



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## STUDY SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

### FEBRUARY 24, 2014

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#### STUDY SESSION

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Study Session to order at 6:06 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Tana Senn (arrived at 6:12 PM), Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett, were present.

#### **AB 4928 Transportation and Street Fund Policy and Budget Issues**

Finance Director Chip Corder presented the options for addressing the transportation & street fund deficit. He mentioned that there are several reasons for the declining street fund balance, which include: the recession, the decisions to take advantage of a favorable bid environment and to take a calculated risk that REET would recover faster than projected, and fewer available state transportation grants.

City Engineer Patrick Yamashita discussed Option 1: Defer, Cut, or Scale Back Future Projects and stated that it is a stopgap measure, which is not necessarily practical or realistic. He noted that Option 1 alone is not realistic without Options 2 & 3.

Street Engineer Clint Morris discussed the results of the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) project, which was done in the fall of 2013. He reviewed the different types of pavements on Mercer Island and discussed the PCI rating process. He spoke about the pavement life cycle curve and discussed the typical costs for chip sealing, patch and overlay, and rebuilding.

City Engineer Yamashita discussed Option 2: Change current policies. He noted that Mercer Island's comprehensive plan establishes roadway congestion standard at Level of Service (LOS) C, which is better than almost every surrounding community. He mentioned that changing the LOS standard would not necessarily mean lowering everything from LOS C, but could potentially be achieved by identifying specific intersections or certain timeframes.

Finance Director Corder discussed Option 3: Form a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). He noted that the approved uses of a TBD include maintenance of existing city streets and trails, investments in high capacity transportation, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, and transportation demand management.

Finance Director Corder stated that staff's initial recommendation is to maintain current residential and arterial street repaving cycles and to reduce the traffic LOS standard from C to D or even E. He noted that if the King County ballot measure passes, the Street Fund's deficit situation may or may not be resolved and that if it fails, staff will prepare a 6-year TIP/CIP based on the latest REET forecast with and without a Mercer Island specific TBD. Further, he stated that if the King County ballot measure fails and if Council opts to not create a Mercer Island specific TBD, then a very light TIP will be proposed for 2015-2016.

The Council discussed a 4th option, which is making decisions on funds that have been allocated on less than a priority of government and redirecting those funds to address some of the shortcomings. They also discussed the process for developing a work plan, budget, and timeframe for the school renovation related costs, the possibility of quantifying the level of savings by reducing the LOS traffic standard, and the importance of knowing what to expect if the LOS is reduced.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:50 pm.

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:03 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Tana Senn, Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett, were present.

Mayor Bassett recognized the Boy Scouts from Troop 607 who were in the audience working on their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

## MINUTES

### Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2014

It was moved by Senn; seconded by Brahm to:

**Adopt the Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2014 as written.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

## CONSENT CALENDAR

**Payables: \$556,636.75 (01/30/14), \$209,899.11 (02/06/14), & \$174,903.97 (02/13/14)**

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

**Payroll: \$703,703.71 (02/07/14) & \$687,301.61 (02/21/14)**

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

**AB 4927 Regional Water Conservation Goal**

**Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution No. 1478 establishing Mercer Island's water conservation goal as required by the Water Use Efficiency rule.

**AB 4920 eCityGov Alliance Interlocal Agreement Update**

**Recommendation:** Authorize the City Manager to sign the Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement Establishing the eCityGov Alliance and approve the Articles of Incorporation of the eCityGov Alliance.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

**Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

## REGULAR BUSINESS

**AB 4926 Coval Closed Record Public Hearing for a Proposed Eighteen Lot Long Plat (SUB13-009 and SEP13-031)**

*Please see page 5 for the complete transcript of this portion of the meeting.*

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Bertlin to:

**Approve the rejection of SUB13-009 pursuant to the statement read by the City Clerk.**

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

## APPEARANCES

Linda Chaves, 8265 SE 30th Place, who spoke on behalf of Mike Grady, mentioned that, with regard to the Coval Property, it is important to look at the 2009 City report on stormwater and the levels of dissolved copper and zinc, and that the City needs to remain below the state standards to comply.

Joni, 3200 81st Place SE, pointed out that notices of public meetings should have gone out to everyone within 300 feet of the Coval property, but that no one in the Ridgewood condominiums was notified. She mentioned that decisions made without complete input may be flawed. She commended the Council for making the right decision regarding the Coval property.

Brian Derdowski, Public Interest Associates, 70 East Sunset Way, Issaquah, supports the Coval property result. He mentioned that, in addition to consulting with legal counsel, the City Council may want to consider asking staff to generate additional findings of fact in order to support the decision. One area to consider may be how to determine critical areas regarding the stream issue.

Trevor Price, asked how neighbors will find out what happens next and how he will be informed.

Beverly Bridge, understands that they do have a right to develop the property. She thanked the council for looking at the neighborhood and the community, and for being sensitive to their needs.

Sue Stewart, noted that the Coval property is a phenomenal property and urged the architects to look at it that way, and to take this as an opportunity to keep some of the property as is.

Robert Thorpe, 5800 West Mercer Way, noted that this is an opportunity for something to happen. He thinks that if the plat was reduced to 14-15 lots, it would be more manageable. He stated that he would never approach a project without neighborhood meetings to work toward compromise. He thanked the Council for their wisdom and service.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Councilmember Absences

There were no absences.

### Planning Schedule

A Joint Meeting with the MISD School Board is scheduled on April 17, from 5-7 pm.

A joint Study Session with the Planning Commission is scheduled for the next Council meeting regarding the school district rezoning.

### Board Appointments

Mayor Bassett spoke about appointing himself and Deputy Mayor Grausz as alternates on the Eastside Transportation Partnership.

### Councilmember Reports

Deputy Mayor Grausz spoke about the recent SCA meeting and networking dinner.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 15 minutes.**

At 10:48 pm, Mayor Bassett extended the Executive Session for 15 minutes.

At 11:05 pm, Mayor Bassett extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 11:10 pm, Mayor Bassett extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 11:15 pm, the Executive Session adjourned and the Council made the following motion.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Bertlin to:

**Approve a settlement proposal for \$45,000, plus mediation costs, for Bob Sterbank.**

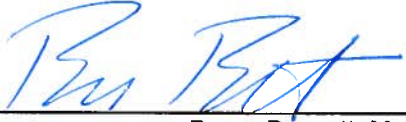
Passed 5-2

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

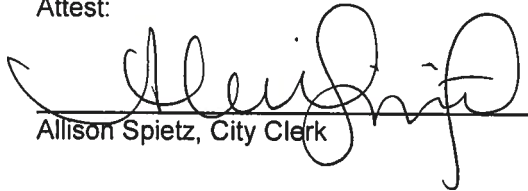
AGAINST: 2 (Cero, Senn)

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:16 pm.

  
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Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Allison Spietz, City Clerk