



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, Councilmembers Wendy Weiker (6:10 pm) and Benson Wong were present.

Councilmembers Bruce Bassett and David Wisenteiner were absent. Position #4 was vacant.

STUDY SESSION

AB 5492: 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Presentation & Distribution

City Manager Julie Underwood presented the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget to the City Council. She spoke about the City's sound financial condition and detailed the limited resources and increasing costs making it difficult to balance the budget. She reviewed examples of cost savings and revenue enhancements the City has implemented in the last few years and noted that a high percentage of the community are very satisfied/satisfied with the quality of life on Mercer Island.

City Manager Underwood reviewed the budget assumptions and the 2018-2019 Goals and Work Plan which helped form the budgetary recommendations for the 2019-2020 biennium, including staffing changes and budgetary reductions to balance the budget. She also noted that beyond the 2019-2020 biennium, additional staffing and services cuts will be needed in the General and Youth and Family Services Funds without additional revenues.

Finance Director Chip Corder presented revenue information for the General and Youth & Family Services Funds. City Manager Underwood reviewed the schedule for the Council's review of the 2019-2020 Budget and thanked staff for their work in producing the budget document.

Mayor Bertlin recessed the meeting at 6:50 pm for 10 minutes.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the agenda as amended.

Passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Wisenteiner)

VACANT: 1 (Position 4)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

AB 5488: Marine Patrol Staff Recognitions

Mayor Bertlin recognized Mercer Island Police Department's Marine Patrol Staff, Sgt. Brian Noel and Marine Support Officer Greg Levinson. Sergeant Brian Noel received the 2018 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Washington State Boating Officer of the Year award. Officer Greg Levinson received the 2018 State of Washington, Recreational Boating Safety Marine Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award.

AB 5485: Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

Police Chief Ed Holmes and Fire Chief Steve Heitman introduced Retired Detective Erickson, Lieutenant Austin, and Dr. Kaplan to join them and Mayor Bertlin and receive the proclamation.

Mayor Bertlin proclaimed October 2018 as Cancer Awareness Month in Mercer Island and called upon residents to unite all community members to prevent breast cancer deaths through increased education and regular screening.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Julie Underwood reported on the following items:

- Mercer Island named 2nd Safest City in Washington
- Arbor Day & Tree Planting Celebration, Saturday, October 20 from 9 am to 2 pm at Luther Burbank Park
- Commuter Parking & Town Center Project Open House, Monday, October 22 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at MICEC
- Meet the Artists behind the Mural event, Thursday, October 25, 4 pm to 5:30 pm
- Fall Recycling Event, Saturday, October 27, 9 am to 3 pm, Luther Burbank Park south parking lot
- Meds Take Back Event, Saturday, October 27, 10 am to 2 pm

APPEARANCES

Gabe Goldberg, Mercer Island, was concerned about the proposed park removal and increase in cars with the Commuter Parking & Town Center project. He was also concerned that the designs presented represented what will be going forward. He requested an environmental impact statement before moving forward.

The following people spoke in opposition to proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments 1 and 8:

- Matt Goldbach, Mercer Island
- Julie Garwood, Mercer Island
- John Hall, Mercer Island
- Ryan Ralphs, Mercer Island

The following people spoke in favor of proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment 8:

- Aaron Kiviat, Mercer Island
- Nathan Fahrer, Mercer Island
- Allison Webb-Lanktree, Mercer Island
- Carl Bianco, Mercer Island
- Simona Lioy, Mercer Island
- Brad Greenlee, Mercer Island
- Maria Erlitz, Mercer Island
- David Wolborn, Mercer Island

Meg Lippert, Mercer Island, read a statement from Carv Zwingle regarding the Mercer Island Library Board.

Kate Swenson, new Co-Executive Director of Youth Theatre Northwest introduced herself to the Council and asked the Council to select a developer for the Commuter Parking & Town Center Project who can include MICA in their plans.

Ira Appleman, Mercer Island, made statements about the budget regarding tracking staff time for projects, the City Manager's salary, reducing budgets by 5-10%, and using the utility tax as a contingency fund. He was also opposed to proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment 8.

CONSENT AGENDA

Payables: \$1,493,125.98 (10/4/18) & \$454,121.51 (10/11/18)

Recommendation: Certify that the materials or services hereinbefore specified have been received and that all warrant numbers listed are approved for payment.

Payroll: \$813,643.88 (10/12/18)

Recommendation: Certify that the materials or services specified have been received and that all fund warrants are approved for payment.

Minutes: July 10, 2018 Special Meeting, September 17, 2018 Regular Meeting, October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Adopt the minutes, as written, of the following meetings:

- September 17, 2018 Regular Meeting;
- October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting; and
- July 17, 2018 Regular Meeting.

AB 5486: Resolution to Support a RCO Grant Application

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 1547 authorizing application for planning and designing the future configuration of the docks at Luther Burbank Park.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Berlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Wisenteiner)

VACANT: 1 (Position 4)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5490: 2018 Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Accompanying Zoning Code Amendments (2nd Reading)

Interim Development Services Director Evan Maxim conducted a second reading of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan amendments and accompanying zoning code amendments with City Council.

Council directed staff to make the following edits:

- Revise Goal 24.4 to read: "Encourage the incorporation of public art in Town Center development design and site features."
- Incorporate the Art's Council cover letter, with Arts Council logo.
- Revise Amendment 8, Goal 27 to read: "Establish a zoning designation that would enable the location of community facilities that shall utilize master planning techniques, where appropriate, and accommodate flexible design standards, to encourage superior site and building design outcomes."
- Revise Amendment 8, 27.3 to read: "Public safety is of paramount importance and shall be a priority during all phases of project development, including planning, project design, the entitlement process and construction."
- Revise Amendment 8 and remove the word "Private" before Community Facilities.
- Revise Amendment 8, 27.5 to read, "Housing uses shall be limited and be accessory to the primary facility."
- Revise Amendment 8, 27.8 to read in the second sentence, "Facilities should be subject to a community design dialogue, utilizing techniques such as design charettes, public engagement and outreach."
- Revise Amendment 11, Goal 21.2 to read, "Develop a green building program for residential development and construction that incorporates green building techniques."

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Nice to:

Set Ordinance Nos. 18-13 and 18C-14 to November 20, 2018 for adoption on the Consent Calendar.

Motion to approve passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)
ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Wisenteiner)
VACANT: 1 (Position 4)

Mayor Bertlin recessed the meeting for 10 minutes at 9:13 pm

Mayor Bertlin reconvened the meeting at 9:23 pm

AB 5491: Code of Ethics (1st Reading)

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz presented a Code of Ethics for Officials for Council review. She noted that the proposed ordinance provides the purpose and intent of the code section, defines "official", reaffirms current state law regarding ethical behavior, adopts a statement that all officials agree to comply with upon taking office or being appointed, and establishes a process for investigating complaints. She also explained that there is a code of ethics for employees which will be amended to include the Code of Ethics Statement.

She noted a few amendments brought forth by Councilmember Wong, that would be made for second reading including, adding "Council-appointed task groups or committees" to definition and mentions of "officials", allowing the Code of Ethics Statement to be amended from "time to time", and clarification that if a complaint is filed against the Mayor, they will not participate in the investigation.

Council directed staff to add the City Manager to the definition of "officials." Assistant to the City Manager Spietz informed the Council that ethics training for all Councilmembers and boards and commission members would be held in the first quarter of 2019 and each year thereafter for new members.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

Set Ordinance No. 18C-15 and Resolution No. 1548 as amended to November 5, 2018 for second reading and adoption on the Consent Calendar.

Passed 4-0

ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Wisenteiner)

VACANT: 1 (Position 4)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Wisenteiner and Bassett's absences were excused.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Underwood noted that a Study Session on the King County Sewer Project was added from 5:00-6:00 pm on October 23. She also noted that the City would be hosting a special reception for Representative Judy Clibborn on November 26.

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Council Reports

Councilmember Wong asked for Council confirmation of the draft SCA 2019 Legislative Priorities. Mayor Bertlin spoke about the panel she participated in last week focused on partnerships. She also spoke about the latest ETP meeting and the draft ETP 2019 legislative agenda will be coming to Council in the next few days. She also noted that the application for SCA Boards and Commissions is due October 31. She asked that Council members inform her of their requests to prevent duplicate applications.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk