



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING January 8, 2024

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ross called the Regular Meeting to order 7:00 pm

**City Council:** Councilmembers Ethan Benson, Rob Wotton, Bryan Holloway, Louis Washington (remote), Catherine Cotton, Cara Christensen, and Jo Johnson.

Mayor Katherine Ross was also present.

**City Staff:**

Mike Chambless, City Administrator; David Linehan, Interim City Attorney; Deana Dean, City Clerk; Brian Lynch, Police Chief; Mike Bailey, Fire Chief; Dylan Gamble, CIP Project Manager; Drew Bouta, Finance Director; Janna Walker, Budget Manager; Tami Wood, Revenue Manager; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison (remote) Danna McCall, Communication Coordinator; Jeff Hamlin, Interim Parks & Public Works Director; and Andy Latham, IT Support.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Cotton to:

**Approve the agenda.**

PASSED: 7-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Washington, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Public Hearings**

**Appointments**

1. **AB24-012:** Mayor Pro Tem Election

Councilmember Washington nominated Councilmember Holloway. Councilmember Holloway accepted the nomination. Councilmember Holloway spoke to his/her interest in the Mayor Pro Tem appointment.

The motion was made to:

**Appoint Councilmember Holloway as Mayor Pro Tem for 2024.**

PASSED: 7-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Washington, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

2. **AB24-013:** 2024 Council Committee, Liaison, and Regional Appointments. Discussion followed with CM Holloway making a recommendation for chair and members of each of the four council

committees. Liaison assignments to be brought forward at the January 22, 2024, Council meeting.

It was moved by CM Holloway; seconded by CM Johnson to:

**Approve Mayor Pro Tem's appointments to Council Committees.**

PASSED: 7-0 (Benson, Wotton, Holloway, Washington, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

At 7:08 pm, it was moved by CM Johnson, seconded by CM Christensen to excuse CM Holloway for the remainder of this evening's meeting.

At 7:09 pm, it was moved by CM Johnson, seconded by CM Christensen to excuse CM Washington for the remainder of this evening's meeting.

3. **AB24-011:** Appointments and Re-Appointment to Economic Development Commission

It was moved by CM Christensen; seconded by CM Wotton to:

**Confirm the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Paula Shively and Saby Chalunkal and re-appoint Joelle Gibson to the Economic Development Commission.**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

Joelle Gibson thanked the Mayor indicating she is looking forward to serving this year.

#### **Presentations**

#### **Proclamations**

4. **AB24-009:** Proclamation 24-01 Mentoring Month. The Mayor read the proclamation into the record and proclaims January 2024 National Mentoring Month in Snoqualmie. Jan Formisano from Empower Youth Network expressed her thanks to Council for their support and accepted the Proclamation. Photos followed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Alex Weaver, spoke of the state of Snoqualmie, wanting more natural spaces in the city, planting more trees, and the way the city moves forward in the future regarding urban development. This commentor then made comments which violated the public comment rules as they were not germane to the agenda items being considered. The commentor was then muted.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by CM Johnson; seconded by CM Christensen to:

**Go into Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.**

CM Benson called to question, seconded by CM Christensen, and passed unanimously. The motion was put to vote and passed unanimously.

At 7:26 pm, Council went into Executive Session which was expected to last until 7:36 pm.

At 7:39 pm, Council returned to open session.

Mayor Ross read the following into the record: *The City of Snoqualmie is an inclusive community that welcomes everyone and embraces compassion, tolerance, religious freedom, and peace. We unequivocally condemn hate, violence, and terror. While we support the public's First Amendments right to free speech and respect diverse opinions, we must forcefully condemn the heinous, hateful comments made here this evening. The City stands firm in its commitment to being welcoming to those from all walks of life, and we invite all of our residents and community members to join us in taking a strong stand against hate and discrimination.* The public comment portion of the meeting then resumed.

- Kris G was afforded an opportunity to speak. Having received no response, this person was muted.
- Sandem Allbeck made comments which violated the public comment rules. At that point, he was muted and left the meeting shortly thereafter.
- Kris G was afforded a second opportunity to speak. Receiving no response, this person was muted again.
- Annalise Frankfort began by speaking to safety in the city and then made comments which violated the public comment rules. At that point, she was muted and then left the meeting.

Public comment for online attendees was terminated at 7:43 pm due to continued violation of the public comment rules.

- Kelly Coughlin, Director of SnoValley Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding B&O taxes.
- Kathryn Podschwit, a resident of Snoqualmie and local business owner, spoke regarding B&O tax and other proposed tax increases.
- Carson Maestas, a resident of Snoqualmie, spoke regarding the proposed tax increases.

## CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2023, and January 4, 2024.
6. Approve the Claims Approval Report dated January 8, 2024.

It was moved by CM Johnson; seconded by CM Christensen to:

**Approve the consent agenda.**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

## ORDINANCES

7. **AB24-002:** Biennial Budget Amendment to Appropriate for the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters. Introduction read into the record by CM Christensen. Budget Manager Janna Walker provided an overview. Discussion followed. First reading of Ordinance No. 1286. Second reading and proposed adoption to be held at the January 22, 2024, City Council meeting.

8. **AB24-004:** Ordinance Establishing a One-Tenth of One Percent (0.1%) Sales and Use Tax Within the Boundaries of the Snoqualmie Transportation Benefit District for the Purpose of Financing the Costs Associated with Transportation Improvements as Authorized by RCW 36.73.065 and RCW 82.14.0455. Introduction read into the record by CM Christensen. Finance Director Drew Bouta provided an overview of this tax proposal. Mayor Ross noted two citizens emailed comments. She then opened public comments on this item to those online and in person. There being no one wishing to speak, the public comment portion was closed. Discussion followed.

It was moved by CM Wotton, seconded by CM Christensen to:

**Motion to authorize the first reading pertaining to adoption of Ordinance No. 1285 Establishing a One-Tenth of One Percent (0.1%) Sales and Use Tax Within the Boundaries of the Snoqualmie Transportation Benefit District for the Purpose of Financing the Costs Associated with Transportation Improvements as Authorized by RCW 36.73.065 and RCW 82.14.0455 and set forth the second reading and adoption at the January 22, 2024, City Council meeting.**

PASSED: 4-1 (Benson, Wotton, Christensen, Johnson) (Nay: Cotton)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Public Safety Committee:** No report.

**Community Development Committee:** No report.

**Parks & Public Works Committee:**

9. **AB24-010:** Resolution Awarding 2025-2030 Utility Rate Study Contract. Summary read into the record by CM Benson. Overview provided by Dylan Gamble, CIP Project Manager. Interim City Attorney David Linehan spoke to the RFP/RFQ process.

It was moved by CM Benson; seconded by CM Johnson to:

**Approve Resolution 1676 awarding contract with Financial Consulting Solutions (FCS) Group for the City of Snoqualmie's Utility Rate Study 2025-2030.**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

**Finance & Administration Committee:**

10. **AB23-138:** Recommendation for Lodging Taxes 2024 Allocation. Summary read into the record by CM Christensen. Community Liaison Nicole Wiebe provided an overview.

It was moved by CM Christensen; seconded by CM Wotton to:

**Approve the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee 2024 funding recommendations.**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

11. **AB24-007:** Submission of a Ballot Proposition to the Qualified Electors of the City at an Election to be Held on August 6, 2024, Regarding a 0.1% Public Safety Sales Tax. Summary read into the record by CM Christensen. Finance Director Drew Bouta provided an overview. Discussion followed. This item will be heard at the January 22, 2024, City Council meeting.

**Committee of the Whole:**

12. **Legislative Priorities.** The draft 2024 legislative priorities were reviewed. Mayor Ross noted the legislative session began today and is a 60-day session. Discussion followed.

It was moved by CM Johnson, seconded by CM Benson to:

**Add preservation of funding for SR18 and funding for mental health specialist to the list**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

**REPORTS**

13. **Mayor’s Report:**

- SVGA meeting is January 24, 2024, in Carnation. Council is encouraged to attend.
- The Mayor has been appointed to the Sound Cities Association Board for a two-year term.
- There will be two open houses on the Community Center Expansion at the Snoqualmie YMCA and a Town Hall on February 28. Council was encouraged to attend one or all to speak with residents.
- Winter weather is coming and crews are standing by to serve the city.

14. **Commission/Committee Liaison Reports:**

- CM Wotton noted the December 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Law and Safety Justice Committee covered the juvenile detention center closure. There was a Housing Chat on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Board discussed elk safety signs and flooding due to beaver dams.
- CM Christensen noted she will be back on King Conservation District this year.

15. **Department Reports for December 2023.** City Administrator Mike Chambless reviewed Department Reports for December 2023.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by CM Johnson; seconded by CM Christensen to:

**Adjourn the meeting.**

PASSED: 5-0 (Benson, Wotton, Cotton, Christensen, Johnson)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

**CITY OF SNOQUALMIE**

---

Katherine Ross, Mayor

Attest:

---

Deana Dean, City Clerk