



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2016

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, Jeff Sanderson, David Wisenteiner, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:01 pm, Mayor Bassett convened an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 60 minutes to discuss potential or pending litigation.

At 7:00 pm, the Mayor adjourned the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

APPEARANCES

Eric Swenson, 8541 East Mercer Way, spoke on behalf of the Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks. He noted that they are concerned about the MICA lease, spoke in support of an advisory vote, and would like the City to use a non-park option.

Tom Acker, 2427 84th Ave SE, discouraged Council from getting rid of public appearances. He also spoke about the public comments received during the joint commission process and questioned whether there was any potential conflict of interest.

Michel Martel, 3239 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, Executive Director of Music Works Northwest, spoke in support of MICA.

Kristina Crothers, 4805 84th Ave SE, spoke against conducting an advisory vote on the MICA lease.

Traci Granbois, 8440 SE 82nd Street, spoke about a levy lid lift and questioned whether the City has been consistently prudent. She encouraged Council to plan and spend with current resources.

Duane Matthews, 7817 SE 75th Place, spoke in support of MICA.

Jim Eanes, 2930 76th Ave SE, provided his comments in writing and thanked the Council for reading them.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, spoke in support of an advisory vote for the MICA lease.

Ben Pariser, 3861 80th Ave SE, spoke about the search for a home for YTN and against an advisory vote for the MICA lease.

Markus Kunz, 4220 91st Ave SE, spoke against conducting an advisory vote for the MICA lease.

Manny Cawaling, Executive Director for YTN, questioned what role an advisory vote would have in this process and expressed concern about the delays that this would create.

Jenny Mechem, 8451 SE 36th Street, spoke about how other cities have used advisory votes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$344,615.44 (01/14/16) & \$1,471,281.43 (01/21/16)

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

Payroll: \$812,389.48 (01/08/16) & \$798,007.01 (01/22/16)

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

Minutes: (1) January 4, 2016 City Council Regular Meeting and (2) January 19, 2016 City Council Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Adopt the City Council meeting minutes as written.

AB 5152 Police & Police Support 2016-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreements

Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the Police and Police Support Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Mercer Island Police Association for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively.

AB 5153 I-90 Loss of Mobility Negotiation Funding

Recommendation: Appropriate \$100,000 from the 2015 General Fund Surplus for consultant services related to I-90 loss of mobility negotiations.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Bertlin to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5154 Advisory Vote on the Mercer Island Center for the Arts ("MICA") Use of the Recycling Center Site at Mercedale Park Before Further Council Action

Councilmember Wisenteiner stated his belief that an advisory vote would give the Council a better understanding of what the Island as a whole wants. Interim City Manager Lancaster outlined the parameters of what an advisory vote entails.

It was moved by Wisenteiner; seconded by Sanderson to:

Conduct an advisory vote on the question of whether the City should lease the Recycling Center site and a portion of Mercedale Park for the construction and operation of a performing and visual arts center by the Mercer Island Center for the Arts ("MICA") prior to any further Council action on the MICA project.

Failed 1-6

FOR: 1 (Wisenteiner)

AGAINST: 6 (Bassett, Bertlin, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wong)

Finance Director Chip Corder spoke about the special issue questions for the citizen survey, which will go out at the end of February or early March. Council agreed not to include a question regarding a location for MICA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences.

Planning Schedule

Interim City Manager Steve Lancaster spoke about the February 22 agenda and noted that King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci will be in attendance. He also noted that MICA will be added to the schedule and spoke briefly about the implications of PSE modifying their reliability index.

Councilmember Grausz noted that the Coval preliminary plat may require two meetings.

Board Appointments

It was moved by Wisenteiner; seconded by Bertlin to:

Affirm the appointment of Alice MacCormack to Position #5 (expiring December 2016) on the Mercer Island Library Board. Affirm the appointment of Brian Thomas to Position #6 (expiring May 2018) on the Utility Board.

Passed 7-0

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

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Sanderson attended the Open Space Conservancy Trust meeting and spoke about trail and off-trail degradation due to off-leash dogs.

Councilmember Wong attended the joint School Board, Mercer Island Rotary Board, and Chamber Board meeting.

He also sat in on the Community Services Board meeting in which the Healthy Youth Forum was discussed.

He noted that the Giving from the Heart breakfast is on February 10, 2015.

Mayor Bassett spoke about sending letters to the legislature regarding the public records act and about the SCA training session on February 3, 2015. He also attended the PSRC Executive Board meeting. He noted that PSRC is in the midst of approving comprehensive plans for cities and that they are about to begin the process of accepting calls for projects to be funded by FHWA and FTA. He stated that Mercer Island will not be able to submit projects because it does not have an updated Comprehensive Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:46 pm, Mayor Bassett convened an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 30 minutes to discuss potential or pending litigation.

At 9:25 pm, the Mayor adjourned the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk