



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2020

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### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:01 pm, Mayor Wong convened an Executive Session for approximately 60 minutes to 1) discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and 2) 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)

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

City Manager Jessi Bon participated from City Hall and City Attorney Bio Park participated in the executive session from a remote location.

At 5:51 pm, Mayor Wong adjourned the Executive Session.

After a brief break, Council went into open session at 6:00 pm.

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Benson Wong called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

City Manager Bon and City Clerk Deborah Estrada participated remotely from separate rooms at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington. The Mercer Island City Leadership Team participated from remote locations.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wong led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Anderl 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)

### CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- COVID-19 Update
- Council & Boards & Commissions Updates:

- Virtual Meeting Schedule
- 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Schedule
- City Service Updates:
  - Playgrounds Are Open
  - Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed
  - MIFD Search & Rescue Team Returns from Deployment
  - MIFD Pink Patches for Breast Cancer Awareness
  - Automatic License Plate Reader Update
  - MICEC Parking Lot
  - Upcoming Election Information
  - Fall Recycling Event
  - Arbor Day
  - Website – Updated News and Public Notice Section
- Construction Updates
  - 2020 Water System Improvements Project
  - Summer Road Construction Wraps Up
- Other Updates
  - Don't Forget Your Annual Flu Shot
  - Drive-Thru Clinics Offered by SVNA
  - Support Mercer Island Businesses
  - Pop-Up StoryWalk
  - Call for Help Holiday Lights at Mercerdale

## APPEARANCES

Callie Ridolfi, Mercer Island – Addressed the recent release of the King County Strategic Climate Plan and volunteered to serve as Mercer Island's League of Women Voters Climate Team member.

Meg Lippert, Mercer Island – Encouraged community engagement for the proposed Thrift Shop remodel, explaining that no action should be taken without actively engaging area residents.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve **Accounts Payable** Reports:

- A. September 11, 2020 in the amount of \$914,868.59
- B. September 18, 2020 in the amount of \$194,000.26
- C. September 25, 2020 in the amount of \$275,197.72

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

Claims Reporting for Electronic Funds Transfers for the month ending August 31, 2020 in the amount of \$1,997,132.64

**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 September 25, 2020 in the amount of \$768,484.28

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

AB 5756: Arbor Day Proclamation No.257

**Recommended Action:** Mayor proclaims the third Saturday in October as Arbor Day in the City of Mercer Island.

AB 5762: Affordable Housing Week Proclamation No. 258

**Recommended Action:** Mayor proclaims October 12-16 as Affordable Housing Week in the City of Mercer Island

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Reynolds 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 5759: Extend Comprehensive Plan and Code Amendment Application Period**

Deputy CPD Director Alison Van Gorp explained that public notice of the docketing period was issued in the City's permit bulletin on August 10 and in the Mercer Island Reporter on August 19; however, both notices inadvertently omitted the term "code amendment", indicating that only comprehensive plan amendments, not code amendments were being invited. Adoption of Ordinance No. 20-15 would extend the deadline for submitting comprehensive plan and code amendment proposals to November 2, 2020, for 2020 only.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Weiker to:

**Adopt emergency Ordinance No. 20-15 to extend the Comprehensive Plan and code amendment application deadline to November 2, 2020.**

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)

### **AB 5757: ARCH 2021 Work Plan and Budget**

Deputy CPD Director Alison Van Gorp reviewed the ARCH budget, explaining that the budget totals \$1,155,261 and funds staffing, and other costs associated with implementing the work plan. The ARCH 2021 member city contributions would remain at 2020 levels with Mercer Island's share set at \$50,222. She went on to outline the ARCH Work Plan, explaining that the ARCH interlocal agreement would require each member city to approve the budget and work plan each year:

- Affordable Housing Investment
- Housing Policy and Planning
- Housing Program Implementation
- Education and Outreach
- Administration

Van Gorp also reviewed the City's contribution to the Housing Trust Fund, explaining that Mercer Island's Parity Goal range was \$18,146 to \$150,045 and that past contributions ranged between \$30,000 to \$96,000 per year.

Council discussed the allocation of funds for the ARCH administrative budget and HTF in the 2021-2022 budget process. Staff noted that formal action to allocate funds and approve the ARCH 2021 Work Plan were scheduled for the November 17 City Council meeting.

### **AB 5760: Additional Coronavirus Relief Funds Allocation for EOC Costs & Small Business Grant Program**

EOC Small Business Liaison Sarah Bluvus and EOC Grant Coordinator Merrill Thomas-Schadt reported that on September 2 the City received a second round of CARES Act funding in the amount of \$367,050. They presented a draft plan for allocating a portion of funding to a COVID-19 relief program to support local businesses impacted by the Pandemic. Bluvus discussed the established eligibility criteria and outlined the proposed Small Business Grant program's cash grant structure, noting that funds may only be used for business interruptions in response to the Coronavirus from March 1 to November 30, 2020.

Council discussed the program and directed staff to simplify its scope and eligibility criteria and use a lottery system to select grantees. Staff noted the requested changes and reported that the program would be brought back to Council on October 20 for approval, with authorization of grant awards authorized scheduled for the November 2 City Council meeting.

## **AB 5761: PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement**

Fire Chief Steve Heitman briefly summarized the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) history, to which Mercer Island is a member and has a seat on the Executive Board. The Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network Operator (PSERN) is the successor to the current emergency radio communications system. Instead of four separate public owners, a single public owner/operator would be created - the "PSERN Agency". Like EPSCA, the new PSERN Agency would be a nonprofit corporation and would be governed by an Executive Board. There would be four voting members, each with one vote. All voting members must agree for the Board to act, with limited exceptions.

Chief Heitman went on to explain that the new PSERN system is currently under construction and is expected to be fully operational at the end of 2022. At that time, the new PSERN Agency would assume ownership and control of the new system and the EPSCA system would no longer operate. The new PSERN will provide:

- Advanced digital technology and improved capacity, capability, and connectivity
- New 20+ year contract with vendor
- Single billing agency with uniform rates, operational standards, and system performance requirements
- Improved coverage throughout the county to accommodate population growth
- Updates, upgrades, and repairs of both system and dispatch consoles
- New end user radios (over 17,000).
- 24/7 Infrastructure support

Chief Heitman also outlined the radio rates, explaining that rates for PSERN agencies were expected to be within the range of rates previously charged. The cost allocation model for PSERN was adopted by the 12 owner agencies of the current King County Emergency Radio Communications System through the Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

**Approve Resolution No. 1583, authorizing the City Manager to sign the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Operator Interlocal Agreement creating the PSERN Operator, which will undertake the ownership, operations, maintenance, management and ongoing upgrades/replacement of the PSERN System.**

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)

## **AB 5758: Fire Services Study – Part 2**

City Manager Jessi Bon introduced Emily Moon, a local government management consultant, to discuss the presentation. The presentation highlighted modifications made to the July 2020 Fire Services Study, provided additional information in response to Council questions posed in July, and conveyed further analysis of Matrix Consulting's Group's recommendations and options.

Updates to the Draft Report included:

- Added background concerning use of overtime and overtime policies
- Removed recommendation to replace apparatus with a quint-style truck and modified the recommendation concerning online training
- Updated and corrected calculations and figures
- Provided more data concerning salary, benefits, leave time and overtime budgets/expenses/uses
- Modeled multiple years of staffing recommendations/options and of the contracting responses
- Provided additional information regarding the option of adding a dedicated aid car
- Added a short list of possible partial contracting options

Moon reviewed the Mercer Island Fire Department's five-year budget history, noting that the department's budget per capita and per employee were similar to the regional norm for urban, professional departments that also provide BLS. When reviewing the same time period and the department's overtime, she concluded that the department was at minimum staffing every day of the year and must use OT to maintain minimum staffing on most days.

Moon also looked at whether contracting would lead to better efficiency or effectiveness and her preliminary

inquiry and findings were as follows:

- Quality and level of service was unlikely to change significantly
- Productivity was unlikely to change
- Cost of service was unknown

Moon went on to explain that if the City Council decided to conduct an RFP process and commence further study of the contractual fire services alternative, it was important to outline the steps, identify the timeline, and determine the budget support needed.

Council discussed the recommended actions at length and some expressed concern for staff capacity, to which City Manager Bon and Chief Heitman acknowledged was a concern.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

**Accept the Fire Services Study Final Report and direct the City Manager to prepare a budget proposal to conduct an RFP process and commence further study of the contractual fire services alternative.**

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

Passed 4-3

FOR: 4 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, and Wong)

AGAINST: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Planning Schedule**

City Manager Bon reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and reminded Council that a special meeting was scheduled for October 13, wherein staff would review the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget.

### **Councilmember Absences**

There were no absences to report.

### **Councilmember Reports**

Councilmember Reynolds:

- The Seattle Storm won the WMBA Championship
- Participated in a K4C Meeting last week
- October 8 Public Hearing on coal power generating in Montana

Deputy Mayor Weiker reported that AWC put forward its 2020 legislative priorities and that SCA will not be far behind.

Mayor Wong reported that on September 29 he attended the relaunching of the YFS Healthy Youth Initiative.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, the Regular Video Meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Attest:

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Benson Wong, Mayor

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Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk