



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

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 24th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Craig Reynolds, and Ted Weinberg attended in person. Councilmember Wendy Weiker attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Nice to:

Amend the agenda to add a second Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes for planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) and approve agenda as amended.

PASSED: 7-0

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** Next City Council Meeting – October 1 at 5:00 pm, Planning Commission – September 25 at 6:00 pm.
- **City Services Updates:**
 - Luther Burbank Waterfront – A hearing with the Hearing Examiner was held to review the City's proposal for redeveloping Luther Burbank Park waterfront.
 - Public Input on Clarke and Groveland Beaches – The City will be launching a digital survey to collect information about how the community uses Clarke and Groveland Beaches at the end of September.
 - Planning Commission Recruitment – The recruitment for the Planning Commission is open through October 25. The City Council is recruiting for five positions, with terms beginning January 1, 2025.
 - Annual Docket Proposals – The annual opportunity for the public to submit requests for the Annual Docket of development code and Comprehensive Plan amendments is open through October 1. The Planning Commission will review proposals on October 23 and the City Council is scheduled to approve the Annual Docket on November 19.
 - Town Center Construction – There are several different sidewalks, ADA sidewalk ramps, street lighting, traffic signals, and street tree replacements projects taking place in Town Center in the month of September.
 - Pickleball Courts at Luther Burbank Park – Removal of asphalt pavement and excavation of poor subgrade soils has been completed and crews have begun placing the new crushed rock base. Asphalt paving is scheduled for the week of September 23 and the courts are planned to reopen for play by the end of October.

- Aubrey Davis Park Trail – The project is about 80% complete and the path was reopened to pedestrians and bicycles last week. Landscaping, irrigation, lighting, signage, and other minor work will be completed in October.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Sister City Soiree – Mercer Island Sister City Association is celebrating the 2024 Soiree at Allister on September 22.
 - Mid-Autum Festival – In partnership with the Mercer Island Chinese Association there will be a Mid-Autum Festival at MICEC on September 22.
- **News:**
 - August Volunteer Events – There were 12 volunteer events in the parks in August with a total of 107 volunteers coming out to remove over 6,00 sq ft of weeds including ivy and blackberries from the parks.

APPEARANCES

Addie Smith spoke about being a hate crime survivor.

Daniel Thompson (Mercer Island) spoke about the Comprehensive Plan update.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6536: September 6, 2024 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the September 06, 2024 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$863,930.95 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

Certification of Claims:

A. Check Register | 00220715-00220793 | 8/30/2024 | \$457,329.60

B. Check Register | 00220794-00220835 | 9/06/2024 | \$1,517,208.20

Recommended Action: Certify that the City Council has reviewed the documentation supporting claims paid and approved all checks or warrants issued in payment of claims.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024.

AB 6534: Glenhome Water Main Easement Release (5602 East Mercer Way)

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to release a portion of easement (recording number 5183236) through a partial release of easement to be approved by the City Attorney substantially in the form of Exhibit 4.

AB 6537: Peace Day on Mercer Island, Proclamation No. 346

Recommended Action: Approve Proclamation No. 346 Proclamation September 21, 2024 as Peace Day on Mercer Island.

AB 6538: Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of One or More Series of Limited Tax General Obligation and Refunding Bonds to Finance and Refinance Projects of the Water Utility (Ord. No. 24-09 Second Reading)

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 24-09 authorizing the issuance of one or more series of limited tax general obligation and refunding Bonds to finance and refinance projects of the Water Utility.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Jacobson to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6529: AMI Data Collector Authorization

Deputy Public Works Director Alaine Sommargren presented an overview of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project, the permitting and public outreach processes, and the remaining three data collector stations locations.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Anderl to:

Authorize staff to apply for permits for the three remaining data collector stations, and if permits are approved, install and activate them for use with the AMI system

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6543: Town Center Parking Regulations Code Amendments (First Reading Ord. No. 24C-14)

Management Analyst Amelia Tjaden presented the code amendments to the Town Center Parking Regulations to establish the fee for parking citations at \$54.00 and to sunset the Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program.

City Attorney Bio Park noted the City's request to approve the ordinance on first reading to begin the process of sunsetting the Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

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

MOTION PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Jacobson)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 24C-14 establishing the fee for parking citations and sunsetting the Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program

MOTION PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Jacobson)

AB 6541: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update: Receive the City Council Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations and Complete Deliberations on the Proposed 2024 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations which included one Transportation Element policy to adopt the Town Center Parking Plan and its successors by reference and preparing a draft Economic Development Element with goals and policies. He discussed the City Manager recommendations related to parking goals and policies and sustainability and the environment in the Economic Development Element. Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the City Manager recommended amendments to the Economic Development, Land Use, Parks and Open Space, and Capital Facilities Elements related to cultural arts, emergency management, and ADA.

City Council discussed the proposals and asked questions.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

Add a new Transportation Element Policy 1.5 to adopt the current Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Plan by reference and its successors

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the Ad-Hoc Committee recommended amendment for item CC-88 and direct staff to incorporate into the 2024 City Council Draft Comprehensive Plan as contained in Exhibit 1.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve Ad-Hoc Committee recommended amendment for item CC-179 as contained in Exhibit 2 to allow for further City Council deliberation.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve City Manager recommended amendments to the Economic Development Element related to parking and direct staff to incorporate into the 2024 City Council Draft Comprehensive Plan as contained in Exhibit 3.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Instead of striking policy 10.3 in the Economic Development Element, replace it with the following text:

10.3 – For Town Center locations within line-of-sight and easy walking distance of high-speed EV charging facilities, encourage the development of businesses that appeal to people waiting for their car to charge.

MOTION FAILED: 3-4

FOR: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

AGAINST: 4 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, and Weiker)

MAIN MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve City Manager recommended amendments to the Economic Development Element related to sustainability and environment and direct staff to incorporate into the 2024 City Council Draft Comprehensive Plan as contained in Exhibit 4

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve City Manager recommended amendments to the Economic Development Element, Land Use Element, Parks and Open Space Element and Capital Facilities Element related to cultural arts, emergency management, and ADA and direct staff to incorporate into the 2024 City Council Draft Comprehensive Plan as contained in Exhibit 5

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

Amend Goal 5 of the economic development policy to replace the word “establish” with “consider establishing”

MOTION PASSED: 5-2

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Jacobson, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

AGAINST: 2 (Nice and Rosenbaum)

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the October meetings and reviewed the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget approval process. She also spoke about possible dates for the 2025 City Council Planning Session.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum thanked Councilmember Weinberg for attending the SCA PIC meeting. He noted that the PTA Council met last week and thanked staff for putting together all of the summer events that occurred on the island.

Councilmember Weiker thanked staff for the great presentations this evening and thanked the ad-hoc committee for their work.

Councilmember Weinberg noted there was a meeting of the King County Climate Coalition, an SCA PIC meeting, and an Arts Council Meeting. He also noted that his next monthly open lunch is on Saturday October 19 at Pagliacci and that anyone is welcome to come.

Councilmember Reynolds noted there was a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, and that he has let the Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Disability Board that he is interest in continuing on this board.

Councilmember Jacobson thanked the ad-hoc committee for their work and noted that Sophia’s Way has been making been making great progress in helping the homeless, and noted there was a Utility Board meeting.

City Council was in recess from 6:37 pm to 6:48 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:41 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.

The Executive Session was for planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) and to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Craig Reynolds, and Ted Weinberg participated in person. Councilmember Wendy Weiker was absent.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 7:34 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk