



Memorandum

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Date: September 18, 2020
To: Utility Board
From: Jason Kintner, Public Works Director
Re: September 2020 Utility Board Meeting

Welcome back! We are excited to begin reconvening with our Boards and Commissions, and the Utility Board has some important topics to discuss in the coming months. While we wish we could conduct these meetings in person, the City has resumed conducting public meetings and public hearings remotely. As such, our meeting on Wednesday evening will be conducted using the Zoom platform. Deb Estrada, City Clerk, has sent a specific link to each of you. If you have not received it, or are new to Zoom, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us with questions.

In preparation for our meeting, here is some additional background information that will aid our discussions:

King County North Mercer/Enatai Sewer Interceptor Project Update

The Utility Board has discussed this topic multiple times in the past few years, the most recent discussion in November 2019 (See Exhibit 1). King County has been working to replace their aging sewer interceptor (pipe) which conveys sewage from the North Mercer Pump Station across the island to King County Swelockyn Pump Station in Bellevue.

City staff, in coordination with King County's project team, will provide an update on the upcoming King County project. The following additional background information (previously provided to the Utility Board) is included in the packet for your review:

- Utility Board Agenda packet from November 2016 (see Exhibit 2)
- King County 2019 Utility Board Presentation Slides

Chair & Vice-Chair Elections

The Utility Board was established in 1971 as an advisory board to the City Council on matters regarding utilities on the Island. Seven citizens comprise the board; a City Councilmember serves as a liaison to the group. Each year, usually in June, a Chair and Vice-Chair is selected from the group of seven.

City Operations Update

The City of Mercer Island is an organization in transition. Staff will provide an update to the 2021-2022 proposed Preliminary budget and organizational structure as it pertains to Public Works and introduce new staff to the Utility Board. More information is available in [Agenda Bill 5755](#), which will be discussed at the Special City Council Meeting on September 22.

Introduction to Stormwater and Emergency Medical Service (“EMS”) Rates

Staff, in conjunction with the FCS Group, have been working to prepare the rate recommendations for the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget. Rates are updated annually for each of the utilities (Water, Sewer, Stormwater, and EMS).

Stormwater utility rates support the costs of providing the utility service, including the operations and maintenance budget and the six-year plan for the Stormwater Capital Program. EMS utility revenues are directly tied to the average, budgeted salary and benefit costs, excluding overtime, of four firefighters, who were hired in 1996 to provide capacity to handle simultaneous EMS calls.

On Wednesday night, staff will introduce the preliminary Stormwater and Emergency Medical Service rates. Preliminary Water and Sewer rate discussions will be scheduled for the October Utility Board meeting.

CIP Preview & Project Update

Due to staff turnover and impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, some significant capital projects have been delayed. Staff will provide the Utility Board a brief update on the following projects at the September 23 meeting:

- SCADA System
- Meter Replacement Project
- Booster Chlorination Station

Revised Utility Board Workplan

A revised Workplan is attached. Due to the Council schedule and upcoming 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget discussions, a new Utility Board date is needed for October.