



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Benson Wong called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Salim Nice, Craig Reynolds, and David Rosenbaum were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed 7-0

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

STUDY SESSION

AB 5664: Classification and Compensation Discussion

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz explained that the purpose of the Study Session was to facilitate a project scoping discussion with the City Council prior to issuance of a Request for Proposals, explaining that the additional work would require a budget appropriation to be authorized at a future meeting. She further explained that the City had not completed a classification and compensation study in over 20 years.

Spietz explained that the compensation and classification study would examine and evaluate the City's current salary schedule and classification system and provide recommendations for modifications. She then reviewed the key objectives for the consultant.

Council expressed support for the project and requested that the City Manager remain involved throughout the process.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- New Sewer Truck
- King / Xing Hua Property
- East Seattle School – 30 day public comment period is open through March 11
- Debris on Lake Washington
- Life Jacket Loaner Stations
- Gallagher Hill Crosswalk Installation Construction
- Recology Tour
- Athletic Field Maintenance Review
- 2019 (Preliminary) Year-End Financial Report – Available at the March 17 meeting
- YFS Breakfast – over 600 Islanders attended

APPEARANCES

Joy Matsura: She expressed concern for the Town Center and the limited designation of retail space.

Josh Knopp (President for Citizens for Reasonable Shoreline Policies): He addressed the Shoreline Master Plan, explaining that he is anxiously waiting for the new SMP to move forward.

Dan Sitman: In his opinion, most of the traffic is not associated with the SJCC and that it is wrong to blame the SJCC. He further described the French American School as a great amenity for the island.

The following individuals participate in the Sister City trip to France and spoke very favorably of the trip:

- Roberta Lewandowski
- Ted Weinberg
- Jane Meyer-Brahm
- Eric Thuau

Ed Weinstein (SJCC Architect). He explained that he is prepared to abandon the Community Facility Zone and return to the Conditional Use Permit, explaining that code amendments are still needed. He further stated that valuable community organizations should be supported.

Rich Hill (SJCC / FAS / Herzl-Ner Tamid counsel): He asked the Council to direct staff and the Planning Commission to review the proposed amendments this year, explaining that the proposed amendment is a narrowly tailored amendment to the code. Mr. Hill then outlined three changes, including one to GFA, one to height, and one to lot coverage.

David Fain: He spoke in support of the SJCC

Traci Granbois (French American School Member): She express three concerns: 1) she believes it is an illegal spot zone, 2) It is an improper process to rezone, and 3) it provides for different rules for non-residential uses in a residential zone.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was requested that Resolution No. 1580 Appointing City Manager be removed from the consent calendar. Mayor Wong moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

Payables: \$623,808.15 (1/31/2020) and \$1,307,133.83 (2/7/2020)

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

Payroll: \$909,621.85 (2/14/2020)

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

Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

AB 5662: ROW Fleet Appropriation

Recommendation: Authorize the appropriation of \$32,917 from the Equipment Rental Fund to purchase the upgraded hydraulic driven drop-in sander as part of the previously authorized replacement of FL-0422.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as revised.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5658: Resolution No. 1580 Appointing City Manager

Each councilmember expressed strong support and gratitude for City Manager Bon's leadership over the past 8 months and thanked her for accepting the position.

It was moved and duly seconded to:

Approve Resolution No. 1580 appointing Jessi Bon as City Manager and authorizing the Mayor to execute the City Manager Employment Agreement thereto attached.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5663: Community Facility Code Amendment: Planning Commission Recommendation, Ordinance 20-04; 1st Reading & Adoption

Community Planning and Development Director Evan Maxim reviewed the history of the Community Facility zoning designation and the City Council's August 2019 direction to the Planning Commission to:

1. Review the "problem statement" and determine if an alternative approach is warranted;
2. Explore alternative decision-making processes; and
3. Report back to the City Council for further direction.

Director Maxim then explained that the Planning Commission evaluated four different alternative approaches which included:

Alternative 1: No change to the current regulations:

Alternative 2: A change to the criteria for approval of a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP");

Alternative 3: A change to the CUP approval criteria and development of a tool (Master Plan); and

Alternative 4: Continuing the work that was "paused" in June of 2019.

Following discussion of these approaches, the Planning Commission developed a three-part recommendation to the City Council that included:

Part A – Discontinue Community Facility zone process

Part B – Review/update CUP process and pursue code amendments

Part C – Resume Community Facility zone process at a future date

Director further explained that staff concurred with the Planning Commission recommendation on Part A.

It was moved and duly seconded to:

Suspend the City Council Rule 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 and duly seconded to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 20-04, to repeal portions of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan amendments related to the Community Facility zone.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5665: City Council Rules of Procedure Amendments

City Clerk Deb Estrada reported that at the February 4 meeting City Council directed staff to further review and modify the Board and Commission appointment process in the Rules of Procedure. Specific requests were to ensure applicants received a minimum of four votes and to provide more clarity as to the steps in the voting process. Staff reviewed the appointment process used by other cities, particularly those governed under the Council-City Manager form of government and made revisions accordingly.

It was moved and duly seconded to:

Approve Resolution No. 1579 amending the City Council Rules of Procedure as set forth in Exhibit A.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5666: Boards & Commissions Code Amendments (2nd Reading, Ordinance No. 20C-02)

City Clerk Deb Estrada reported that at the February 4 meeting City Council directed staff to make additional changes. She explained that Ordinance No. 20C-02 amends the membership appointment process for the Design Commission, the Planning Commission, the Utility Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Mercer Island Arts Council. Estrada further noted that Ordinance No. 20C-02 does not apply to the Open Space Conservancy Trust because prior to any proposed amendment to the Trust's Articles, the Council is required to request recommendations and comments from the Trustees regarding the proposed amendment and hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering the community and Trustees' recommendations and comments.

It was moved and duly seconded to:

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

AB 5667: City Council Letter of Support - East Channel Required Navigation Procedures Arrivals & Departures

Councilmember Salim Nice explained that the City of Renton owns and operates the Renton Municipal Airport. In his advisory capacity, he has long since advocated for safer and less impactful flight operations out of Renton Airport. In pursuit of this endeavor, he has worked with Retired Captain Thomas Imrich, a retired Boeing Experimental Test Pilot and retired FAA administration official, as well as an island resident. He recommended that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support.

It was moved and duly seconded to:

Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter recommending FAA take the necessary steps to propose upgrading the priority for Required Navigation Performance procedures for Renton Airport as "Priority 1."

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

Interim City Manager Bon reviewed the planning schedule and reminded Council that the March 3 meeting was canceled. In its place, a special meeting for March 10 was scheduled. She also noted that she would not be present at the March 10 meeting due to a prescheduled vacation.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Reynolds - complimented the YFS Breakfast

Councilmember Rosenbaum - wished the Mercer Island High School basketball team luck

Councilmember Anderl – summarized her visit to the Recology facility and the Do's and Don'ts of recycling

Deputy Mayor Weiker – reported on the opportunity to recognize one of our students for the AWC scholarship

Councilmember Jacobson – reported on his experience on the Recology Facility tour and the PROS questionnaire, which can be accessed online, and the Eastside Transportation Partnership meeting.

Mayor Wong – reported on the March 2 SCA Meeting on Regional Homelessness Authority, the April 23 invite with the Mercer Island School District Board of Directors and discussion topics, 20th Anniversary celebration of the Sister City Association.

Renton Airport Advisory Voting Proxy

It was moved by Weiker and seconded by Jacobson to:

Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support addressed to the Renton Airport Advisory Committee acknowledging that Captain Thomas Imrich will serve as the City of Mercer Island's designated proxy in Councilmember Nice's absence.

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

Councilmember Absences

Deputy Mayor Weiker reported that she would not be present for the March 17 Regular Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:40 pm, Mayor Wong convened an Executive Session for approximately two hours and 60 minutes to discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

No action was taken.

At 9:41 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 9:42 pm.

Attest:

Benson Wong, Mayor

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk