



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MAY 20, 2025

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### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Salim Nice called the Regular Hybrid Meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Slater Room Council Chambers at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmember Ted Weinberg attended in person. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Craig Reynolds, and Wendy Weiker (arrived 5:01 pm) attended via Zoom.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

**Approve the agenda as presented.**

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

### CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** City Council Meeting on June 3 at 5:00 pm, Planning Commission on May 28 at 6:00 pm.
- **City Services Updates:**
  - Booster Pump Station Upgrades – Last week electricians made progress on conduit and wiring installations for Pumps 6 and 7.
  - Sewer SCADA System – After six months of dedicated work Valley Electric has successfully upgraded 16 City-owned pump stations and one flush stations to the next generation SCADA system. One remaining site is currently undergoing a major retrofit and will be integrated into the new SCADA system once completed.
  - Preparing for Light Rail – Eastside Fire & Rescue and MIPD began their orientation of the Link Light Rail corridor with a tour provided by Sound Transit. Emergency Management, MIPD, and EF&R will be participating in trainings and other exercises with Sound Transit and other regional partners ahead of the expected 2026 opening of the light rail station.
  - Upcoming Pickleball Court Closures – In order to put the finishing touches on the pickleball courts at Luther Burbank Park there are two upcoming closures June 2–15 all courts will be closed to install acrylic surfacing. June 30–July 3 the two western courts will close to restore the Summer in the Wetlands mural.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Volunteer Appreciation Event – The 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Event is on May 21 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.
- **News:**
  - Congratulations to Recreation Coordinator Jeremy Jasman on receiving the Mikey Corso Leadership Grant from the Washington Recreation & Park Association!
  - It's National Public Works Week! Thank you, Public Works crews, for all of the work you do to keep the City thriving!

## **APPEARANCES**

Lauren Alexander (Mercer Island) spoke on behalf of Mercer Island Rowing Club.

Paul Quinn (Sammamish) spoke about garbage disposal fees.

Alex Tsimmerman spoke about antisemitism.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **AB 6681: May 9, 2025 Payroll Certification**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the May 9, 2025 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$972,649.07 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **AB 6682: Certification for Claims Paid April 1, 2025 through April 15, 2025**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the April 1, 2025 through April 15, 2025 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$2,511,544.70 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2025**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2025.

### **AB 6683: Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 25C-07 to Renew Interim Regulations for Temporary Uses and Structures Including Outdoor Dining**

**Recommended Actions:** Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-07 renewing interim regulations for temporary uses and structure including outdoor dining with an effective date of June 16, 2025.

### **AB 6684: Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 25C-08 to renew Interim Residential Parking Regulations Responsive to SB 6015**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-08 renewing interim regulations for residential parking regulations in response to SB 6015 with an effective date of June 3, 2025.

### **AB 6685: Public Display of Fireworks Permit Issuance for Summer Celebration**

**Recommended Action:** Approve and authorize the City of Mercer Island Fire Marshal to sign the submitted operational permit for Western Display Firework's application for a Public Display of Fireworks to be discharged per the permit conditions on July 12, 2025 at 2200hrs (10:00 pm) for a total duration of approximately 20 minutes pursuant to MICC 8.35.020(C).

### **AB 6690: Contractor Selection for Water Supply Pipeline**

**Recommended Action:** Approve Scarsella Brothers, Inc. as the Heavy Civil General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) for the Water Supply Pipeline Project and authorize the City Manager to sign any necessary contract documents with the GC/CM.

### **AB 6691: National Police Week 2025 (Proclamation No. 359)**

**Recommended Action:** Approve Proclamation No. 359 proclaiming May 12-18, 2025 as Police Week on Mercer Island and designating May 15, 2025 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

**Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and the recommended actions contained therein.**

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Rosenbaum, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

## REGULAR BUSINESS

### **AB 6686: 2025 Board & Commission Annual Appointments (Resolution No. 1677)**

Mayor Nice reviewed the process for board and commission appointments noting that applicants that receive the most votes, provided they receive a minimum of four votes, would be appointed to the vacant positions on the board or commission. The names of the applicants would then be added to Resolution No. 1677 with final approval by a vote of the City Council.

Mayor Nice noted that the appointments for the Open Space Conservancy Trust have been delayed to the June 3 City Council Meeting.

**Utility Board** – Four open positions; four applications received.

**Position 3 – Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants George Marshall, Steve Milton, Geraldine Poor, Brian Thomas.

The ballots for Position 3 Round 1 were tallied, and no applicants received four votes.

**Position 3 Round 1 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Thomas  
Nice – Marshall  
Reyolds – Thomas  
Rosenbaum – Marshall  
Weiker – Thomas  
Weinberg – Milton

The ballots for Position 3 Round 2 were tallied, and Brian Thomas received five votes to be appointed to the Utility Board, Position 3, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 2 Round 2 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Thomas  
Nice – Thomas  
Reyolds – Thomas  
Rosenbaum – Thomas  
Weiker – Thomas  
Weinberg – Marshall

**Position 4 – Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: George Marshall, Steve Milton, Geraldine Poor.

The ballots were tallied, and Geraldine Poor received six votes to be appointed to the Utility Board, Position 4, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 4 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Poor  
Nice – Poor  
Reyolds – Poor  
Rosenbaum – Poor  
Weiker – Poor  
Weinberg – Poor

**Position 5 – Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: George Marshall and Steve Milton.

The ballots were tallied, and Steve Milton received six votes to be appointed to the Utility Board, Position 5, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 5 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Milton  
Nice – Milton  
Reyolds – Milton

Rosenbaum – Milton  
Weiker – Milton  
Weinberg – Milton

**Position 7 – Term 2026** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: George Marshall.

The ballots were tallied, and George Marshall received six votes to be appointed to the Utility Board, Position 7, expiring May 31, 2026.

**Position 7 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Marshall  
Nice – Marshall  
Reynolds – Marshall  
Rosenbaum – Marshall  
Weiker – Marshall  
Weinberg – Marshall

**Arts Council** – Two open positions; two applications received.

**Position 7 - Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: Britta Echte and Pam Rock

The ballots were tallied, and Britta Echte received five votes to be appointed to the Arts Council, Position 7, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 5 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Echte  
Nice – Echte  
Reynolds – Rock  
Rosenbaum – Echte  
Weiker – Echte  
Weinberg – Echte

**Position 5 – Term 2028** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: Pam Rock.

The ballots were tallied, and Pam Rock received six votes to be appointed to the Arts Council, Position 5, expiring May 31, 2028.

**Position 5 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Rock  
Nice – Rock  
Reynolds – Rock  
Rosenbaum – Rock  
Weiker – Rock  
Weinberg – Rock

**Parks & Recreation Commission** – two open positions; eight applications received.

**Position 5 - Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: Carol Lynn Berseth, Mar Brettman, Stephen Majewski, Sarah Marxen, Geraldine Poor, Pam Rock, Michael Rosen, Sierra Young.

The ballots were tallied, and Sarah Marxen received five votes to be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission, Position 5, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 5 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Marxen  
Nice – Marxen  
Reynolds – Marxen  
Rosenbaum – Brettman  
Weiker – Marxen  
Weinberg – Marxen

**Position 6 - Term 2029** - City Clerk Larson distributed ballots to each Councilmember with a list of the following applicants: Carol Lynn Berseth, Mar Brettman, Stephen Majewski, Geraldine Poor, Pam Rock, Michael Rosen, Sierra Young.

The ballots for Position 6 Round 1 were tallied, and no applicants received four votes.

**Position 6 Round 1 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Berseth  
Nice – Brettman  
Reynolds – Brettman  
Rosenbaum – Brettman  
Weiker – Majewski  
Weinberg – Majewski

The ballots were tallied for Position 6 Round 2, and Mar Brettman received five votes to be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission, Position 6, expiring May 31, 2029.

**Position 6 Round 2 Ballot Results:**

Anderl – Brettman  
Nice – Brettman  
Reynolds – Brettman  
Rosenbaum – Brettman  
Weiker – Majewski  
Weinberg – Brettman

City Clerk Larson read the appointments section of Resolution No. 1677.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Anderl to:

**Approve Resolution No. 1677, appointing those voted on to fill the vacancies on the Arts Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Utility Board.**

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Rosenbaum, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

**AB 6687: Public Hearing on a King County Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) Application (Resolution No. 1674)**

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 5:41 pm. There were no public comments, and Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 5:42 pm.

CPD Director Jeff Thomas introduced Code Compliance Planner Grace Manahan and Bill Bernstein from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Code Compliance Planning Grace Manahan spoke about the history and purpose of the King County Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs), the application and review process for a PBRs application by King County and the City, and an overview of the application that was received for the property located at 5045 Forest Ave SE. She discussed that the property has been enrolled in the PBRs program since 1997 and the request is to increase the property tax reduction from 80% to 90%, and the next steps if the application is approved.

City Council asked questions of staff and Bill Bernstein from King County regarding the application.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

**Approve Resolution No. 1674 for the proposed public benefit rating system current use assessment for 2.91 acres of the property located at 5045 Forest Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA.**

PASSED: 5-0-1

FOR: 5 (Nice, Rosenbaum, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Anderl)

**AB 6679: Fiscal Year 2024 Year-End Financial Status Update and Budget Amending Ordinance; and AB 6680: Forecast on the City's Financial Position through the First Quarter 2025**

Finance Director Matt Mornick provided a fiscal review of 2024 including an overview of the 2024 year end

fund balance for the General Fund, 2024 REET Revenues, investment of ARPA funds between 2021 and 2024, and how the transition to Eastside Fire & Rescue to provide fire and EMS services impacted the 2024 budget. He spoke about the budget carry forward items included in Ordinance No. 25-10 for work started in 2024 that was not completed and the contingency fund balance as of December 2024.

Finance Director Mornick presented the projected financial forecast for the General Fund and the Youth & Family Services Fund.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 25-10, amending the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget.**

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Nice, Rosenbaum, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

### **AB 6688: 2025-2026 Workplan Update and Legislative Session Impacts**

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the 2023-2024 accomplishments and highlighted the work that has been completed over the last two years including:

- Thrift Shop grew sales by nearly 14% and was recognized by Yelp as a top-rated business.
- Youth and Family Services continues to secure grant funding to support programming and continues to expand on assistance programs and services provided to the community.
- Design work on the Public Safety & Maintenance Facility.
- New pickleball courts.
- Advanced Metering Project progressed with full water meter replacement completed in 2024 and full system functionality by the end of 2025.
- Trail safety improvements completed at Aubrey Davis Park to ease congestion near Feroglia Field.
- Park planning and design for playground replacements at Roanoke and First Hill Parks and the Luther Burbank Waterfront Dock Project.
- Reservoir Improvements on both the North and South reservoirs.
- Modular Building Campus to temporarily house MIPD.
- Luther Burbank Boiler Building Phase I Building Improvements were finalized.
- Completion of the new Water SCADA System Replacement.
- Brought the Booster Chlorination Station online.
- 2024 Residential Street Resurfacing project in the Island Point Neighborhood.
- Public Works operations conducting routine maintenance, responding to service requests and emergencies.
- The Natural Resources team hosted volunteer events with 964 people volunteering a total of 2,285 hours in parks and open spaces.
- The Sustainability Team hosted two Ridwell events, recycled more than 1 ton of batteries, and continues to offer services and programs to the community focused on sustainability.
- The Recreation Team achieved a 70% cost recovery for division wide services.
- MIPD continues to provide a high level of service to maintain Mercer Island as one of the safest cities in Washington.
- Community Planning & Development completed the update of the 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan.
- The Customer Service Team resolved 76.6% of calls successfully without forwarding the call to staff.
- The MI Weekly email newsletter has sustained a 60% average open rate, that is significantly above the industry benchmark.
- The Records Team is actively working on organizing, preparing for digitization, and digitizing archival records housed in the former City Hall building.
- IT and GIS continue to support services for other City departments including the launch of Public Utility Dashboards and Permit and Land Use Web Maps.
- The Finance Team developed a balanced 2025-2026 Biennial Budget.
- Emergency Management successfully completed the required updates to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

City Manager Bon provided an overview of the 2025-2026 Work Plan. She spoke about the major capital

projects that are scheduled for 2025 including the Public Safety and Maintenance Facility, the new water supply pipeline project, and the completion of the Luther Burbank Waterfront improvements. She spoke about the planning projects that are on the horizon including:

- Review of the solid waste contract by Q1 2026
- Finalization of the Deane's Children's Park site plan by Q4 2025
- Updates to the Water System Plan, Risk and Resiliency Assessment, and Emergency Response Plan.
- Development of a Hydraulic Model of the Sewer System by Q4 2025 and update the General Sewer Plan by Q4 2027.

City Manager Bon spoke about the policy and code work that is scheduled for 2025 including:

- CPD processing of all current docket items and conversion of all interim regulations to permanent regulations to comply with state legislative mandates.
- Procurement, purchasing, and expense policies.
- E-bike/E-motorcycle regulations.
- Park Rules and Recreation policies.
- Public Safety ordinances.

City Manager Bon discussed the impacts of the 2025 Legislative Session.

City Council reviewed the workplan and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Nice to:

**Direct the City Manager to implement a pilot program to test stationary Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) equipment on Mercer Island and to appropriate \$15,000 from available funds to support the installation, operation, and evaluation of the pilot program.**

**This pilot program will replace Work Item 3.5 in the Police Department's 2025–2026 Work Plan.**

**City staff are further directed to return to the City Council no later than the first quarter of 2026 with a follow-up presentation on the results and findings from the pilot program, including:**

- **System performance and operational evaluation**
- **Legal, privacy, and data retention considerations**
- **Community feedback and outreach outcomes**
- **Proposed policies, procedures, and recommendations for future use**

PASSED: 5-1

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Nice, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

AGAINST: 1 (Reynolds)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Councilmember Absences and Reports**

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted there was a Sound Cities Association PIC meeting last week and that opening day of the Mercer Island Farmers Market is on June 1.

Councilmember Weinberg noted his next monthly open lunch is on June 21 at Mioposto.

City Council was in recess from 7:45 pm – 7:55 pm.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:55 pm, Mayor Nice convened an Executive Session in Room 104 at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA and via Microsoft Teams.

Executive Session 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 pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b), and to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW

42.30.110(1)(i).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmember Ted Weinberg participated in person. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Craig Reynolds, and Wendy Weiker participated via Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 8:13 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Attest:

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Salim Nice, Mayor

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Andrea Larson, City Clerk