



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 2020

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Benson Wong called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker (6:07 pm), and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Salim Nice, Craig Reynolds, and David Rosenbaum were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

STUDY SESSION

AB 5660: 2019 Community Needs Assessment

Youth and Family Services Director Cindy Goodwin introduced Allegra Calder, Principle at Berk and Kristin Maitt, Senior Planner, to present the 2019 Mercer Island Community Needs Assessment. The presentation provided City Council insight into the Youth and Family Services ("YFS") Department's use of Community Needs Assessments and the data-driven prioritization and evaluation processes used in the development and planning of services and programs.

A summary of need identified included:

- School Aged Mental Health Services/Youth Well-being (staffing and programmatic resources)
 - An additional middle school counselor was a priority.
- High Intensity/Multiple Systems Mental Health Support & Case Management
- Senior Services/Geriatric Community Outreach & Organizer
- Income Eligible/Emergency & Family Assistance Supports

Director Goodwin further explained that data and information from the Needs Assessment would be used to inform future policy decisions related to YFS program configurations and service priorities

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- 2019 Officer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and Support Personnel of the Year
- New MIPD Officers
- Shoulder Improvement Project Construction on West Mercer Way
- Fire Station 91 Remediation Project
- King Property Update
- MercerFest Event
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Kickoff
- Summer Camp Registration
- Emergency Response & Disaster Preparedness Training
- August Recess/Break in Meetings

APPEARANCES

Jane Reynolds, Mercer Island, asked that Council modify its Priority #2 such that it reads “fiscal and environmental sustainability” and requested that Council create a goal to create a Climate Action Plan for the City of Mercer Island.

Jim Eaves, Mercer Island, suggested that the number one thing that the City can do for a suburban community to have clean air is to create a vibrant retail core.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$1,801,091.75 (02/17/2020) and \$316,699.09 (01/24/2020)

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

Payroll: \$841,594.43 (01/31/2020),

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

Minutes: January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5661: Review and Approve the 2020-2021 City Council Priorities and Confirm Additional Work Items

At Mayor Wong's suggestion the City Council discussed and considered the 2020-2021 City Council Priorities separate from the Additional Work Items.

Interim City Manager Jessi Bon summarized the 2020-2021 City Council Priorities outlined at the January Planning Session and explained that they represented “key themes” and were intended to guide planning and decision-making through the year and into the next biennium. She further noted that the City Council emphasized that both communications and environmental sustainability should be a foundational component of all City actions, although it was not formalized as a separate priority at the time of the Planning Session.

Council discussed the priorities at length and how best to address environmental sustainability.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt the 2020-2021 City Council Priorities as amended.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weiker to:

Amend Priority 2 to insert the words "and environmental" between "fiscal" and "responsibility"

Failed: 6-1

AGAINST: Anderl, Nice, Jacobson, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

FOR: 1 (Reynolds)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Amend Priority 1 to add at the end “with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.”

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)
ABSTAIN 1 (Jacobson)

Passed 7-0

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

Interim City Manager Bon reported that the City Council also spent time during its Planning Session working through a decision card process, resulting in the prioritization of several new work items. Manager Bon explained that in some cases, implementation of a new work item would require additional resources and an accompanying budget appropriation. In response to Council questions regarding available resources, she reported that she was currently working with City staff to assess and evaluate each of the new work items noting that work items would be brought back for additional scoping and an implementation discussion at future City Council meetings.

In response to Council questions, Bon explained that the City does not have a staff person working specifically on the development of a Climate Action Plan. Sustainability work is being done, however, that would inform a future Climate Action Plan.

Bon confirmed there is a Sustainability update planned for the April 7 City Council meeting. This will be a good time to discuss the details of the sustainability work plan for 2020 and whether or not to continue the Sustainability Committee.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Jacobson to:

Confirm the 2020-2021 Additional Work Items

Passed: 7-0

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

AB 5657: City Council Rules of Procedure Amendment

City Clerk Deborah Estrada reviewed the City Council's proposed amendments to the City Council Rules of Procedure made at the January 24 Planning Session. She also noted that five additional recommendations were recommended by either staff or City Councilmembers since the agenda packet was released.

City Clerk Estrada and Interim City Manager Bon responded to Council questions regarding the revised Boards and Commission appointment process outlined in Section 8.12 of the Rules and Procedure.

City Council addressed including or excluding the Pledge of Allegiance in Section 3.3 Order of Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve Resolution No. 1578 amending the City Council Rules of Procedure as set forth in Exhibit A and as further amended to include:

Revise 4.4, Agenda Preparation to post agenda materials on Wednesdays,

Revise 5.2, Appearances to clarify the suggested start time,

Revise 5.10, Social Media to clarify NextDoor guidelines and Appendix E, and

Approve general housekeeping.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Amend the motion to remove the amendment to Section 8.12 Appointment Process

Passed 5-2

FOR: 5 (Jacobson, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

AGAINST: 2 (Anderl and Nice)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Wong to:

Amend the motion to remove Section 3.3B Pledge of Allegiance

Failed 6-1

AGAINST: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Jacobson, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)

FOR: 1 (Reynolds)

Passed 6-1

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)
AGAINST: 1 (Reynolds)

AB 5659: City Council Regular Meeting Time Code Amendment (1st Reading; Ord. No. 20C-03)

City Clerk Deborah Estrada explained that City Council discussed its regular meeting time at the January 24 Planning Session and requested that the start time be changed from 7:00 pm to 6:30 pm to allow public appearances to occur earlier in the meeting and meetings to adjourn earlier as well.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Suspend City Council Rules of Procedure 6.3, requiring a second reading for an ordinance.

Passed 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 20C-03 amending section 2.06.010 of the Mercer Island City Code to change the time of Regular Meetings of the City Council.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5656: Boards & Commissions Code Amendments (1st Reading, Ordinance No. 20C-02)

City Clerk Estrada recommended that based on the Council's prior discussion regarding the City Council Rules of Procedure and the Council's desire to further amend Section 8.12 regarding the boards and commission appointment process, Council postpone adoption of Ordinance No. 20C-02.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

Table Ordinance No. 20C-02 amending membership appointment process in Chapters 3.34 Design Commission, 3.46 Planning Commission, 3.52 Utility Board, 3.53 Parks & Recreation Commission, and 3.55 Mercer Island Arts Council for consideration at the February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5655: Authorize the use of Revenue from the HB1406 Tax Credit and Appropriate Funding for the ARCH Administrative Budget.

Alison Van Gorp, Deputy Director of Community Planning and Development, summarized HB 1406, noting that the City of Mercer Island enacted the sales tax in November 2019 and that the Department of Commerce had capped Mercer Island's tax credit at \$37,373 per year. Deputy Director Van Gorp outlined the following options for allocating the HB 1406 revenue and funding the ARCH administrative budget as follows:

HB 1406 Options:

1. Rental assistance for households earning <60% of city median income
2. Acquire or construct affordable housing locally
3. Pool funds with other jurisdictions to create affordable housing

ARCH Administrative Budget Options:

- A. Savings achieved by using HB 1406 revenue for the ARCH HTF
- B. 2018 General Fund surplus
- C. Identify other funding sources in the general fund

Deputy Director Van Gorp explained that staff recommended pursuing HB 1406 Option 1 and ARCH Administrative Budget Option A explaining that the key benefit is that it would fund the ARCH HTF and administrative budget without placing further demands on general fund revenue. Council discussed the available options and took action accordingly.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Reallocate \$16,232 in Housing Trust Fund contributions to cover the increase in the ARCH Administrative Budget, and replace that contribution with \$16,232 of HB1406 revenue, with the balance of the HB 1406 revenue allocated for the YFS Emergency Assistance Program.

Passed: 4-3
FOR: 4 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Wong)
AGAINST: Anderl, Jacobson, and Nice

OTHER BUSINESS

City Council Liaison Appointments

Mayor Wong reported that he and Deputy Mayor Weiker reviewed the 2020 City Council Liaison Assignments and made the following appointments:

City Boards and Commissions:

- Arts Council: Nice
- Disability Board: Jacobson and Rosenbaum
- Open Space Conservancy Trust: Anderl
- Parks & Recreation Commission: Jacobson
- Utility Board: Anderl

Committees:

- Sustainability Committee: Nice, Reynolds

Local Assignments:

- MISD Superintendent's Advisory Council: Rosenbaum
- MISD Superintendent Equity Advisory Council: Wong
- Mercer Island PTA Advocacy Committee: Rosenbaum

Regional Assignments:

- Eastside Transportation Partnership: Jacobson and Reynolds
- King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C): Weiker
- Renton Airport Advisory Committee: Nice
- SCA Public Issues Committee: Wong, Rosenbaum (alternate)
- WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council: Anderl
- Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA): Reynolds

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Anderl and Reynolds reported that they would be unable to attend the March 3 Regular Meeting.

Planning Schedule

Interim City Manager Bon noted that there would be two Council absences on March 3 and asked whether there was a desire to schedule a special meeting for March 10.

City Council directed staff to cancel the March 3 Regular Meeting and schedule a Special Meeting on March 10 in its place.

Councilmember Reports

Deputy Mayor Weiker reported that YFS Director Goodwin gave an excellent report at the Mercer Island Rotary.

Mayor Benson Wong

- YFS Breakfast is scheduled for February 12, 2020
- SCA Networking Dinner is scheduled for February 19
- YTN fundraiser on February 29

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:30 pm, Mayor Wong convened an Executive Session for approximately two hours and 30 minutes to

- 1) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price. RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).
- 2) To discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).
- 3) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

No action was taken.

At 10:50 pm, Mayor Wong adjourned the Executive Session; no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before City Council, the Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:51 pm.

Attest:

Benson Wong, Mayor

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk