet 16B.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 16B. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 18 related to removing “ghost” positions in the Sheriff’s Office and Corrections Bureau

Chair Dunn explained Amendment Sheet 18 is a housekeeping amendment. Councilmember Low also stated that this was a friendly amendment offered by the Sheriff’s Office.

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 18. Chair Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 19 related to independent analysis of Executive and Legislative Branch staffing efficiencies

Councilmember Nehring explained Amendment Sheet 19. He said this would not add any spending.

Councilmember Peterson spoke in support of the amendment.

ACTION: Councilmember Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 19. Vice-Chair Mead seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilmember Nehring provided comments related to this budget. He stated that public safety is his top priority and he spoke further about the inclusions in this budget that he is particularly proud of related to public safety. He said he will be supporting this budget today and thanked Council staff for their work during the budget process.

Councilmember Low echoed Councilmember Nehring’s comments. He said he appreciated the councilmembers’ differences and the ability in finding common ground. He said he will be supporting this budget and also thanked Council staff, department heads, and Executive staff during the budget process.

Councilmember Peterson provided comments and thanked the staff, as well.

Vice-Chair Mead agreed with the previous councilmembers' comments. He thanked the staff, Executive team, Becky Guadamud, DPA, and Ms. Beazizo, Interim Chief of Staff. He also spoke about education and early learning and said he is fully committed to work on investing in early learning and childcare.

Chair Dunn joined in to thank staff and Ms. Guadamud. She said it has been an honor to be the Chair and lead the process and proceedings.

ACTION: The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve Ordinance No. 22-059, as amended, carried unanimously.

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

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council Chair Dunn adjourned the Council for the day at 12:13 p.m.