



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING MAY 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Benson Wong called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm from a remote location.

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

The Mercer Island City Leadership Team participated from remote locations.

City Manager Jessi Bon, and Acting City Clerk Mary Swan participated remotely from separate rooms at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Dave Rosenbaum led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

WeLoveMI COVID-19 Relief Day Proclamation No. 251

Mayor Wong read Proclamation No. 251 and proclaimed May 22, 2020, the WeLoveMI COVID-19 Relief Day and encouraged the community to show their support for Mercer Island business on May 22, 2020.

Mayor Wong welcomed Erin Krawiec, President of the Mercer Island Community Fund Board of Directors, and Rory Shanks, MIHS Senior and member of Mercer Trade, Inc. Erin Krawiec and Rory Shanks gave thanks to the community, the City, and the WeLoveMI organization and urged community members to each consider giving \$22 on May 22, 2020 to Mercer Island businesses in support of WeLoveMi COVID-19 Relief Day.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- King County's Face Covering Directive in response to COVID-19.
- State of Washington's Contact Tracing program for person's who test positive for COVID-19.
- King County Public Health's Updated Recommendations on COVID-19 Testing.
- Citizen Concerns regarding speeding vehicles, particularly around the Mercer Ways. The City Manager reported that police have increased patrols. Message boards are also deployed to remind drivers to slow down and share the road.
- MIPD's virtual Block Watch program launched earlier this month which helps neighborhoods with crime prevention strategies.
- Community Center closure through August 31; Facility rentals and summer recreation and camp programs cancelled through August 31, including VOICE/SVP community service programs for students. Staff are evaluating limited operations scenarios of the Community Center for fall and winter.
- Private outdoor event rentals canceled through August 31; athletic field rentals canceled through June 30.
- It is anticipated that that Picnic areas will reopen during Phase 2 and athletic leagues will resume during Phase 3.

- Food Pantry Update and special thanks to MIHS Band for raising almost \$3,000 for the Mercer Island Food Pantry. The Food pantry had a 50% increase in requests for Food Assistance since March 1. The City Manager urged the community to consider donating grocery gift cards or donating to the YFS Food Pantry.
- Thrift Shop update on donations and when the Thrift Shop will be able to begin accepting donations
- The City Council Meeting Schedule, the need for a Special Meeting on June 9, and that virtual meetings are anticipated for the foreseeable future.
- YFS and other service reductions
- The open Mercer Island Youth Art Contest to promote mental health awareness.
- The Mercer Island Farmer's Market set to open Sunday, June 7.
- Letter of thanks received by the Police Department commending Marine Patrol Sergeant Brian Noel and Officer Scott Schroeder for their response to a boat fire on Lake Washington.
- Special thank you to Officer John Haraway who retired on May 15 after serving the MI community for over 18 years.
- Emergency Volunteers distributed almost 200 handmade face coverings over the course of three Friday mornings during Senior Hours at Mercerdale Park.
- The City Manager reminded the community that the Mercer Island COVID-19 call center is operating M-F from 8-5 and is available to help answer any questions.

APPEARANCES

Ira Appelman, Mercer Island – Mr. Appelman appeared using the Zoom platform and spoke to the Council by audio. Mr. Appelman spoke about the need to downsize CPD because it is morphed into long range and comprehensive planning that no one has asked for and wastes taxpayers funds. He also is concerned that CPD remains active during the COVID-19 crisis and Islanders need to remain involved.

Marc Clausen, Mercer Island – Marc Clausen appeared using the Zoom platform and spoke to the Council by audio. Mr. Clausen relayed his concern that the rechannelization project on 77th in Town Center will remove bike lanes and impact cyclists.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Claims Reporting for **Electronic Funds Transfers** for the month ending April 30, 2020 in the amount of \$2,398,187.20

Approve **Accounts Payable** Reports:

- Report for the period ending May 1, 2020 in the amount of \$435,609.08, and
- Report for the period ending May 8, 2020 in the amount of \$581,103.24

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

Approve **Certification of Payroll** dated May 8, 2020 in the amount of \$820,659.12

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

Approve **Minutes:**

- April 21, 2020 Special Video Meeting
- May 5, 2020 Special Video Meeting
- May 12, 2020 Special Video Meeting

AB 5690: 2020 Human Resources Support Allocation

Recommended Action: Approve use of the \$170,000 from the HR Department salary and benefits savings to support temporary Human Resources staff and a consultant to complete the outstanding work items in 2020.

[AB 5693: Port of Seattle Economic Development Partnership Grant Acceptance, was moved from the Consent Calendar to the First Item of Regular Business by staff request prior to the meeting.]

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5693 Port of Seattle Economic Development Partnership Grant Acceptance

Sarah Bluvas, Small Business Liaison, spoke about Port of Seattle Economic Development Partnership Grant Acceptance and explained that there was a slight discrepancy in the match amounts listed in the project budget in the agreement from the Port of Seattle. The City is required to match the Port grant funds at 50%. Half of the match can be from in-kind support like staff time, and the other half must come as a cash match.

The agreement was updated to reflect an even split across the in-kind support and cash match. Sarah noted the total funds including the match amount is the same as the expenditure amount of \$36,705 originally listed in the Agenda Bill. The amount is now correct in the agreement and ready to be executed upon Council's approval.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Authorize the City Manager to accept the 2020 Port of Seattle Economic Development Partnership Program grant and:

1. Appropriate \$24,470 in grant funds for 2020.
2. Authorize use of \$6,117.50 in General Government funds as a cash match; and
3. Support the in-kind staff match, which is to be provided by the Small Business Liaison (a temporary position authorized via the City's Emergency Operations Center).

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Agenda Bill 5691: 2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Hearing and Review

Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer introduced the item and the Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm.

The City received and included a brief summary of Public Comments in the agenda bill. In addition, the following individuals made public comment during the public hearing using the Zoom platform:

Jim Stanton, Mercer Island – Mr. Stanton spoke to the Council about Neighbors in Motion and emphasized the need to make roads safer for cyclists and drivers and is concerned about the removal of bike lanes along 77th Avenue. Mr. Stanton further commented on the need for the north/south bike route.

Robert Olson, Mercer Island – Mr. Olson spoke about his opposition to TIP Project SP126 to convert bike lanes to parking stalls and is concerned this will direct bikes into car traffic.

Ira Appelman, Mercer Island – Mr. Appelman commented that he does not like the north/south bike route. He also commented on TIP Project SP126 on 77th Avenue. Mr. Appelman said parking at this location was previously rejected; that a bicycle facility plan was already agreed on. He urged the Council to reject SP126 on 77th Avenue.

Jonathan Harrington, Mercer Island – Mr. Harrington spoke about his concern that the TIP would roll back bicycle improvements and that the need for bicycle mobility in Town Center will only increase after the light rail station opens. Mr. Harrington also raised his concern about the delay of the Mercer Way shoulder improvement project, especially in the area south of Avalon Drive, and that the shoulder improvements are necessary for safety.

After public comment, the Mayor entertained a motion to continue the public hearing for the TIP to June 16, 2020.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Anderl to:

CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TIP TO JUNE 16, 2020.

The councilmembers discussed the continuance of the public hearing and the Mayor emphasized that those wishing to submit additional public comments would have an opportunity to do so before the June 16, 2020 public hearing.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

City Engineer Patrick Yamashita presented the Transportation Improvement Program. He provided background and gave an overview of the TIP. He summarized noteworthy changes to the TIP and provided an overview of the TIP process. Matt Mornick, Interim Finance Director presented information about the Street Fund and the funding of the TIP.

Next, the City Engineer went through a list of individual projects by project number. The Council asked questions and provided feedback to staff, specific to each listed project. Council provided staff direction to come back before Council on June 16, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon reviewed the upcoming meetings. Bon anticipates that virtual meetings will continue through 2020. She asked that a special meeting be added on June 9, which Council supported. City Manager Bon further requested that Council pass an Ordinance to temporarily change the start time of Council Meetings to 5 pm during the virtual meeting period. Council consensus supported this request.

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences reported.

Councilmember Reports

Reynolds reported on a K4C meeting and requested an item regarding climate change be placed on the Agenda later this year, if possible.

Mayor Wong reported on the PIC meeting on May 14 and asked for council feedback to support a resolution to adopt AWC's legislative priorities. A Council majority approved.

Deputy Mayor Weiker spoke about the Sound Cities Association.

Mayor Wong requested feedback on his plan to schedule a meeting with the 41st Legislative District to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming Special Session.

Mayor Wong also requested a Proclamation of the City's commitment to be an inclusive community be added to the Planning Schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before City Council, the Special Video Meeting adjourned at 10:18 PM

Attest:

Benson Wong, Mayor

Mary Swan, Acting City Clerk