



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD

OCTOBER 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 5:02 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, Wendy Weiker (arrived 5:07 pm), David Wisenteiner (arrived 5:15 pm), and Benson Wong were present. Councilmember Jeff Sanderson was absent.

School Board President Ralph Jorgenson, Vice President David D'Souza, and Directors Adair Dingle, Tracy Drinkwater, and Dave Myerson (arrived 6:00 pm) were present.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

School District and City Funding Constraints

MISD Chief Operating Officer Dean Mack presented the School District and City funding constraints. He spoke about education funding including the educational funding crisis and provided revenue per student comparisons. He also spoke about the McCleary decision, potential positive or negative impacts of legislative actions, the looming "levy cliff", and regional cost-of-living differences among teachers in Washington. He noted the cooperative services between the School District and the City including the Mary Wayte Pool, the shared use of sports fields, and Youth and Family Services counselors. He also noted that the School District's current six-year levy will support replacing the turf at the MIHS fields and significant infrastructure renovations of the Mary Wayte Pool.

Finance Director Chip Corder spoke about the City of Mercer Island's 2017-2018 funding challenges. He highlighted projected deficits in the City's General Fund and the YFS Fund, and provided budget balancing options, including a higher property tax (levy lid lift), and a recommendation for public engagement on both the City's operational funding needs and its capital funding challenges.

Transportation Issues and Impacts

MISD Director of Transportation David Bynum presented the Transportation Issues and Impacts. He spoke about changes in transportation and the issues and impact on traffic. He noted transportation changes from opening Northwood Elementary and revising school boundaries including fewer bus routes, shorter school opening/closing transitions, reduced bus route times and mileage, and lower overall transportation costs.

The School District's Construction Project Manager Brandy Fox spoke about the new site plans and revised traffic flows at the High School, Middle School, and Northwood Elementary. Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe noted that the improvements made at the intersection of SE 40th Street and 86th Avenue SE have really helped with the traffic flow around Northwood Elementary and around the mega block not only for the elementary but also the high school times. Superintendent Plano added that he has no interest in the City spending additional money on this intersection if it is working in a safe way.

Director Bynum provided an update on Safe Routes to Schools. Assistant City Engineer Tonella-Howe also noted the various improvements and projects that the City made to support safe routes to Northwood Elementary. Suggestions were made to promote more walkers and bus riders. Director Bynum also presented information about the School District's new stop-arm cameras on school busses. He noted that the program was implemented at the end of August and that, through joint efforts with the City, has resulted in approximately 14 violations in the first 22 days of school. He stated that currently, five school buses have cameras and that the District is considering

adding more cameras in an effort to protect student safety by preventing bus-arm passing violations.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk