



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD OCTOBER 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Terry Pottmeyer, Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present. Councilmember Mike Cero was absent.

School Board Directors Pat Braman, Adair Dingle (arrived 5:07 pm), Dave Myerson, Vice President Ralph Jorgenson, and President Brian Emanuels were present.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

School Construction Update - including the Mary Wayte Pool and Safe Routes to Schools Transportation Issues and Street Improvements Relating to Schools

Superintendent Gary Plano spoke about the Mary Wayte Pool. He noted that the Mercer Island School District is planning to set aside 3.8 million dollars to renovate the pool in the 2016 Capital Levy, which could extend the life of the pool up to 40 more years. He also spoke about the City of Mercer Island's 10-year Interlocal Agreement and expressed his hope that the City will extend this operating subsidy beyond the 10 years.

Councilmembers asked if additional parking will be part of the improvements. Superintendent Plano stated that the planned improvements currently do not include changing the parking area.

The School District's Construction Project Manager Brandy Fox provided a school construction update and spoke about the projects at Mercer Island High School, Islander Middle School, and Northwood Elementary. She also provided a brief update about the 2015 improvements to the Mary Wayte Pool. She noted that she has received very few complaints from adjacent neighbors relating to the construction projects. She also spoke about the need to relocate the outdoor classroom at the high school and that the trees that were removed for the addition have been made into benches which have been placed around the school.

Ms. Fox spoke about Safe Routes to Schools which pertains specifically to the Mercer Island High School and Northwood Elementary campuses, and provided a graphic showing an aerial view of the District Campus.

Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe spoke about the City of Mercer Island's Capital Projects that have been put in place specifically to address walking routes to the new elementary school. She noted that the City is still in the process of gathering data to determine if speeding problems exist on 88th Avenue SE.

Following Assistant City Engineer Tonella-Howe's presentation there was further discussion regarding the SE 40th Street & 86th Avenue SE project.

Emergency Drill Review

Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin thanked everyone for their participation in the Emergency Drill. She spoke about Operation Safe Community, a full scale exercise which was conducted on August 20, 2015. She noted that this exercise was the culmination of a three part active shooter series focusing on how the City of Mercer Island and the Mercer Island School District would respond to an active shooter incident. She also spoke briefly about the 2013 table top exercise and the 2014 functional exercise. Officer Franklin noted that the 2015 exercise encompassed all components of an actual incident which tested the tactical scene, the reunification process, and the Emergency Operations Center. She spoke about lessons learned and the suggested areas of improvement.

Superintendent Plano expressed his appreciation for the work that Officer Franklin did to create such a real experience for staff. Some discussion occurred regarding the family reunification process, conducting unannounced drills, and limiting access to schools. Officer Franklin also thanked all of the volunteers who participated in the exercise.

Members of the School Board and the City Council expressed their appreciation for the leadership and cooperation involved with the emergency drill and other education related matters. They also spoke about the cooperative partnership between the school district and the City and their appreciation for the opportunity to share ideas and concerns during this bi-annual joint meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk