



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## 2016 CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION

### JANUARY 22-23, 2016

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016**

#### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bassett called the 2016 Planning Session to Order at 3:07 pm in the Calkins Room at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center at 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, WA.

Mayor Bruce Bassett, Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin and Councilmembers Dan Grausz, Jeff Sanderson, Wendy Weiker, Dave Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present.

#### **MAYOR'S WELCOME**

Mayor Bassett welcomed the Council and staff to the 2016 Planning Session. He noted that 2015 was a difficult year, with heightened social media, a record number of appearances at Council meetings and a record number of public records requests. He stated that he is looking forward to a new year, a new City Council, a new City Manager and the opportunity to move ahead and lower the stress level in the community.

#### **REVIEW 2015 WORK PLAN**

Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Chip Corder reviewed the 2015 Work Plan. He spoke about the number of Town Center meetings and that the unplanned agenda items were four times what was estimated for 2015. He noted that the 2016 Work Plan will need to be more manageable and that re-instituting the bi-monthly Mayor and Deputy Mayor's meeting with the City Manager will help to manage the workload. **Councilmember Grausz asked for an update on the Honeywell site contamination in 2016.**

Mayor Bassett noted that the Planning Session will help develop the work plan for 2016 and that a check-in will be done at the June Mini-Planning Session to review the status of planned items. He also noted that there is a Parking Lot list for Councilmembers to add items to for discussion at the end of the Planning Session.

#### **COUNCIL/STAFF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Interim City Manager Steve Lancaster stated that the goal of this discussion is to have a common agreement of roles and responsibilities and to determine if the City Council Rules of Procedure are still the right tool for Council operations. He reviewed the laws governing the council-manager form of government and spoke about policy versus administration. He provided examples of things that the Council is responsible for and things that staff are responsible for. He stated that the rules that the Council adopts need to be administered to keep order.

City Manager Lancaster then walked the Council through the current Rules of Procedure to highlight specific rules to determine if they are still supported or if changes are needed.

Council and staff identified the following issues during discussion:

- Need protocol for email correspondence:
  - How to keep the City Manager in the loop;
  - How to know that a response has been sent (by staff) to citizens who email the Council;
  - Who is responsible for responding (Council – policy, City Manager (staff) – administration).
- How Councilmembers should respond to complaints about city services on social media (NextDoor).
- A disclaimer for Council emails regarding public records.

- Have the City Manager report back to the Council on responses to appearances that were not on the agenda.
- Does the Council have enough time to read the meeting packets? Should the packet preparation day be moved up? Should Council meetings be moved to Tuesdays?
- Have substantive amendments to documents Council is approving (ordinances, contracts, etc.) proposed at a council meeting in open session, not before the meeting.
- Share responses to individual Councilmembers' questions with all Councilmembers.
- Set a protocol allowing Councilmembers to contact department directors with a CC to the City Manager. Department directors will bring items to the City Manager when a request will require more than one hour of staff time to respond.
- Need a protocol identifying the correct media contact for the City (and/or Council), especially for emergency situations.
- Need a media and social media policy for the Council and individual Councilmembers.
- Need a protocol for when the media calls individual Councilmembers for an opinion, determine who gets to speak on behalf of the entire Council.

It was the consensus of the Council to have staff bring back a draft policy on Council communications with the public and with the media.

## EFFECTIVE COUNCIL/COUNCIL AND COUNCIL/STAFF OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Facilitator Bob Ness asked the Council and staff to develop a list of rules for the conversation about communications. The agreed upon norms were:

- Respect
- Not interrupting
- Listen
- Non-judgmental
- Seek first to understand
- Assume good intent
- Frank and honest discussion
- Seek clarity
- Speak collegially
- Show respect for institution and colleagues
- Understanding varied organization mindsets (Corporation/Business operations versus Government operations)
- Open and personal. Set roles aside to talk as individuals

Mr. Ness noted that the Mayor's role is to manage the Council who sets policy, and the City Manager's role is to work with senior staff to implement the policy (administration). The Council agreed with the adopted Rules of Procedure as they are now to continue guiding the Council's work. He spoke about his observations and general themes discussed during meetings with key City staff (Leadership Team) as a group and individual interviews with each Councilmember. He noted that current senior staff are highly motivated, and he does not expect any departures.

Councilmembers spoke about how to deal with lofty ambitions and constrained resources to create realistic expectations for workload, the challenge for Council to respect staff expertise and time, the need for the City Manager to be vocal and strong in advocating for staff, setting boundaries for capacity for the City Manager, using the work plan to determine what work will come off if new work is added on, the Council's job to raise issues and having the City Manager figure out how to address new issues by either requesting additional resources (staff, money) or suggesting currently planned items to take off the work plan and letting the Council vote on the issue.

Council and staff further discussed possible efficiencies and ways to improve communication by developing a way to prioritize a new issue that competes with current issues, possibly creating additional subcommittees to help deal with reoccurring topics, increasing communication between the City Manager and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, waiting to address new items at Planning Sessions only, using Study Sessions to handle on-going topics, and arranging items on the work plan by quarters.

Facilitator Ness stated that this conversation would be continued the next day.

## CITY MANAGER POSITION PROFILE DEVELOPMENT

Human Resources Director Kryss Segle introduced Greg Prothman from the Prothman Company, to discuss the recruitment for a new City Manager. Mr. Prothman presented a draft recruitment brochure for the CM position. He

spoke about discussing the desired attributes of candidates, challenges and opportunities in the position and the salary, which will be driven by supply and demand. He noted that the pool of city managers is shrinking as many are retiring and that deputy city managers are not quite ready for the city manager position. He spoke about the process of finishing the brochure, focusing on recruiting from the 14-16 western states by sending 700-800 recruitment letters to current city managers and deputy city managers.

The Council asked questions about the recruitment pool, in state versus out of state candidates, a residency requirement, and candidate diversity.

Mr. Prothman walked the Council through the process for application, screening and interviewing. Director Segle stated that the Subcommittee (Segle, Sand, Taylor, Corder, Wong and Bassett) will narrow down the candidates before the entire Council review and interviews.

There was consensus from the Council to submit their comments and thoughts about attributes or skill sets to Director Segle and to include the language similar to "Residency strongly encouraged, Council may participate in housing expenses" for the recruitment brochure.

The Council took a break for social time and dinner. They reconvened at approximately 7:45 pm.

### **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DISCUSSION**

Councilmembers nominated citizens for the 2015 Citizen of the Year award. Following discussion of the nominees, the Council voted and made their selection for 2015. The nominee will be honored at an upcoming Council meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the Planning Session for the day at 8:15 pm.

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## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016**

### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bassett called the second day of the 2016 Planning Session to Order at 8:15 am in the Calkins Room at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center at 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, WA.

Mayor Bruce Bassett, Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin and Councilmembers Dan Grausz, Jeff Sanderson, Wendy Weiker, Dave Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present.

### **EFFECTIVE COUNCIL/COUNCIL AND COUNCIL/STAFF OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Facilitator Bob Ness continued the discussion from the previous evening about effective Council/Council and Council/staff operations and communications. Council and staff agreed to a goal of having effective working relationships that enhance our ability to provide superior services to residents of Mercer Island. He asked each Councilmember and staff member to state what they hope will continue, improve or change as it relates to communications. Ideas expressed included:

- More opportunities to talk with citizen and staff;
- Receive options and information in advance from staff so Council has time to digest
- Better work plan management;
- Regular meetings with leadership;
- More time to discuss issues and get all Councilmembers' perspectives;
- More clarity about how Councilmembers would like to carry out leadership in meetings,

- Need for staff members and Councilmembers to be more proactive versus reactive;
- Celebrate working toward the same goal and let staff know that they are doing a good job;
- More proactive work, less reactive work;
- More of a sense of collaboration between Council and staff;
- Understanding that we are all on the same team;
- Respectful communications and collaborative relationship;
- Acknowledgement and understanding of unseen work that staff does;
- Getting Council's questions about issues or projects in advance of meetings;
- Have Council make the policy decisions, but not tell staff what to do with our resources;
- Be a good role model for civil interaction to show the community how to engage effectively;
- The juxtaposition between what is said and what takes place;
- Being more deliberative in planning and sticking to the work plan;
- Defining issues or problems before jumping to solutions;
- How to show up at Council meetings, how to engage and know who to ask for what;
- Role of council is to represent people of Mercer Island, but not to agree to everything that staff brings forward. Staff should never respond to Council that there is not enough time or staff, the City Manager should review the issue and report back to Council;
- Better recognition of staff's day-to-day government work and balancing that with Council-driven issues; and
- More time and opportunity for discussion and debate.

Council and staff discussed communication styles, how Councilmembers can know who to contact on issues, and how the Council will reinforce respectful interaction.

Councilmember Weiker suggested the creation of an organizational effectiveness subcommittee to vet issues that have been brought up regarding a social media policy, email communications, staff dynamics, Council Rules of Procedures updating, and other process improvement items. Councilmember Weiker, Wisenteiner and Grausz volunteered to be on the committee. **After discussion, there was consensus from the Council to have the City Manager review the proposal and come back with a recommendation on the committee composition and goal.**

The Council further discussed ways to improve how staff can support Council and how Council can support staff. There were discussions about going to weekly meetings (Council meeting one week and study session the next), adding more council subcommittees, having regular study sessions, and soft communication skills. **The Council further concurred that the proposed subcommittee should have a defined work plan that creates a place to brainstorm best practices for concrete changes to protocols and procedures as well as improvements in Council and staff interactions. And that recommendations should be brought back to the whole council for review and approval.**

Councilmembers expressed concern about the time to review the agenda packet, and that asking questions of staff usually happens on the weekend. Both staff and Council would like defined expectations about responding on the weekend. The group also discussed moving Council meetings to Tuesdays to allow a full working day before meetings. **There was consensus from the Council to have the new subcommittee review the issues of producing packets a day earlier, setting expectations about responding on the weekend and possibly moving Council meetings to Tuesdays.**

Council and staff thanked Bob Ness for facilitating a valuable conversation.

## **JOINT COMMISSION TOWN CENTER REPORT**

DSG Administrative Services Manager Alison Van Gorp introduced the Joint Commission members in attendance. She spoke about the progress on the Joint Commission's work plan, public engagement activities, the focus of each of the public hearings, updating the vision statement by creating vision principles, subareas, and building height.

The Council asked questions regarding what led the Commission to look at up-zoning, what the Commission needs from the Council regarding the differing opinions on building height, and the notion that building height determines density.

Manager Van Gorp spoke about the other issues that determine density in addition to building height. She noted that many people who work in Mercer Island cannot afford to live here. She provided information about issues the Joint Commission is working through: problems with the current code regarding building height allowing too much flexibility, vertical setbacks, major façade articulation, and through block connections.

Council and staff discussed if the Joint Commission and its committees are working, if additional meetings will need to be added, the need to address larger concept ideas, and how density and building heights have become the focus of the code updates.

Mayor Bassett thanked staff, the members of the Stakeholder Group and the Joint Commission for all of their work on the Town Center Vision and Development Code Update.

## **DSG WORKPLAN AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

DSG Director Scott Greenberg presented information to the Council regarding the increase in new single-family house permits since 2009. He also spoke about the number of demolition permits and median new home sizes. He asked the Council what specific concerns should be considered as part of a revision to the City's single-family development standards. He presented DSG's long-range planning workload from 2016 to 2019 and spoke about the need for resources to work on these issues. He proposed hiring a long-range planner to work on these issues which could be paid for with an increase in development fee cost recovery for engineering and planning from 60% to 85% or an increase in the utility tax rate. He also noted that DSG staff would be doing a Development Fee Cost Recovery Study in early 2016.

The Council discussed the position, the need for long-range planning on the Island, how this position fits into citywide staffing needs, and what the public is concerned about in the residential neighborhoods. Director Greenberg explained that current residential development code issues relate to the size of single-family houses in neighborhoods they are being built in, along with tree retention. Further issues are platting activity, impervious surface deviations, tree removals, larger homes replacing smaller homes, the number of new homes, and the size of new homes

**The Council decided to wait until after the Financial Forecasts discussion to provide guidance about the Long-Range Planner position.**

The Council took a break for lunch.

## **2016-2020 FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR GENERAL, YFS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS**

### **General Fund**

Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Chip Corder presented options to the Council for addressing the projected General Fund deficits in 2017-2020. He provided detailed information about the following options (listed in no particular order):

1. Utilize one-time General Fund surpluses in 2015 and 2016 to bridge the \$0.71 million projected deficit in 2017.
2. Reduce the current staffing level beginning in 2017.
3. Conduct an organizational performance audit of one or more City departments to determine if significant cost saving opportunities can be identified and/or work efficiency and effectiveness improved.
4. Adjust the City's compensation policy and practices.
5. Go to the voters to form a metropolitan park district with the same boundaries as the City.
6. Go to the voters with a property tax levy lid lift request in November 2016 or November 2017.

He recommended options 1 and 3, given the four major issues the Council, staff, and the community are working through in the first half of 2016 and the magnitude of the projected deficits. He also noted that the findings from option 3 will provide useful information to the Council during the 2017-2018 budget review process in the fourth

quarter of 2016. In addition, serious consideration of options 2 and 6 should occur during the budget process.

### **YFS (Youth and Family Services) Fund**

Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Chip Corder presented options to the Council for addressing the projected YFS Fund deficits in 2017-2020. He provided detailed information about the following options:

1. Utilize one-time General Fund surpluses in 2015 and 2016 to bridge the \$0.34 million projected deficit in 2017.
2. Amend the interlocal agreement with the School District to have them pay for a greater percentage of the school-based mental health counselors.
3. Reduce the current staffing level beginning in 2017.
4. Go to the voters with a property tax levy lid lift request in November 2016 or November 2017.

He recommended option 1 and, in addition, staff talking to the School District about the feasibility of Option 2. He also noted that serious consideration of options 3 and 4 would occur during the 2017-2018 budget review process in the fourth quarter of 2016.

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Chip Corder presented options to the Council for addressing the projected Capital Improvement Fund deficits in 2017-2020. He provided detailed information about the following options:

1. Utilize one-time General Fund and REET surpluses in 2015 and 2016 (if any) to bridge the \$0.28 million projected deficit in 2017.
2. Cut back on planned capital projects absent higher than projected REET receipts.
3. Increase the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) annual license fee from \$20 to \$40 per vehicle.
4. Go to the voters with a property tax levy lid lift request in November 2016 or November 2017.

He recommended option 1. He also noted that serious consideration of options 2, 3 and 4 would occur during the 2017-2018 budget review process in the fourth quarter of 2016.

**The Council discussed the options and decided to wait until after the Levy Lid Lift Scenario discussion to provide direction to staff on the General, YFS and Capital Improvement Funds.**

### **LEVY LID LIFT SCENARIO**

Assistant City Manager and Finance Director Chip Corder presented information to the Council about submitting a levy lid lift request to Island voters in 2016 or 2017. He asked the Council if they became convinced that a levy lid lift vote is the best path forward to addressing the projected deficits in the General Fund, YFS Fund, and Capital Improvement Fund, when would they want to engage the community on this issue and put this on the ballot.

Director Corder explained the different types of Levy Lid Lifts and the process and timing for a levy. He spoke about the City's other funding needs in addition to the General Fund, YFS Fund, and Capital Improvement Fund projected deficits beginning in 2017: 1) a new IT position, 2) fire apparatus replacement, and 3) Maintenance Center renovation/expansion. He provided information to the Council about the 6-year levy lid lift structure options and the property tax impact on a typical Mercer Island homeowner (\$900,000 AV). In addition, he provided additional information regarding the portion of the 2015 property tax pie that is remitted to the City versus other jurisdictions, Mercer Island's 2015 property tax rate versus other cities in King County, and a comparison of Mercer Island's 2015 FTEs per 1,000 population versus other full service cities on the Eastside. Lastly, he showed the Council a 2015 monthly cost comparison of taxes paid by Island residents to the City vs. utility bills paid to the City vs. three other utility bills (Verizon, Comcast, and Puget Sound Energy). Director Corder spoke about his recommendation to use one-time General Fund surpluses in 2015 and 2016 to bridge the projected 2017 deficits in the General Fund, YFS Fund, and Capital Improvement Fund. This is a temporary fix that will buy the Council a year. He noted that the upcoming 2017-2018 budget process will provide an opportunity to make the public aware of the coming deficits and the options for addressing them, including the service level cuts that would be required to balance 2018, unless a new revenue source is approved. Then, the City could engage the public on the deficit issue in early 2017. The Council discussed using 2015 & 2016 surplus to cover the deficit in 2017, using the rainy day fund to balance the 2017 budget, engaging the school district to cover more of the costs of the mental health counselors (which are funded mostly by the City), doing the levy lid lift in 2016 versus 2017, using the levy to fund specific permanent services, educating the public (open houses or road show) on where their dollars go, cutting services versus raising revenue, and wanting the new City Manager to be involved with

discussions about the levy lid lift.

There was consensus from the Council to:

1. Fund the DSG Long-Range Planner position by increasing development fee cost recovery for engineering and planning from 60% to 85%; and
2. Fundamentally support Option 1 (use one-time General Fund surpluses in 2015 and 2016 to bridge projected deficits in 2017) from the Financial Forecast discussion, but they wanted to revisit this option as part of the Q4 2015 Financial Status Report in April and as part of the disposition of the 2015 year-end surplus in June.

## 2016 BIENNIAL CITIZEN SURVEY

Assistant City Manager & Finance Director Chip Corder presented information to the Council about the upcoming biennial citizen survey. He asked if there were any specific questions that the Council would like to ask. The Council discussed the possibilities of conducting the survey annually or conducting an informal survey to ask questions about hot topics.

The Council formed an ad hoc committee to review and recommend questions to be added to the 2016 citizen survey. The committee members appointed were Councilmembers Sanderson, Wisenteiner and Wong. All Councilmembers were asked to email their suggested question topics to Councilmember Sanderson.

## STREAMLINING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Bassett noted that there has been an increase in the number of speakers during appearances. He spoke about the need to find a balance between the value of public input and the value time at Council meetings to do important work. He stated that Council also receives many email from the public which is a good way to for the Council to hear how citizens feel about issues, but he understands the value of standing up in front of the Council during a meeting as it reaches a broader audience.

The Council discussed various possibilities for refining the public comment period during meetings so the Council can conduct business in a timely manner, such as: limiting appearances to one hour, creating an electronic sign in sheet, using a paper sign in sheet, using a lottery system, limiting how many times a person can speak each month, reducing the time to 2 minutes, having signup sheets for support or opposition to topics, if there are more than 10 speakers signed up (30 minutes) then each speaker only gets two minutes each, or limiting time for each topic.

Staff provided examples of what other cities do for public comment (e.g. City of Seattle does not allow public comments at Council meetings only at committee meetings and the City of Fife has a public comment period at the beginning and at the end of the meeting).

City Manager Lancaster suggested that this would be a good topic for the organizational effectiveness subcommittee to review and make a recommendation to the Council. The Council agreed.

## PARKING LOT

### 1. Economic development committee or office of economic development

Councilmember Weiker spoke about the need for more shops and restaurants in the Town Center to create economic vitality. Councilmember Sanderson stated that the increase in traffic over the next few years will require ongoing work for sustaining the community's needs on the Island. Councilmember Wong stated that he thinks the City needs to provide additional resources to businesses for economic development.

Mayor Bassett noted that staff presented information about economic development at two previous planning sessions and that the Council decided not to move forward due to the size of Mercer Island and the lack of funding.

City Manager Lancaster noted that this is primarily a budget issue and will need to be balanced with the other financial needs. The Council agreed to have a discussion during the 2016 Mini-Planning Session about what

economic development would look like on Mercer Island and if there is agreement to move forward, including it as part of the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Process.

**2. Revision to current policy permitting private parties to make street repairs (e.g. following new utility installations)**

Councilmember Grausz expressed concern about the quality of asphalt patching by private parties for individual projects. He suggested that the City could have 2-3 contractors on call that could do the patching and pass the cost onto the homeowners to make sure the work is done to City standards. **City Manager Lancaster responded that staff would evaluate the policy and current situation and would prepare a memo to Council about the possible options.**

**3. Emergency operations command center policy, business continuity, emergency preparedness, and drills**

Councilmember Weiker asked about the EOC at City Hall. Chief Holmes explained that staff are working on creating a new EOC in the City Hall basement as the current location in the Council Chambers is difficult to use during emergencies. He also noted that Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin will be providing a briefing to the Council in October on the emergency preparedness program. **He suggested that Officer Franklin could give the three new Councilmembers a tour of the new EOC when it is completed and an overview of the City's Emergency Management program. Councilmember Grausz suggested that all Councilmembers be invited.** Councilmember Grausz stated that he considers Emergency Management an important function of the City, and that the Council has an obligation to know what is happening.

**4. City supplied electronic devices (laptop, cell phone) for Council members**

Councilmember Weiker asked if the City should provide electronic devices for Councilmembers. City Attorney Kari Sand noted that the City could issue devices to each Councilmember which would help with separation of city business and personal use and would help with public records requests. **Following discussion, the Council decided not to move forward on this issue.**

**5. Thrift Store—Future operations/expansion status**

Councilmember Grausz stated that he thinks the new Councilmembers need a briefing on the Thrift Store operations and future expansion options. **City Manager Lancaster responded that he would have MIYFS Director Goodwin provide this information to the new Councilmembers.**

**6. Council member communication with the public and related social media issues**

The Council discussed possibilities for communication with the public: newsletters, City Manager Reports, MI Weekly. They also discussed individual Councilmember's email updates to constituents regarding City business. City Attorney Sand also spoke about using a disclaimer that makes it clear that the information in the communication is the view of an individual Councilmember and not the entire Council. **There was consensus from the Council to have the organizational effectiveness subcommittee review this topic.**

**7. Bollards**

Councilmember Grausz asked about the City's plans regarding bollards on the Island. City Attorney Sand stated that Parks & Recreation staff are inventorying, mapping and photographing the bollards and will be getting a quote to recommend treatment and whether to keep or remove certain bollards.

**8. Improving Dashboard (report card)**

Councilmember Wisenteiner would like the City's Dashboard Report to reflect the City's priorities. Finance Director Corder agreed and noted that it is mislabeled and should be called a Report Card. He noted that the report takes quite a bit of time to put together, but that he is open to changes. Councilmember Wisenteiner and Director Corder will meet to discuss possible changes to the report.

**18. Drone Regulations**

Councilmember Wong would like the Council to discuss this issue sometime in the future, but not in 2016.

The following items on the Parking Lot list will be addressed as an agenda item in 2016:

**9. City sustainability action plan**

**10. Preliminary green building standards development**

**11. MICA update**

**12. Maintenance Department performance audit**

**15. Town Center Vision and Development Code Update Council engagement**



**16. Sound Transit negotiation update**

The following items on the Parking Lot list will be addressed as part of the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget process:

**13. Community Center support**

**14. Future funding of school counselors**

**17. Financial recovery plan**

**Agenda approval at beginning of meeting**

City Clerk Spietz requested that a standing item of Agenda Approval/Amendment be added to the Council's regular meeting agendas as a way to standardize amending the agenda. The Council agreed.

**Letter supporting cost recovery for long-term planning legislation**

Assistant City Manager Taylor requested approval to draft a letter to support the current legislation regarding cost recovery for long-term planning. The Council agreed.

**P-Zone discussion for MICA site**

City Manager Lancaster stated that this issue will be added to the work plan when the City receives an application from MICA.

**Level of service from PSE and number of power outages**

Councilmember Bertlin asked about data from PSE about the level of service and number of power outages on the Island. Assistant City Manager Taylor responded that she will gather the data and provide a memo to the Council.

**Cost of LID to underground power from PSE**

There was support from the Council to have conversations with PSE regarding the costs of undergrounding power on the Island.

**Fireworks Ban**

Deputy Mayor Bertlin asked about banning fireworks on Mercer Island. Police Chief Holmes responded that Fire Chief Heitman would be bringing this discussion to the Public Safety Subcommittee soon. Councilmember Sanderson suggested that a question be asked on the citizen survey about fireworks.

**Cell Towers Federal Law**

Councilmember Grausz asked about code amendments to comply with the Federal law changes regarding cell towers. Assistant City Manager Taylor noted that it is on the DSG work plan for 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the Planning Session at 5:23 pm.

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Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

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Allison Spietz, City Clerk