



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 9, 2018

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## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

City Attorney Kari Sand called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Tom Acker, Bruce Bassett, Debbie Bertlin, Wendy Weiker, and David Wisenteiner and Councilmember-Elects Salim Nice and Benson Wong were present.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

**Approve the agenda as presented.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Acker, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for two hours.**

At 5:04 pm, City Attorney Kari Sand convened the Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for two hours.

At 6:30 pm, City Attorney Sand adjourned the Executive Session.

The Council recessed until 7:00 pm.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

### **AB 5374 Councilmember Oaths of Office and Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections**

City Attorney Kari Sand welcomed the audience and explained that official oaths were sworn prior to the Special Meeting commencing, but that there would be a ceremonial oath taking by Councilmembers Nice and Wong, along with Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections to follow.

Deputy City Clerk Ellie Hooman administered the Oaths of Office to newly elected Councilmember Salim Nice and to re-elected Councilmember Benson Wong.

City Attorney Kari Sand explained how the nomination and voting process would work for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections. She noted that to be successful a nominee must receive at least 4 votes from the full Council to be declared the successful candidate. She then called for nominations from the floor for the office of Mayor for 2018-2019. Councilmember Nice nominated Councilmember Wisenteiner. Councilmember Wisenteiner accepted the nomination. Councilmember Bassett nominated Councilmember Bertlin. Councilmember Bertlin accepted the nomination. Councilmember Acker nominated Councilmember Wong. Councilmember Wong declined the nomination. A roll call vote was conducted and the votes were tallied as follows:

### **VOTES:**

**Wisenteiner: (3)** Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner

**Bertlin: (4)** Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, Wong

Councilmember Bertlin received a majority of the votes and Deputy City Clerk Ellie Hooman administered the Mayoral Oath of Office to Mayor Bertlin.

City Attorney Kari Sand then called for nominations from the floor for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2018-2019. Councilmember Acker nominated Councilmember Nice. Councilmember Nice accepted the nomination. Councilmember Bassett nominated Councilmember Wong. Councilmember Wong accepted the nomination. Councilmember Weiker nominated herself. A roll call vote was conducted and the results of each round were as follows:

#### **ROUND 1**

##### **VOTES:**

**Nice: (3)** Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner

**Wong: (3)** Bassett, Bertlin, Wong

**Weiker: (1)** Weiker

City Attorney Sand noted that no candidate received the 4 votes needed to win the election, so the candidate with the fewest votes would be removed and another round of voting was conducted.

#### **ROUND 2**

##### **VOTES:**

**Nice: (4)** Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner, Weiker

**Wong: (3)** Bassett, Bertlin, Wong

Councilmember Nice received a majority of the votes and Deputy City Clerk Ellie Hooman administered the Deputy Mayoral Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor Nice.

City Attorney Sand then turned the meeting over to Mayor Bertlin.

#### **AB 5375 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation**

Mayor Debbie Bertlin read the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation and urged the citizens of Mercer Island to join in paying tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and apply his life and teaching of service to inspire others to serve and remember his spirit of community.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Julie Underwood reported on the following:

- Christmas tree recycling: December 26 – January 12, Public Works Shop
- Island Crest Way Westbound Onramp Closure: January 8 – March 2, (Mon – Fri, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm)
- East Mercer Way Shoulder Project: Roadway reduced to one lane (Mon – Fri, 7:30 am – 5:00 pm)
- Island Crest Way & SE 32nd Street Pedestrian Signal (functioning beginning on January 11)
- 630 Bus Improvements
- City Financial Challenges Community Advisory Group Meeting: February 4, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- Island Crest Park Ballfield Ribbon Cutting: Wednesday, March 14
- Tiny Trees Preschool: Opens September 2018
- MI Boys and Girls Club Business Breakfast: Thursday, February 1
- MIYFS Breakfast: Wednesday, February 7
- Youth Theater Northwest Gala: Saturday, March 3
- Leap for Green Sustainability Fair: Saturday, April 14
- Mercer Island Schools Foundation Breakfast of Champions: Tuesday, April 24

#### **APPEARANCES**

Meg Lippert, 4052 94th Ave SE, spoke about Concerned Citizens of Mercer Island actions during 2017. She presented a written statement to the Council.

Addison Oakley, Senior at Mercer Island High School, spoke about depression in adolescents in the US. He noted

that suicide is the third leading cause of death in adolescents. He asked the Council to continue supporting Mercer Island Youth and Family Services, particularly mental health counselors in schools.

Kendra Watson, 2428 62 Ave SE, a senior at Mercer Island High School, spoke about the public health benefits other cities have seen after imposing a tax on sugary beverages. She asked the Council to consider implementing a sugar tax on Mercer Island to help close the upcoming budget deficit.

Ira Appelman, 9039 E Shorewood Drive, spoke about transparency statements made during a speech by former Councilmember Dan Grausz during an untelevised portion of the reception on December 5, 2017.

Floyd Short, 8428 SE 34th Pl, Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 457, commended Henry Weiker for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. He thanked the Council for allowing scouts from the troop come and observe the transition of new Councilmembers and the Proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

**Payables: \$398,625.66 (12/07/2017), \$451,855.45 (12/14/2017), \$791,709.68 (12/21/2017), \$331,183.47 (12/28/2017), & \$92,502.29 (01/04/2018)**

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

**Payroll: \$815,937.41 (12/08/2017)**

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

**Minutes: November 28, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes & December 5, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Recommendation:** Adopt the November 28, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes & December 5, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

**Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Acker, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)

## REGULAR BUSINESS

### AB 5373 2018 State Legislative Priorities

Assistant City Manager Kirsten Taylor presented the proposed final draft of the 2018 Mercer Island Legislative Priorities.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Nice to:

**Amend the main motion and remove the remainder of the sentence after the word “pollution” in priority 6 line 2.**

Failed 3-4

FOR: Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, Wong

AGAINST: Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner

It was moved by Wisenteiner; seconded by Acker to:

**Remove clause 1 regarding the 1% cap on property tax from priority 4.**

Failed 3-4

FOR: Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner

AGAINST: Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, Wong

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Weiker to:

**Amend the main motion and add “at least half of” to priority 6 line 2 after the word direct.**

Passed 4-3

FOR: 4 (Bassett, Bertlin, Wong, Weiker)

AGAINST: 3 (Acker, Nice, Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Nice to:

**Adopt the final City of Mercer Island 2018 State Legislative Priorities as amended.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Acker, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)

Council discussion took place regarding direction to staff on strategic approach of achieving legislative priorities. There was Council consensus to allow the contract with W2A to lapse for now until additional consideration can be given to the area of lobbying strategy during the upcoming Planning Session.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Councilmember Absences**

There were no absences.

Councilmember Acker advised that he may miss the January 23rd meeting.

### **Planning Schedule**

City Manager Underwood noted the following:

- Planning Session begins Friday, January 26 at 3:00 pm until 6:30 pm. Session will resume on Saturday, January 27 at 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.
- King County Metro representative will be in attendance at the January 23 Study Session
- February 6: Study Session regarding MICA, General Sewer Plan will be moved to Regular Business
- February 20: Study Session regarding Emergency Preparedness and Planning

### **Board Appointments**

There were no appointments.

### **Councilmember Reports**

Mayor Bertlin noted that she will be reviewing the legislative priorities for ETP this Friday.

Councilmember Weiker noted that the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services breakfast will be held on February 7, 2019.

Councilmember Wong attended the second annual Eastside Muslim & Immigration Safety Forum on January 3rd. He noted that it was attended by over 100 people from local law enforcement and the Muslim community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Attest:

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Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

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Ellie Hooman, Deputy City Clerk