



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MARCH 3, 2026

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## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Dave Rosenbaum 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 Dave Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor Daniel Becker, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Julie Hsieh, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg attended in person.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Approve the agenda as presented.**

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

## STUDY SESSION

### **AB 6893: Compliance with Growth Management Hearings Board Order – Follow-Up Discussion on Financing Affordable Housing**

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Director Jeff Thomas and Community Attributes Senior Economist Elliott Weiss reviewed the two phases of the compliance strategy for complying with the ruling by the Growth Management Hearings Board that the City must make changes to its Comprehensive Plan to comply with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) by addressing the following four issues: land capacity, adequate provisions, transit station subarea plan, and anti-displacement policies.

They presented strategies for financing affordable housing including dedicating surplus property, enacting a local sales and use tax of up to 0.1 percent, dedicating general fund resources or using local resources to access additional funds to support a project, often through grants or loans. They also reviewed inclusionary Zoning which requires a percentage of units in a development project to meet an affordability requirement and fee in lieu which allows all or a portion of inclusionary zoning requirement to be met through paying a fee rather than including the affordable units in the development project.

Immediate next steps include a Community Information Session scheduled for March 10 and a Public Feedback Period that will occur through March 13. The City Council will continue reviewing public input and policy direction through spring and summer 2026 to meet the GMHB compliance deadline.

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:**
  - City Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Parks & Rec Commission – Thursday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Utility Board – Tuesday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m.
  - GMHB Information Session – Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m.

- **City Updates:**
  - Boards & Commissions Recruitment
  - Transportation Feedback Needed for Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan
  - Sewer Lakeline Blockage Recap
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Senior Resource Fair on Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
  - Coffee with a Cop on Saturday, March 7, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
  - Family Movie Night on Friday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m.
  - Light Rail Opening Community Celebration on Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- **News:**
  - MIYFS Foundation's Giving From the Heart fundraising breakfast

## **APPEARANCES**

Chuck Speece, AFSCME Council 2 Staff Representative, summarized the contract negotiations to date, its impact, and a desire to develop a contract that retains existing employees and recruits the best candidates.

Scott Heath, City of Mercer Island Support Services Foreman and AFSCME Union President, read an email into the record and expressed concern on behalf of the AFSCME Union members regarding its impact on their contract negotiations.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026.

### **AB 6873: February 25, 2026 Payroll Certification**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the January 23, 2026 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$1,050,943.25 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **AB 6873: February 25, 2026 Payroll Certification**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the February 25, 2026 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$968,132.02 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **AB 6874: Certification for Claims Paid February 1, 2026 through February 15, 2026**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the February 1, 2026 through February 15, 2026 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$3,314,418.50 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **AB 6858: Second Modification to the Interlocal Agreement for the Independent Force Investigation Team of King County (IFIT-KC).**

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager to sign the Second Modification to the interlocal agreement between regional law enforcement agencies for the Independent Force Investigation Team of King County.

### **AB 6875: Forged Fiber 37, LLC Telecommunications Franchise Agreement (Ord. No. 26-01; Second Reading and Adoption)**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Ordinance No. 26-01, approving a telecommunications franchise agreement with Forged Fiber 37, LLC.

### **AB 6876: Island Crest Way Corridor Improvements Trail Easement**

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager to relinquish a portion of the pathway easement (recording number 7812260677) in exchange for a new wider trail easement, both to be approved by the City Attorney substantially in the form of Exhibits 2 and 3.

### **AB 6877: Safe Streets and Roads for All Program Grant Agreement**

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager to accept the Fiscal Year 2024 Safe Street and Roads for All Grant Program award in Exhibit 1 and execute all agreements and amendments related to the grant program.

**AB 6878: Reservoir Standby Generator Replacement Project Closeout**

**Recommended Action:** Accept the completed Reservoir Standby Generator Replacement Project (WU0119/90.40.0038) and authorize staff to close out the project.

**AB 6879: Open Space Conservancy Trust 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan**

**Recommendation:** Accept the 2025 Open Space Conservancy Trust Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan.

**AB 6889: Virtual Coordination Center Interlocal Agreement with WSDOT**

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager to execute the interlocal agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for participation in the Virtual Coordination Center (VCC) as attached as Exhibit 1.

**AB 6890: Legislative Review Alternatives to Help City Meet GMHB Order Compliance Deadline (Ordinance No. 26C-03 Second Reading)**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Ordinance No. 26C-03 delegating to the Hearing Examiner the authority to hold quasi-judicial open record public hearings, and to review and make recommendations on site-specific rezones to the City Council.

**AB 6892: Facilities Planning Appropriation Request**

**Recommended Action:** Appropriate \$253,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the City Facilities Planning Project to support ongoing facility planning efforts, including revisiting renovation cost estimates for the City Hall and Public Works buildings; completing the PSM Facility project review; advancing additional space planning for the 9655 Building; and supporting associated environmental, geotechnical, and project management services.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**AB 6880: Public Hearing on Interim Regulations in MICC 19.16.010 Related to Emergency Shelters and Housing, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing (Ordinance No. 26-02, First Reading)**

Mayor Rosenbaum opened the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

There being no public comment, Mayor Rosenbaum closed the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

CPD Director Jeff Thomas and Senior Planner Molly McGuire presented Ordinance No. 26-02 to extend the current interim regulations that amend provisions of the Mercer Island City Code related to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing to remain compliant with Washington House Bill 1220 for an additional six months.

