



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MARCH 21, 2016

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Regular 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, Jeff Sanderson, Wendy Weiker, David Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:02 pm, Mayor Bassett convened an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential or pending litigation for approximately 60 minutes.

At 6:55 pm, the Mayor adjourned the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the agenda as published.

Passed 7-0

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Bassett read a proclamation declaring April 2016 as Sexual Awareness Month. He encouraged all citizens to join in this special observance, and to join advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence.

Mary Ellen Stone from the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center thanked the Council for proclaiming April 2016 Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Mercer Island. She also spoke briefly about the services that they offer.

APPEARANCES

Mayor Bassett announced that based upon the Public Disclosure Commission's guidance, the use of City meeting time and other resources for campaign-related purposes is an unlawful use of a public facility under RCW 42.17A.555. He noted that he would be monitoring statements made during public appearances to prevent comments from straying into campaign-related matters (councilmember elections and ballot propositions).

Traci Granbois, 8440 SE 82nd Street, thanked the Council for their service. She also thanked the Rotary for a great marathon and spoke about the interactions between neighbors during the marathon.

Michelle Goldberg, 2212 78th Ave SE, spoke about the Council's upcoming review of the Town Center Vision and Development Code Update.

Gary Robinson, 6026 East Mercer Way, spoke about the mark of a poor Councilmember being when they double down on their bad ideas and when they refuse to float new ideas at the risk of being told they are bad ones.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$194,870.07 (03/10/16)

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

Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2016

Recommendation: Adopt the March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

AB 5162 Receive Grant to Expand the Parks & Recreation Senior Social Program

Recommendation: Receive a \$5,000 grant award from the Senior Foundation of Mercer Island and appropriate this amount to expand the Parks & Recreation Senior Social program in 2016 from two days to three days per week.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Adopt the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5163 Development Services Group Budget Authorization - Long-Range Planning Manager

DSG Director Scott Greenberg presented a proposal to add a new full-time Long-Range Planning Manager in DSG, which was originally proposed at the 2016 City Council Planning Session, to provide resources to support the growing number of required and discretionary long-range and policy planning projects. In February 2016, the Council approved the 2016 work plan which included the request for staff to return with a funding and resource proposal to support the proposed long-range and policy planning work.

Director Greenberg spoke about the body of work this position would undertake and the cost of the position. He noted the two ongoing funding options: (1) increase the development fee cost recovery targets for planning and engineering services from 60% to 85%; or (2) increase the utility tax rate on the City's water, sewer and storm water utilities from 5.3% to 6.5%. He also spoke about the update of the 2013 development cost of service study currently underway and that it should be completed before adjusting the planning and engineering related development fees.

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Wong to:

Prepare a new development fee resolution that would take effect between June 1, 2016 and July 1, 2016 based on increasing the cost recovery targets for planning and engineering services from 60% to 85%.

Passed 5-2

FOR: 5 (Bassett, Bertlin, Grausz, Sanderson, Wong)

AGAINST: 2 (Weiker, Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Bertlin to:

Appropriate between \$85,000 and \$100,000 in the General Fund (amount to be determined by the City Manager) to hire a Long-Range Planning Manager in the Development Services Group in 2016, which would be funded by tax revenues freed up from increasing development fees related to planning and engineering services.

Passed 5-2

FOR: 5 (Bassett, Bertlin, Grausz, Sanderson, Wong)

AGAINST: 2 (Weiker, Wisenteiner)

AB 5164 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Kick-Off

Finance Director Chip Corder kicked-off the 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process, focusing on the preliminary 2017-2022 revenue forecast and significant issues. He went over the calendar for reviewing and adopting the 2017-2022 CIP as part of the 2017-2018 budget process. He noted that the projects will be organized and presented first by six-year plan, then by project category, and then by project status within each project category.

Deputy Finance Director Francie Lake provided a review of the historical and forecasted real estate excise tax (REET), motor vehicle fuel tax, vehicle license fees, and utility rate revenues. Director Corder then reviewed significant issues that staff is seeking preliminary direction on while developing the 2017-2022 CIP, including CIP-related budget policies, Capital Improvement Fund deficits, the Maintenance Center renovation/expansion project, and Thrift Shop remodel/expansion project.

Following discussion, the Council agreed that the CIP should be developed assuming no new revenue sources. Regarding the projected deficits in the Capital Improvement Fund, the Council was uncomfortable providing any preliminary direction, because they want to see all proposed projects in the Street Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund as well as the various trade-off possibilities. The Council directed staff to keep the Maintenance Center Renovation/Expansion project as an unfunded project in the CIP and look at alternative revenue sources for this project (i.e. voted debt). The Council concurred with staff's recommendation to prioritize the Maintenance Center project over the Thrift Shop Remodel/Expansion project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Deputy Mayor Bertlin and Councilmember Wisenteiner will be absent July 18. The Council discussed moving the July 18 meeting to another date.

Planning Schedule

Interim City Manager noted that the April 4 meeting will have an Executive Session starting at 5:00 pm, that the community solar project update may be pulled from the April 4 agenda as there has been no legislative action, that there will be a joint meeting with the Mercer Island School District on April 7, and that the Development Fee Resolution may not require two meetings. He also noted that Dr. Pedro Noguera will be speaking this Wednesday night at the Mercer Island High School Performing Arts Center and that the "Rejecting the Rags of Racism and Living into the Riches of Diversity" event is being planned for April 13 at City Hall.

Deputy Mayor Bertlin expressed her concern over the amount of time allotted for the Town Center Visioning and Development Code Update.

Councilmember Grausz spoke about ways to focus public input once the Town Center Visioning and Development Code Update is before the Council and suggested a long study session for the initial review.

Councilmember Wisenteiner spoke about giving the public information about what to expect from the process for the Council's review of the Town Center Visioning and Development Code Update.

Board Appointments

City Clerk Ali Spietz spoke about the Boards and Commissions recruitment process.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wong asked the Council for their comments on the SCA PIC issue regarding the ethanol plant in Tacoma. He also noted that he hosted a Map Your Neighborhood gathering at his house and that the Rotary put on a great marathon.

Councilmember Weiker thanked Sustainability & Communications Manager Ross Freeman and the Police Department for all their work during the storm and noted that the Leap for Green event will be held on April 16.

Councilmember Sanderson spoke about the Arts Council's discussion regarding the damaged art along I-90 and the art installation on the concrete wall by West Mercer Way. He also spoke about the Open Space Conservancy Trust meeting and noted that they will take public comment regarding the leash issue at their May 16 meeting.

Councilmember Wisenteiner spoke about Sustainability Manager Ross Freeman's presentation to the Utility Board meeting about the City's sustainability efforts. He suggested having Manager Freeman present to the Council. He also spoke about the upcoming King County sewer project

Mayor Bassett shared letters from Early World Montessori students regarding wanting to be able to compost at

their school.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk