



Snohomish County Council

General Legislative Session

Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, October 25, 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
Councilmember Dunn
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Council Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff
Lacey Harper, Executive Director
Josh Weiss, Gordon Thomas Honeywell
Annika Vaughn, Gordon Thomas Honeywell
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council
Elena Lao, Deputy Clerk of the Council

**See names listed below of individuals providing public comment.*

A. 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 in person and remote via Zoom.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance - Councilmember Low

Councilmember Low led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Special Reports**1. 2024 Legislative Agenda**[2023-1300](#)

Josh Weiss and Annika Vaughn, Gordon Thomas Honeywell
Lacey Harper, Executive's Office

Josh Weiss and Annika Vaughn, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, and Lacey Harper, Executive Director, provided a report to the Council and explained the proposed Policy Issues for the 2024 Legislative Agenda. Discussion ensued.

In response to questions, Ms. Harper explained that the draft Legislative Agenda will be forthcoming for Council's review and consideration.

Councilmember Low noted for the record that he would be abstaining from discussions and votes relating to the Legislative Agenda.

Council Chair Mead, Council Vice-Chair Nehring, and Councilmember Dunn expressed support of the proposed policy document.

E. Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comment relating to the 2024 Budget:

- Janice Greene, resident of Everett, NAACP Snohomish County, expressed concerns and appealed to the Council to fund and staff the Office of Social Justice. She explained the importance of the work of the Office of Social Justice.
- Debbie Carlsen, Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition, thanked the Council for continued support and funding for early learning education.

F. Committee of the Whole**G. Resolutions****H. Consent Agenda**

I. Administrative Matters

1. Motion 23-469, approving Administrative Matters presented at General Legislative Session on October 25, 2023 [2023-1292](#)
- a. Approval of Council's Official Proceedings for September 2023 [2023-1291](#)

ACTION: Council Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-469. Councilmember Low seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

J. Action on Items from Committee

1. **Community Safety and Justice**
2. **Finance, Budget and Administration**
3. **Health and Community Services**
4. **Planning and Community Development**
5. **Public Infrastructure and Conservation**
6. **Committee of the Whole**

- a. Motion 23-471, authorizing the Prosecuting Attorney to commence condemnation proceedings for Swamp Creek #503 (Swamp Creek Bridge #503 Replacement) - RC 1420 / UPI# 17-0009 - Parcel 001 (McDonald) [2023-1309](#)

Deb Bell, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a brief staff report and explained that the County needs to acquire real property for additional right-of-way for the proposed road improvement project, which is included in the 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan and the adopted 2023 Annual Construction Project.

ACTION: Council Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to schedule a public hearing to consider Motion 23-471 on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

K. Other Business

1. Council Budget Amendment Discussion - Jim Martin, Council Staff [2023-1306](#)

Jim Martin, Sr. Legislative Analyst, stated today's purpose is to discuss a list of proposed amendments for the 2024 Executive's Recommended Budget. He explained they are just that, proposed amendments, and do not represent the will of the Council nor are they to be voted on today, only to be discussed and to determine which, if any, will be included in the Council Amendment that will then be refined and continued to be discussed further at next week's General Legislative Session, with a final Council Amendment being considered at the November 8th public hearing. He said proposed amendments discussed today, not included in the Council Amendment, can still be put forward as individual amendments and considered separately. Mr. Martin provided a summary for each proposed amendment.

Chair Mead provided comments and turned to Council for discussion on each proposal.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

1. Councilmember Low spoke to Proposed Amendment 1. Councilmember Dunn opposed. **Amendment removed**
2. Mr. Martin responded to brief clarifying questions from Councilmembers Nehring and Dunn. No objections. **Amendment remains**
3. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Proposed Amendment 3.
Amendment removed
 - Chair Mead expressed concerns and requested removal.
 - Councilmember Low requested an update on FTEs and allocations.
 - Vice-Chair Nehring responded to Councilmember Dunn's concerns.
4. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Proposed Amendment 4. Mr. Martin responded to questions from Councilmember Dunn.
Amendment remains
5. Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff, spoke to Amendment 5. No objections.
Amendment remains
6. Chair Mead spoke to Amendment 6. Councilmember Dunn inquired about impact and expenditure. Mr. Martin responded and explained there would be no additional dollars expended in the Treasurer's Budget. No objections. **Amendment remains**

Chair Mead spoke to Amendments 7 and 8. He explained that additional work needs to be done with the Executive's team. Councilmember Dunn does not support these being on the Council's Amendment.

7. Amendment removed

8. Amendment removed

9. Councilmember Low spoke to Amendment 9. Councilmember Dunn requested a more robust discussion with Parks. **Amendment removed**

10. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Amendment 10. Councilmember Dunn opposed and Councilmember Peterson requested additional information. **Amendment removed**

11. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Amendment 11. Councilmember Peterson opposed. **Amendment removed**

12. No objections. **Amendment remains**

13. Councilmember Dunn spoke to Amendment 13. Councilmember Low requested additional information. **Amendment removed**

14. Councilmember Dunn spoke to Amendment 14. Vice-Chair Nehring explained that he is supportive of the concept, but questioned if a budget condition makes better sense. **Amendment removed**

15. Councilmember Dunn spoke to Amendment 15. Councilmember Low requested this to be pulled. **Amendment removed**

Chair Mead noted that Amendments 16 and 17 are semi-related. Mr. Martin stated that they are from two different councilmembers for the same services.

16. Councilmember Dunn noted she sponsored Amendment 16, and she is happy to withdraw it. **Amendment withdrawn**

17. Councilmember Peterson spoke to Amendment 17. Councilmember Low requested to pull since Amendment 18 is pulled, but noted he thinks can still get there during Budget. **Amendment removed**

18. Councilmember Peterson spoke to Amendment 18. Councilmember Low provided supportive comments. Vice-Chair Nehring requested to remove since it is a General Fund FTE. **Amendment removed**

19. Councilmember Low spoke to Amendment 19. Vice-Chair Nehring noted he is supportive of the concept of adding deputies, but requested to remove since it is General Fund. **Amendment removed**

BUDGET NOTES:

1. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Budget Note 1. Councilmember Dunn provided additional information. No objections.
Budget Note remains
2. Councilmember Low spoke to Budget Note 2. Councilmember Dunn requested clearer language regarding safety issues.
Budget Note removed

Mr. Martin explained that Budget Notes 3 and 4 would be removed if the accompanying proposed amendment above was removed [Proposed Amendment 18 above was removed].

3. **Budget Note removed**
4. **Budget Note removed**

BUDGET CONDITIONS:

1. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Budget Condition 1. Councilmember Dunn clarified title language. No objections. **Budget Condition remains**
2. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Budget Condition 2. Councilmember Dunn opposed. **Budget Condition removed**
3. Councilmember Low spoke briefly to Budget Condition 3. Deb Bell, Sr. Legislative Analyst, provided additional information and responded to questions from Councilmember Dunn. Councilmember Dunn requested additional information. **Budget Condition removed**
4. Vice-Chair Nehring spoke to Budget Condition 4. Mr. Martin responded to questions from Councilmembers Peterson and Nehring. No objections. **Budget Condition remains**
5. Councilmember Low spoke briefly to Budget Condition 5. Cynthia Foley, Legislative Analyst, provided additional information. Councilmember Dunn opposed. **Budget Condition removed**

6. Mr. Martin stated this was already discussed. [Discussed in Proposed Amendment 19 - removed] **Budget Condition removed**
7. Councilmember Low responded to Councilmember Dunn's request for more information. Councilmember Dunn replied and requested removal of Budget Condition 7. Councilmember Peterson spoke to costs and funding for future outreach. Councilmember Low responded and brief discussion ensued. **Budget Condition removed**

L. Public Meetings/Hearings

M. Executive Session

Heidi Beazizo, Council Chief of Staff, stated that the Council will convene into Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss a matter relating to labor negotiations for an initial 15 minutes. She indicated that there is no anticipated action to follow and any necessary extensions would be announced.

At 9:58 a.m., Council Chair Mead recessed the Council into Executive Session.

1. Labor Negotiations
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b)
DPA: S. Bladek

PRESENT:

Council Chair Mead
Council Vice-Chair Nehring
Councilmember Low (*remote - entered Executive Session at 10:03 a.m.*)
Councilmember Dunn
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Council Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff
Russell Wiita, Council Staff
Darcy Cheesman, Council Staff
Jill Ford, Council Staff (*remote*)
Ken Klein, Executive Director
Lacey Harper, Executive Director
Rob Sprague, Human Resources Deputy Director
Lyndsey Jones, Human Resources
Nathan Kennedy, Finance Director
Brian Haseleu, Budget and Systems Manager

Bridget Casey, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Steve Bladek, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (*remote*)

The Executive Session started at 9:58 a.m. with an initial 15 minutes to 10:13 a.m.
At 10:13 a.m., the Chair extended the Executive Session three minutes to 10:16 a.m.
At 10:16 a.m., the Chair extended the Executive Session three minutes to 10:19 a.m.
At 10:19 a.m., the Chair extended the Executive Session five minutes to 10:24 a.m.
The Executive Session ended at 10:24 a.m.

(There was no Council action as a result of the Executive Session.)

N. Adjourn

At 10:25 a.m., Council Chair Mead reconvened the meeting and recessed the Council until the 10:30 a.m. Public Hearing.