They explained that the City Council originally adopted interim regulations in September 2021 to meet state requirements that prohibit cities from restricting these types of housing in certain residential or hotel-permitted zones and require reasonable siting regulations that do not limit the ability to meet projected housing needs. These interim rules, which govern definitions and siting of social service transitional housing and special needs group housing, have been renewed multiple times and are set to expire on April 2, 2026.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Schedule Ordinance No. 26-02 for second reading on March 17, 2026**

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

### **AB 6881: Review of City Facility Strategy Community Survey Results**

City Manager Jessi Bon, Senior Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham Adams, and Ian Stewart, with Fulcrum Strategy Group, presented the results of a statistically valid resident survey conducted in January 2026 to gather community input following the failure of the November 2025 bond measure to fund a proposed Public Safety and Maintenance Facility, which received 54.61% voter approval but did not meet the 60% threshold required for passage.

The survey, developed with input from a Council Ad-Hoc Committee and conducted between January 28 and February 11, 2026, completed 400 interviews with a representative sample of residents, producing a margin of error of  $\pm 4.9\%$ . Staff further reported that the results, along with responses from an additional open community survey that was available to all residents through March 1, would help inform future policy discussions and facility replacement strategies, including consideration of a potential future bond measure as early as November 2026. It was noted that the survey findings would serve as one component of the City's broader community engagement effort regarding long-term public safety and maintenance facility planning.

### **AB 6872: Sustainability Work Program Annual Update**

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner, Public Works Deputy Director Kelly Hilde, and Sustainability Program Manager Alanna DeRogatis provided an update on progress implementing the Sustainability Program Work Plan for the 2025–2026 biennium, which advances the goals of the City's Mercer Island Climate Action Plan adopted in 2023. Staff explained that the plan outlines 59 actions across six focus areas designed to help the City meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets of 50% by 2030 and 95% by 2050 compared to 2007 levels. Currently, 76% of CAP actions are underway or ongoing. They noted that the 2024 GHG inventory showed community-wide emissions declined slightly (0.7%) compared to 2023 and are now 8% below the 2007 baseline, while municipal emissions decreased by 14% due largely to operational changes.

Sustainability Program Manager DeRogatis further reported that major initiatives during the biennium included development of an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan funded through a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, implementation of a municipal fleet electrification strategy, expansion of the Energy Smart Eastside heat pump incentive program, and a successful community Green Power Challenge in partnership with Puget Sound Energy that exceeded participation goals and secured funding for a community solar project.

Sustainability Program Manager DeRogatis noted that key upcoming efforts include completing the EV Charging Infrastructure Plan, developing an environmentally preferable purchasing policy, advancing energy efficiency upgrades such as a potential electrified HVAC replacement at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center, and supporting compliance with state building performance standards.

### **AB 6836: Electric Vehicle Charging Plan Development Update**

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner, Public Works Deputy Director Kellye Hilde, Sustainability Program Manager Alanna DeRogatis, and Eleanor Garrett, with EXP U.S. Services, explained that the City is developing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Plan to support transportation-related greenhouse gas reductions identified in the Mercer Island Climate Action Plan adopted in 2023. With \$100,000 in funding from a Climate Planning Grant provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce, the City began work on the plan in 2025 with consulting support from EXP U.S. Services, Inc. and ElectroTempo.

The first phase, completed in June 2025, focuses on electrifying the City's municipal fleet and includes a long-term transition strategy evaluating costs, emissions reductions, and infrastructure needs. Analysis indicates that fully electrifying the fleet would require approximately 64 charging ports across the City's municipal facilities and could generate an estimated \$1.2 million in net savings over time due to reduced fuel and maintenance costs, despite higher upfront vehicle and infrastructure investments.

The next phase of the plan, currently underway and expected to be completed in June 2026, will expand the strategy to address community-wide EV charging infrastructure and support broader EV adoption. This work includes forecasting EV adoption rates, identifying priority locations for new public charging stations, evaluating grid capacity in coordination with Puget Sound Energy, and exploring policies to encourage charging installation at commercial and multifamily properties. The plan will also consider innovative strategies such as vehicle-to-building charging, solar integration, and battery storage to improve energy resilience. Once finalized, the EV Charging Infrastructure Plan will guide future investments, partnerships, and policy decisions to expand charging access, support municipal fleet electrification, and advance Mercer Island's long-term climate and emissions reduction goals.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Councilmember Absences and Reports**

Councilmember Weiker reported that she would participate remotely in the March 17 meeting and may have to leave early.

Councilmember Weinberg noted he has completed 11 of the planned 14 day trips to Olympia this legislative session and that his next monthly open lunch is at Vivian's Bistro on March 15.:

Councilmember Hsieh noted that she and Deputy Mayor Becker attended the Puget Sound Regional Council Conference for Newly Elected Officials. She also noted attendance at the Sound Cities Association networking event and that she spoke at a local retirement community about how to engage with the City. Her next Community Chat is on March 22 at The Rock, and noted there are two upcoming cultural and music events at Mercer Island High School in March.

Mayor Rosenbaum noted that Coffee and Conversations, sponsored by the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce and Port of Seattle, is on March 4, and that the Eastside Mayors are meeting next week to talk about the Sound Transit Expansion.

City Council was in recess from 8:05 pm – 8:10 pm.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:10 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum 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 for approximately 15 minutes until 8:25 pm.

Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Mayor David Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor Daniel Becker, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Julie Hsieh, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg participated via Microsoft Teams.

At 8:25 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for an additional five minutes to 8:30 pm.

At 8:30 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for an additional five minutes to 8:35 pm.

Mayor Rosenbaum adjourned the Executive Session at 8:35 pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attest:

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Dave Rosenbaum, Mayor

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Deborah Estrada, Deputy City Clerk