



Snohomish County Council

Public Hearings

Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, November 25, 2024

9:00 AM

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

SPECIAL 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
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff
Executive Dave Somers
Ken Klein, Executive's Office
Jason Cummings, Prosecuting Attorney
Cheri Danner, Asst. Clerk of the Council
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council
**See names listed below for persons who provided public testimony*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mead called the Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

2025-2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff, provided an introduction and a presentation on the county property tax and how proposed levy increases could impact property owners.
(See below - Ordinance 24-075, link 2024-2003 to view presentation)

Brief comments were made by Councilmembers Mead, Low, and Peterson.

Executive Dave Somers addressed the Council and spoke to a proposed increase in property tax and to suggested changes in the Executive Department and offices related to the performance audit recently conducted.

Chair Mead opened the public testimony portion of the hearing and the following people provided testimony:

- Alvaro Guillen, resident of the city of Mountlake Terrace
- Tim Eyman, resident of the city of Bellevue
- Zach McCown, resident of the town of Conway
- Judy Kimball, resident of the city of Everett
- Larry Kimball, resident of the city of Everett
- Rebecca Muchenberger, resident of the city of Everett
- Shelly Schweigert, resident of the city of Arlington
- Paul Galovin, resident of the city of Marysville
- Mason Rutledge, resident of the city of Everett
- Carolyn Strong, resident of the city of Edmonds
- Billye Brooks Sebastianni, resident of the city of Arlington
- Sue Magrueder, resident of the city of Snohomish
- Heidi Sandall, resident of the city of Granite falls
- Deborah Lobe, resident of the city of Edmonds
- Daniel Courter, resident of the city of Lake Stevens
- Doug Roulstone, resident of the city of Snohomish
- Greg Smith, resident of the city of Snohomish
- Janice Green, NAACP and resident of Snohomish County
- John Cowlin, resident of the city of Snohomish
- Anonymous, resident of the city of Bothell
- Dan Verda, resident of unincorporated Snohomish County
- Tamera Nelson, resident of the city of Edmonds
- Mary Kline Stively, resident of the city of Edmonds
- Mike Pattison, Master Builders (re Ordinance 24-088)
- Lindsey Arrington, resident of Snohomish County
- Dorian, resident of the city of Lynnwood
- Jordan Kostelyk, resident of the city of Lynnwood
- Sharon Damoff, resident of Snohomish County
- Naomi Dietrich, resident of Snohomish County
- Juan Peralez, resident of Snohomish County

There being no further persons present wishing to provide testimony, Chair Mead closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

Chair Mead recessed the Council at 10:32 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Chair Mead called the Council back to order at 10:46 a.m.

Prior to Council action, Council Legislative Analysts Jim Martin, Ryan Countryman, Deb Bell, Cynthia Foley, Nicole Gorle, and Chief of Staff Heidi Beazizo, provided staff reports for the budget ordinances, motions, and amendments as listed in order on the agenda. Analysts responded to questions and concerns from councilmembers throughout their staff reports.

1. Budget Ordinance 24-074, relating to property taxes, fixing the 2025 General Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and preserving future levy capacity [2024-2002](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-074. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-074 carried unanimously.

2. Budget Ordinance 24-075, authorizing an increase in general tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2025 and 2026 [2024-2003](#)

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-075. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Peterson stated he had a motion (amendment) prepared for a different rate structure and explained it would be for a total of 6% and some change.

Councilmembers provided comments and expressed their views and concerns. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Amendment Sheet 1

Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 1. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Nehring, Low, and Peterson voting against.

Amendment Sheet 2

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 2. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Mead, Dunn, and Peterson voting against.

Amendment Sheet 3

Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 3. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion.

Councilmember Low made a motion to amend Amendment Sheet 3 to change the percentage from 2% to 0% *[as follows “\$2,250,000 for the 2026 general levy, which is a percentage increase of ~~two (2)~~ zero (0) percent from the previous year”]* Chair Mead seconded the motion and it failed one to four with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, Dunn, and Peterson voting against.

The question was called for on the main Amendment. The motion to approve Amendment 3 failed two to three with Councilmembers Mead, Nehring, and Low voting against.

Reconsideration - Amendment Sheet 1

Councilmember Low made a motion to reconsider Amendment Sheet 1.

Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 1. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried three to two with Councilmembers Low and Nehring voting against.

Main Motion on Ordinance 24-075

The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve Ordinance 24-075, as amended, carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

3. Budget Ordinance 24-076, relating to property taxes; fixing the 2025 Road Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and preserving future levy capacity [2024-2004](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-076. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-076 carried unanimously.

4. Budget Ordinance 24-077, authorizing an increase in road tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2025 [2024-2005](#)

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-077. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-077 carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

5. Budget Ordinance 24-078, relating to property taxes, fixing the 2025 Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy for Snohomish County and preserving future levy capacity [2024-2006](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-078. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-078 carried unanimously.

6. Budget Ordinance 24-079, authorizing an increase in Conservation Futures Tax revenues for property taxes collected in 2025 [2024-2007](#)

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-079. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-079 carried three to two with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

7. Budget Motion 24-371, approving the 2025 Surface Water Management Annual Construction Program [2024-1922](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-371. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Budget Motion 24-372, approving the 2025 - 2030 Surface Water Management Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2024-1924](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-372. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Budget Ordinance 24-080, approving the 2025 Annual Construction Plan for County Transportation Improvements [2024-1997](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-080. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-080 carried unanimously.

10. Budget Motion 24-373, adopting the 2025-2030 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program [2024-1948](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-373. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Budget Motion 24-374, approving the 2025 Solid Waste Management Division Annual Construction Program [2024-1957](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-374. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. Budget Motion 24-375, approving the 2025 - 2030 Solid Waste Management Division Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan [2024-1959](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-375. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

13. Budget Ordinance 24-081, relating to the Growth Management Act, [2024-2082](#)
adopting the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program as part of
the Capital Facilities Plan

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-081.
Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

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

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

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 3.
Councilmember Peterson seconded them motion and it carried unanimously.

The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve
Ordinance 24-081, as amended, carried unanimously.

14. Ordinance 24-088, amending Snohomish County Code Chapter [2024-1954](#)
30.66A - Park and Recreation Facility Impact Mitigation

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-088.
Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion.

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

The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve
Ordinance 24-088, as amended, carried unanimously.

15. Budget Ordinance 24-082, adopting the 2024-2029 Capital [2024-1943](#)
Facilities Plans for the Arlington No. 16, Edmonds No. 15, Everett
No. 2, Granite Falls No. 332, Lake Stevens No. 4, Lakewood No.
306, Monroe No. 103, Mukilteo No. 6, Snohomish No. 201, and
Sultan No. 311 School Districts, and the 2024-2030 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

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-082.
Councilmember Dunn 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 24-082, as amended, carried unanimously.

16. Motion 24-417, approving the 2024 Housing and Behavioral Health Capital Fund Investment Plan and authorizing the Director of Human Services to execute necessary documents [2024-2500](#)

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-417. Councilmember Low seconded the motion.

Councilmember Low made a motion to approve proposed Third Substitute Motion 24-417. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion.

Ms. Foley provided a staff report and explained the proposed substitute motions and amendments. Councilmember Low provided additional information.

Vice-Chair Nehring withdrew his initial motion to approve Motion 24-417. Councilmember Dunn also spoke to the substitute motion.

Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 1 to the Third Substitute Motion 24-417. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Discussion ensued.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Third Substitute Motion 24-417, as amended, carried unanimously.

[Motion 24-417, as amended and approved, reconsidered later in the agenda, see video at 5:00:50]

17. Budget Motion 24-376, approving the 2025 Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Grant Work Plan [2024-2023](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-376. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

18. Budget Motion 24-377, approving the 2025 Snohomish County Health Department Grant Work Plan [2024-2024](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-377. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

19. Budget Motion 24-378, approving the 2025 Department of Human Services Grant Work Plan [2024-2025](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-378. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

20. Budget Motion 24-379, approving the 2025 Department of Conservation & Natural Resources - Office of Energy & Sustainability Grant Work Plan [2024-2026](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-379. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

21. Budget Motion 24-380, approving the 2025 Grant Work Plan for the Prosecuting Attorney [2024-2027](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-380. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

22. Budget Motion 24-381, approving the 2025 Grant Work Plan for the Sheriff's Office [2024-2028](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-381. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

23. Budget Motion 24-382, approving the 2025 Grant Work Plan for Superior Court [2024-2029](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-382. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

24. Budget Motion 24-383, approving the 2025 Department of Conservation & Natural Resources - Surface Water Management Grant Work Plan [2024-2030](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-383. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

25. Budget Motion 24-384, approving the Schedule of Rental Rates to be charged by Fleet Services Division in 2025 [2024-2019](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-384. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

26. Motion 24-421, establishing reimbursement allocations for Council Office travel expenses in the 2025-26 Biennial Budget pursuant to SCC 3.36.010 [2024-2537](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 24-421. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

27. Ordinance 24-093, establishing the 2025 monthly vehicle allowance of Elected Officials pursuant to SCC 3.36.035(2) [2024-2626](#)

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-093. Councilmember Low seconded the motion. The clerk called the roll and the motion to approve Ordinance 24-093 carried unanimously.

28. Budget Ordinance 24-083, adopting the 2025-26 Biennial Budget and making appropriations for the Operation of County Agencies and Departments and Capital Improvements for the Biennium beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026 [2024-2008](#)

Council discussion and action were taken on Ordinance 24-083 and its amendments as listed below:

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-083. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion.

