



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2026

This meeting was conducted in person at Snoqualmie City Hall and remotely using Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL – Chair Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Committee Members: Councilmembers Rob Wotton, Catherine Cotton and Bryan Holloway were present.

Mayor James Mayhew was also present.

City Staff:

Dena Burke, City Attorney; Gary Horejsi, Interim Police Chief; Mike Bailey, Fire Chief; Jimmie Betts, IT Systems Specialist; and Rebecca Solem, Temp Executive Assistant.

AGENDA APPROVAL – The Agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

MINUTES –

The minutes dated February 17, 2026, were approved as presented.

The minutes dated March 2, 2026, were approved as presented

AGENDA BILL –

1. **AB26-005:** Ordinance amending Chapter 10.24 Compression Brakes
Proposed Action: Move to approve Ordinance 1317 and amend Snoqualmie Municipal Code 10.24 Compression Brakes

The committee reviewed Ordinance 1317 to update SMC 10.24 regarding compression brake use, correcting a minor typo in Section 3. Staff noted the code has not been amended since 1986 and that multiple complaints prompted the update. The proposed changes increase the penalty from \$50 to \$250 to align with current levels in similar cities and clarify enforcement expectations. Signage is already in place, and PD and State Patrol are monitoring use; local trucking companies have been notified. With no objections, the item was placed on the Council calendar.

DISCUSSION –

2. **Police Chief Timeline**

The committee reviewed the proposed March 23–25 schedule for public and council interviews with police chief finalists. The Mayor will confirm availability and send the timeline to Councilmembers Wotton, Cotton, and Holloway. Councilmembers expressed interest in greater involvement, noting concerns about limited council participation in interviews. Discussion included options for a council panel, a public meet-and-greet format that supports diverse viewpoints, and ensuring any potential

quorum is properly noticed as a special meeting under OPMA. Staff clarified the Mayor leads the selection process, with the council providing advice and confirmation. The committee agreed to place meet-and-greet and council interview format options on an upcoming Council agenda, with 24-hour notice required for any special meeting.

3. Covered Load Enforcement Discussion –

The committee discussed concerns regarding unsecured loads on SR-202 and the Parkway, noting recent vehicle strikes and emphasizing that the Parkway was not designed for heavy truck traffic. Staff confirmed that unsecured loads are enforceable under state law (RCW), and both City and State Patrol officers will address violations when observed. An outdated 1903 ordinance is being updated. Members highlighted the importance of communicating enforcement efforts so residents know the city is responding to concerns. Comments included encouraging messaging on covered loads, speed, and jake brake use, ensuring council awareness of responsiveness, and notifying groups such as the Teamsters or trucking associations as fines and enforcement increase.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS –

4. Jupiter Power | BESS

The committee noted that although the Jupiter Power battery energy storage project lies just outside city limits, it remains a public-safety concern because Snoqualmie Fire Department would be the first responder to any incident. The current permit application has been withdrawn, and a public presentation by the applicant is scheduled for March 17. Members agreed the project should remain on the city's radar and be monitored closely.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Rebecca Solem, Temp Executive Assistant.
Recorded meeting audio is available on the city website after the meeting.
Minutes approved at the _____ Public Safety Committee Meeting.*