



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Bruce Bassett, Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin, and Councilmembers Dan Grausz, Salim Nice, Wendy Weiker, David Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Wisenteiner; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed 7-0

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Swearing-In of Councilmember Salim Nice

City Clerk Ali Spietz conducted the ceremonial swearing-in of Councilmember Salim Nice.

Women's Equality Day Proclamation

Mayor Bruce Bassett proclaimed August 24, 2017 as Mercer Island Women's Equality Day and invited all Mercer Island residents to join together at the Music in the Park concert featuring local band Lemola at Mercerdale Park on August 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm to celebrate Women's Equality Day.

Marine Patrol Recognition

Councilmember Wisenteiner spoke about his experience during Seafair while riding along with Marine Patrol. He spoke about how professional and respectful the officers were when making contact with boaters. He thanked the Police Department and Marine Patrol for all of their work over the weekend.

Police Chief Ed Holmes introduced Marine Patrol Technician Greg Levinson and Sergeant Chad Schumacher. He thanked the Council for the recognition and the support from the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Julie Underwood provided her report regarding:

- City in the News!
 - Emergency Planning Program on King5
 - Adventure Playground at Island Crest Park on King5
- Seeking financial challenges Community Advisory Group volunteers – deadline to apply Tue, Aug 15
- Mercerdale Hillside utility underground project
- Marine Patrol and CERT - lakeside demonstration of near-shore rescue and overview of marine patrol operations and water safety - Sat, Aug 12
- Cyclemates sculpture unveiling - Sun, Aug 13
- Other Updates
 - Island Crest Park Field Turf Project Underway
 - Communications Assessment - online survey launching in August
 - City Council Meetings move to Tuesdays in September

APPEARANCES

Jean Cole, 3049 71st Ave SE, spoke on behalf of 30 residents who are opposed to the proposed restriping of 77th Ave SE. Because businesses along 77th already having ample parking in their own lots and 77th is too far from the Park and Ride for commuters.

Carolyn Boatsman, 3210 74th Ave SE, spoke about tree code standards both within development code and tree removal when it is not part of any other development. She expressed concerned about the very large trees that may come down and how to protect them. She asked the Council to take a look at Chapter 20.52 of Medina's Tree Management Code, specifically how they address the removal of "Legacy Trees".

Jane Meyer Brahm, 7420 North Mercer Way, spoke about Cyclemates program and the unveiling of the Cyclemates sculpture on Sunday, August 13 from 1-3 pm in front of the mound at Aljoya.

Lloyd Gilman, 7217 80th Ave SE, spoke about transparency hopes for the Citizen Advisory Group being assembled. He spoke about his desire for the City to keep programs like Cyclemates, Soulmates, and Trailmates going.

David Youssefnia, 8214 SE 30th Street, spoke about the Residential Development Code and the unintended consequences of the amendments. Asked the Council to redefine the term hardscape in the code, or go back to the 20% recommendation from the Planning Commission. He believes the proposed amendment is too restrictive.

Traci Granbois, 8440 SE 82nd Street, spoke about commuter parking options being discussed. She expressed concern with the distance between 77th and the Park and Ride.

Ira Appelman, 9039 East Shorewood, spoke in opposition of commuter parking at 77th. He referenced a study conducted by Sound Transit in 2012, where they decided that the 77th location was too far from the Park and Ride to be viable. He believes this proposal is a misuse of funds.

Robin Russell, 7549 SE 29th Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed restriping of 77th Ave SE. She expressed public safety concerns with the removal of bike lanes to add more parking spots.

Sue Sherwood, 7444 West Mercer Way, serves as a board member for Mercer Island Center of the Arts (MICA), spoke about the online commentary of the proposed restriping of 77th Ave SE. She clarified that the proposal to restripe 77th Ave SE is not related to MICA.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$1,043,565.55 (07/20/2017) & \$518,544.84 (07/27/2017)

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

Payroll: \$818,795.33 (07/21/2017) & \$812,255.46 (08/04/2017)

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

Minutes: July 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Recommendation: Adopt the July 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

AB 5304 Interlocal Agreement with MISD for Counseling Services

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Mercer Island School District for Counseling Services during the 2017-2018 school year.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5335 Residential Development Standards Code Amendments (5th Reading)

Evan Maxim, Planning Manager, provided an overview of the Community Outreach that has been conducted. He reviewed the remaining policies for the Council to address in the proposed ordinance of code amendments for Residential Development Standards as follows:

Hardscape – Correction:

Council Direction: Staff return with a simpler math formula to address landscaped area increases as slope on property increases. Council will table the issue for now and possibly revisit during the final review.

Tree Code:

Council Direction: Reduce current 50% GFA threshold for exceptional tree removal to 25%. Regarding tree replacement standards, keep the fee in lieu language from current draft code. Require additional replacement trees for exceptional trees. Remand non-development tree retention requirement to the Planning Commission.

Other Council Direction:

ADU Exception on GFA: Councilmember Wong requested the ADU exception on GFA be removed from the RDS amendments because it was not included in the original topics sent to the Planning Commission for consideration. There was Council discussion. Council consensus was to keep the GFA incentive for ADUs in the draft recommendations.

Softscape Devoid of Invasives Requirement: Councilmember Nice requested staff return with language be added to page 22, section 3 to prescribe clearing of invasives in softscape for new single family development. A list of invasives would need to be included. There was Council consensus.

Flag Lot Exception: Councilmember Grausz requested to replace page 22, lines 29-31 with language similar to, “A development proposal on a flag lot that, taking into account driveway routing and width, requires a driveway that occupies more than 25% of the otherwise allowed lot coverage area, in which event the adjustment shall in no event exceed the driveway-occupied lot area greater than 25% of the otherwise allowed lot coverage area; and” There was Council consensus.

Accessible Entry Path: Councilmember Grausz requested “an accessible entry path” be added to the list of preferred practices on page 45, line 36. Council discussion took place. Council consensus was to require an accessible entry path for single story homes that will receive an increased lot coverage.

Timing for Tree Replacement: Councilmember Grausz requested language be added to page 47, line 44 to address when tree replacement should take place so that it is not attempted while construction is still ongoing. Council consensus was to have staff return with language to set a standard that tree replacement should take place at the start of the rainy season unless otherwise advised by the City Arborist.

View Easement Tree Removal: Councilmember Grausz requested that view easement trees on page 48, lines 26-28 be removed from the list of exemptions so that a permit is required for it, and the tree replacement requirement is triggered. There was Council consensus.

Tree Retention – Exceptional Trees: Councilmember Grausz requested the Council look at clarifying this language. Council consensus was to remove the word copse from page 49, line 44. Also to remove section 3(b) from page 50, lines 3-5.

Net Lot Area – Definition: Councilmember Grausz requested a definition be added to page 90, lines 30-31 to void double counting or abuse of common driveway exemptions. Council consensus was to have staff return with language to achieve this goal. There was also Council consensus to eliminate incentives for retaining prioritized trees and to require prioritized trees be a part of the retention criteria.

Tree Replacement in ROW: Councilmember Grausz requested the Council to add a requirement for the City to replace trees that are removed from the ROW, preferably in the same location. City Manager Underwood advised that the ROW team was reduced by 2 FTEs during the recession, which leaves a maintenance burden on staff if

Careful thought isn't given to this type of requirement. She requested to have a policy discussion at a study session in the fall. Council consensus to bring the topic back for a study session in the fall.

DSG Administrative Services Manager Alison Van Gorp spoke about the following community outreach schedule:

- August to early September
 - Short 3 to 5 minutes online videos
 - A primer highlighting the major changes in the draft code
 - Promoted via social media
 - Community workshops with stakeholders
- September 5
 - Council review of feedback
- September 19
 - Council final reading and adoption

Council requested that staff provide prior to the Council final reading a summary sheet to help the public understand the changes with table comparison of the current code and the proposed amendments, an executive summary in plain language, graphics and illustrations.

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Wong to:

Set Ordinance No. 17C-15, amending the City's Residential Development Standards, for 6th reading on September 5, 2017.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5333 Short Term Commuter Parking Plan Options

Assistant City Manager Kirsten Taylor presented the following short-term parking solutions being considered:

- Solution A: Sound Transit leases satellite parking on existing routes (served by Metro routes 630, 201, and/or 204).
- Solution B: Sound Transit leases spaces in town center lots controlled by Diamond Parking.
- Other commuter parking options on City properties
 - 77th Ave SE On-Street Parking between SE 27th St and SE 32nd St
 - Luther Burbank Park – South Parking Lot
- Other parking and transit solutions
 - South Bellevue Park & Ride Replacement Parking
 - Metro 630 Shuttle Service Improvements
 - King County Metro Multi-Family Park & Ride Program
 - New Amazon Shuttle

Mayor Bassett requested staff conduct a needs analysis of the community prior to having Sound Transit enter into leases for satellite parking or Diamond Parking options.

The Council directed staff to:

- Increase marketing efforts to encourage use of the 38 underutilized parking stalls in existing leased lots.
- Monitor private parking and private shuttle activities and return to the Council with a proposed code amendment process after six months.
- Return with additional information and cost estimate for using Luther Burbank South lot for commuter parking.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Underwood suggested canceling the August 21 Council meeting, moving the Executive Session which was scheduled for that meeting to September 5 at 5:00 pm.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Cancel the Regular Council Meeting of August 21.

Passed 7-0

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

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmembers Weiker and Wong and Mayor Bassett thanked Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin, Police Chief Ed Holmes and the Police Department for a great National Night Out event.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:37 pm.

Attest:

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Allison Spietz, City Clerk