Amendment Sheet 2 - Council Consensus Amendment

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

Amendment Sheets 1, 1A, 3, and 4 - Priority Hiring

No Action - withdrawn

Amendment Sheet 23 - Priority Hire

ACTION: Councilmember Low made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 23. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with verbal direction to remove "condition" from the amendment.

Amendment Sheets 5 & 5A - Property Tax Cuts

No Action - withdrawn

Amendment Sheet 6 - Property Tax Reduction

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 6. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried three to two, with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

Amendment Sheet 7 - Unfunded Deputy Sheriff Positions

No Action - withdrawn

Amendment Sheet 8 - Hate Crime Victim Witness Advocate

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 8. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion and it carried three to two, with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

Amendment Sheet 9 - Sheriff Office Funding/Corrections

No Action - withdrawn

Amendment Sheet 9A - Sheriff Office Funding/ERR

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 9A. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 9B - Sheriff Office Funding/Overtime

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 9B. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 9C - Sheriff Office Funding/Premium Pay

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 9C. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheets 10 through 14A

No Action - withdrawn

Amendment Sheet 14B - Performance Audit Recommendations

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

Amendment Sheet 14C - Performance Audit Recommendations

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

Walk On - Amendment Sheet 26 - Social Justice Initiatives

ACTION: Chair Mead made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 26. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it failed two to three, with Councilmembers Nehring, Peterson, and Dunn voting against.

Amended Amendment Sheet 15 - Performance Audit Recommendations

Discussion ensued and Council agreed to amend Amendment 15. Ms. Beazizo summarized the agreed upon language as discussed and stated below:

Modify Amendment 15 to include any audit recommendations not previously included from Amendment 25, amend the workgroup makeup to match Amendment 25, add a requested date of completion of October 15, 2025. Every recommendation not previously addressed by Amendment 14B will be included in a Budget Note with a deadline of completion of October 15, 2025, with a workgroup that consists of a workgroup identified in Amendment 25.

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

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to provide verbal direction to amend Amendment 15 as discussed. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Amendment Sheet 16 - SWMS Facility Funding

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 16. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried three to two, with Councilmembers Dunn and Peterson voting against.

Amendment Sheet 17 - Condition/SWMS Facility Funding

No Action - replaced by Amendment Sheet 17A

Amendment Sheet 17A - Condition/SWMS Facility Funding

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 17A. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment Sheet 21 - Lynnwood Behavioral Health Facility

No Action -replaced by Amendment Sheet 21A

Amendment Sheet 21A - Lynnwood Behavioral Health Facility

ACTION: Councilmember Peterson made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 21A. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment Sheet 22 - Condition/Lynnwood Behavioral Health

No Action - replaced by Amendment Sheet 22A

Amendment Sheet 22A - Condition/Lynnwood Behavioral Health

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 22A. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

Amendment Sheet 18 - Condition/Housing Contamination

No Action - replaced by Amendment Sheet 18A

Amendment Sheet 18A - Condition/Housing Contamination

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

Amendment Sheet 19 - Minimizing Housing Displacement

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

Amendment Sheet 20 - Condition/Minimizing Housing Displacement

No Action - not considered

Amendment Sheet 24 - Finance Extra Help

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 24. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amendment Sheet 25 - Condition/Performance Audit Recommendations

No Action - not considered

Walk On - Amended Amendment Sheet 27 - Overlapping Cuts

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve Amendment Sheet 27. Vice-Chair Nehring seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to amend the Amendment Sheet 27 to strike Registration Fees under Expenditures/Council. Strike Travel under Executive, and update Revenues to reflect \$10,000 in 2025 and 2026. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The question was called for and the motion to approve Amendment Sheet 27, as amended, carried unanimously.

There being no further amendments to consider, Chair Mead turned to the Council for additional discussion. Each councilmember provided closing remarks.

ACTION: The question was called for and the clerk called the roll. The motion to approve Ordinance 24-083, as amended, carried three to two, with Councilmembers Nehring and Low voting against.

Reconsider Amended Motion 24-417

Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to re-consider the Third Substitute Motion 24-417. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with CoAuncilmember Dunn voting against.

Discussion ensued and Prosecuting Attorney Jason Cummings provided clarification to amend the Third Substitute Motion 24-417 reflecting changes to expenditures from funds in the 2024 Housing and Behavioral Health Capital Fund Investment Plan that were obligated in Amended Budget Ordinance 24-083. These expenditures are: \$6 million for a secure withdrawal management facility (over two years) and \$3 million for behavioral health facility in Lynnwood.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to amend the Third Substitute Motion as discussed and clarified by Prosecutor Cummings. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried four to one, with Councilmember Dunn voting against.

The question was called for and the Third Substitute Motion 24-417, 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.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Mead adjourned the Council for the day at 2:07 p.m.