



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

March 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Wong called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm from a remote location.

Mayor Wong, Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl (5:04 PM), Jake Jacobson, Salim Nice, Craig Reynolds, and David Rosenbaum participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

City Manager Bon participated remotely from City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington. The City Attorney and Mercer Island City Leadership Team participated from remote locations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Jacobson delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve the agenda.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

STUDY SESSION

Utility Board Members Present: Tim O'Connell, Tom DeBoer, Brian Thomas, George Marshall, Stephen Majewski, William Pokorny, Stephen Milton

AB 5830: Joint City Council & Utility Board Study Session to discuss upcoming Utility Capital Improvement Projects.

Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director, reviewed the Water and Sewer Infrastructures with Council and provided updates on the following projects:

- Water Meter Replacement Project:
 - Drivers for Replacing Meters:
 - Aging Infrastructure
 - Improve Accuracy
 - Better manage water loss
 - Create standard for meter replacement
 - Meter Replacement Next Steps
- SCADAL:
 - Existing SCADA System
 - SCADA Schedule:
 - SCADA-Water Equipment Replacement Project
 - Sewer Pump Station Ventilation Study
- Reservoir Improvement Project:
 - Last relined in 1999
 - Design scheduled for 2021; construction in 2022 & 2023
 - Solvent Federal Standards
- Risk, Resiliency & Emergency Plan Update:
 - Background

- Project Requirements:
 - Risk & Resiliency Assessment – June 2021
 - Emergency Response Plan – December 2021

Kintner also reviewed the 2021 Utility Board Work Plan, outlining notable 2021 Work Plan dates as follows:

- May – Risk & Resiliency Update
- July – CIP Project Updates
- September- Stormwater/EMS Rates
- October - Water/Sewer Rates

Kintner further explained that rate models assumed \$3.5 million debt issuance in 2022 to support capital projects tied to the Water Fund, and \$2.5 million debt issuance in 2022 to support capital projects tied to the Sewer Fund. He explained that staff is seeking early input from the Utility Board and City Council on the potential debt issuance for the capital projects, noting that a discussion on debt financing specifics for those projects was tentatively scheduled for Fall 2021 and would coincide with the Utility Board rate discussions.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- COVID-19 Update:
 - New Phase 3 Metrics
 - City Facilities Closed through June 1
 - Vaccine Update – Phase 1B-Tier 2
 - Seattle Mass Vaccination Site at Lumen Field
 - Mercer Island Mobile Vaccine Teams
 - In-Person Education Opportunities
- City Council & Boards & Commissions Updates:
 - Virtual Meetings
 - Board & Commission Openings
 - Prospective Council Candidate Workshop
- City Services Updates:
 - Town Center Moratorium Next Steps
 - Luther Burbank Docks Project Update
 - Recreation Reset
 - Summer Camps are back!
 - PROS Plan Virtual Public Meeting
 - Paws on Patrol Virtual Training
 - Thrift Shop Donation Event
 - Spring Recycling Event
 - Accepting Applications for Investigative Review Board
- Good News:
 - Supporting Autism Awareness Month
 - Follow the Leprechaun Trail in Town Center
 - MInext Featured in 425 Business Magazine
 - Rare Disease Day on Mercer Island

APPEARANCES

Bob Toomey, Mercer Island – His business has been a member of the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce for 20 years and he currently serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors. He encouraged Council to vote to approve the 2021 Chamber of Commerce Partnership Agreement.

Addie Smith, Mercer Island – encouraged everyone to stay in the state and vote for new councilmembers and state leaders, noting that there is no real plan to keep individuals in their homes. She went on to state that Mercer Island police are racist and refusing to write reports.

James Jansan, representing Union 21 on behalf of QFC and Metropolitan Market union employees. He

encouraged City Council to support the \$4 hazard pay.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Accounts Payable Reports for the periods ending February 26, 2021 (\$586,700.27) and March 5, 2021 (\$286,020.18).

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

Certification of Payroll dated March 12, 2021 in the amount of \$818,845.85

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

Approve the Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Regular Video Meeting.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes as written.

AB 5823: Open Space Conservancy Trust 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Plan

Recommended Action: Motion to accept the 2020 Open Space Conservancy Annual Report and the 2021 work plan.

AB 5825: Correcting the schedule of Special Service Charges for the Water Utility (MICC 15.12.10)

Recommended Action: Approve Resolution No. 1595 correcting the service charge for a locked water meter due to theft, effective January 1, 2021.

AB 5831: Suspend Council Rules of Procedure 8.13B Regarding Filling Board and Commission Vacancies
Recommended Action:

- 1) Suspend City Council Rules of Procedure 8.13B, pursuant to Section 10.1.
- 2) Authorize staff to fill the Arts Council and Planning Commission vacancies concurrent with the 2021 Annual Board and Commission Recruitment Process.

AB 5832: Women's History Month Proclamation No. 263

Recommended Action: Mayor Wong proclaims March 2021 Women's History Month in Mercer Island.

Councilmember Jacobson requested that Agenda Bill 5828, Interlocal Agreement with Mercer Island School District for School Resource Officer Services, be pulled off Consent.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Weiker to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein as amended.

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5828: Interlocal Agreement with Mercer Island School District for School Resource Officer Services

Police Chief Ed Holmes outlined the history of the SRO Interlocal Agreement between the City and Mercer Island School District, which has been in place since 1996. He further explained that the new ILA provides for a more equitable funding model similar to other jurisdictions.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Authorize the City Manager to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Mercer Island School District for School Resource Officer Services.

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

AB 5824: Ground Emergency Medical Transport Program

Matt Mornick, Finance Director, and Jeff Clark, Interim Fire Chief, summarized the Ground Emergency Medical

Transportation (GEMT) Program, explaining that it was established in 2016 to allow Fire agencies to pursue reimbursements for ambulance services provided to Medicaid patients and that the funding stream relies on the number of Medicaid patients the Mercer Island Fire Department (MIFD) transports. MIFD enrolled in the GEMT program July of 2020 and staff worked closely with the Public Consulting Group to complete the final settlement estimate based on Medicaid transport data beginning with the State's fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, which resulted in an additional \$225,035 in Medicaid reimbursements for transporting Medicaid patients.

Mornick further explained that the GEMT Annual Cost Report were incomplete as of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget hearings in November 2020 and staff elected not to include the revenue in the 2021-2022 General Fund budget estimates. As a result, the additional revenue would be included in a budget amending ordinance slated for the April 20, 2021 City Council Regular meeting.

Mornick and Clark responded to Council questions and explained that GEMT reimbursements are difficult to predict, and that staff intended to establish a 2-3 reporting period baseline for revenue projections going forward.

AB 5833: Emergency Medical Transport Revenues

Jeff Clark, Interim Fire Chief, and Matt Mornick, Finance Director, reviewed the background related to Medical Transport Fees and noted that the policies guiding those fees were adopted in 2012. When the fee was established, there was no cost recovery target established and the policy did not include an annual inflationary factor. As a result, the \$770 base transport fee and \$15 per mile reimbursement for MIFD emergency medical transport remained unchanged since 2012.

Clark and Mornick responded to several Council questions and requested Council's feedback and recommendations on the emergency medical transport fees policy, explaining that the feedback would inform a revised policy to be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

AB 5821: 2021 Chamber of Commerce Partnership Agreement

Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator, explained that the Program Scope's development and key considerations. She went on to explain the Chamber's support throughout the Pandemic, including:

- Collaborating with the Economic Development Coordinator to facilitate Town Center / Mercer Island business economic recovery
- Working to strengthen residents' awareness of and connections with local businesses
- Hosting business education sessions and other virtual forums to connect Mercer Island businesses with pandemic-related resources

Bluvas further explained how the Chamber would contribute to long-range economic development planning efforts and strengthen relationships between the City and the Island business community.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weiker to:

Approve the 2021 Chamber of Commerce Partnership Agreement scope of work as presented.

Passed: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

AB 5829: Creation of City Council Committee to develop Financial Management Policies

Matt Mornick, Finance Director, briefly outlined the need for financial management policies that would cover a variety of topics including the items raised by City Council during the 2021-2022 biennial budget workshops, such as fund balance reserves, long-term financial planning, and use of REET revenues, as well as high-level guidance for the Operating Budget, the Capital Program, Revenues and Expenditures, Long-term Financial Planning, Investments, and Debt Management, among others. He further noted that this practice aligns with neighboring cities and is deemed a best practice and essential part of public financial management by the of the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting in the Government Finance Officers Association.

Mornick further explained that staff proposed the creation of a City Council Finance Committee to meet monthly with the goal of presenting a draft financial management policy document to the full City Council in September, with City Council adoption anticipated in October 2021

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Create the City Council Finance Committee to develop Financial Management Policies

Passed: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Appoint Deputy Mayor Weiker, Councilmembers Nice and Reynolds to serve on the Finance Committee

Passed: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences reported.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Bon reminded Council that the next Regular Meeting is April 6, 2021 at 5 PM

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Rosenbaum reported on the PIC Meeting held the previous week.

Councilmember Jacobson:

- Eastside Transportation Partnership March 17 meeting canceled
- Parks & Recreation Commission – Status of Restart Plan

Mayor Wong:

- Met with Lake Washington Mayors and North Caucus Mayors and will email a report to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:26 PM, Council recessed. The City Clerk announced that the Executive Session was convened at 8:38 PM to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the City 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 City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 35 minutes. At 8:39 PM, the City Clerk announced that action may be taken after the Executive Session.

At 9:15 PM, Council went back into open session.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Make a motion delegating and granting settlement authority consistent with the terms and conditions as discussed in Executive Session to the City Attorney on behalf of the City for the upcoming mediation on the matter of Petty v. City of Mercer Island, King County Superior Court Case No. 19-2-27257-1 SEA.

Passed: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

ADJOURNMENT

The regular Council Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Benson Wong, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk