



Snohomish County Council

Committee of the Whole - Budget Deliberations

Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

9:30 AM

**Jackson Board Room
& Remote Meeting**

PRESENT:

Council Chair Dunn
Vice Chair Mead
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Nehring
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Interim Chief of Staff
Jim Martin, Council Staff
Deb Bell, Council Staff
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff
Ryan Countryman, Council Staff
Arif Ghouse, Airport Director
Nickolis Landgraff, Airport
Garth Fell, Auditor
Jill McKinnie, Public Advocate
Gricelda Montes, Office of the Public Advocate
Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Director
Rob Sprague, Human Resources Deputy Director
Ken Klein, Executive Director
Adam Cornell, Prosecutor
Matt Baldock, Prosecutor's Office
Jason Cummings, Prosecutor's Office
Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council
Elena Lao, Asst. Clerk of the Council

2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS - DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 9:50 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 five members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons present wishing to provide public comment.

Department Presentations - Q&A:

Jim Martin, Sr. Legislative Analyst, provided a brief introduction. The following electeds, department directors, and staff provided presentations and spoke about information regarding their department's operation and 2023 Budget requests.

1. Airport [2022-1036](#)

Arif Ghouse, Airport Director, provided an introduction. Nickolis Landgraff, Airport Business Manager, provided the Airport's presentation.

Mr. Ghouse responded to Councilmember Peterson and Chair Dunn's questions related to the use of and grants for firefighting with PFAS foam.

2. Auditor [2022-1037](#)

Garth Fell, Auditor, provided the Auditor's Office presentation. He responded to questions from Chair Dunn related to the space renovation budget and step increases for temporary, seasonal employees.

Vice-Chair Mead thanked Mr. Fell for his responsiveness and help, during the election process specifically.

3. Public Advocate [2022-1038](#)

Jill McKinnie, Public Advocate, provided the presentation for the Office of the Public Advocate.

Councilmembers provided supportive comments and thanked Ms. McKinnie for her service.

4. Human Resources

[2022-1039](#)

Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Director, provided the Human Resources presentation.

Rob Sprague, Human Resources Deputy Director, thanked the Health District administrative staff during the transition of the Health District, he stated they have been very cooperative and it has been very helpful.

Ms. Reynolds responded to Health District questions from Chair Dunn including questions about what will happen to existing Health District staff after moving over.

Ms. Reynolds responded to questions from Councilmember Nehring. He asked additional questions about the class comp study and asked about any future expenses. Ms. Reynolds explained, one expense will be once the Health District moves over the study will be done for those employees. Mr. Sprague noted that the biggest cost of the class comp study will be salary adjustments.

Ken Klein, Executive Director, responded to Chair Dunn's inquiry and explained the discrepancy in the number of Health District employees.

At 10:30 a.m., Chair Dunn recessed the Council for a 15 minute break to 10:45 a.m.

Chair Dunn called the Council back to order at 10:45 a.m.

1. Prosecuting Attorney

[2022-1040](#)

Adam Cornell, Prosecutor, Matt Baldock, Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor, and Jason Cummings, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor, provided the Prosecutor's Office presentation.

Mr. Cornell spoke, in length, about the needs of the Prosecutor's Office, their request for four full-time employees, and the criminal case backlog. Mr. Cornell, Mr. Baldock, and Mr. Cummings responded to various questions throughout the presentation and discussion ensued.

Councilmembers Nehring, Low and Mead expressed their support.

Mr. Cornell responded to Chair Dunn's question related to his approach to prosecution for possession prior to the Blake Decision. Mr. Cornell and Mr. Baldock responded to additional questions from Vice-Chair Mead.

2. Office of Public Defense

[2022-1041](#)

Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense (OPD) Director, provided the OPD presentation. He highlighted the No Contact Order Representation and the Involuntary Treatment Act programs. He spoke, in length, about the needs of OPD and responded to various questions throughout his presentation.

At 12:21 p.m., Chair Dunn recessed the Council until the 1:30 p.m. Closed Record Appeal Hearing.