



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 5:30 PM

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present. Deputy Mayor Salim Nice and Councilmember David Wisenteiner were absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Bassett to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

STUDY SESSION

5613: Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan Review

Interim Parks & Recreation Director Ryan Daly, Capital Projects and Planning Manager Paul West, Public Works Director Jason Kintner, and Arts & Culture Recreation Coordinator Sarah Bluvas discussed the content of the draft Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan (“ADMP”) and outlined recommended revisions based on public input and additional analysis made by the planning team.

Staff reviewed the recommended revisions to the Draft ADMP, addressing the following:

- Planting Character
- Water Conservation
- Trail Width
- Trail Ballfield Conflict Zone
- Soft Surface Trails
- New Restroom
- Dog Off-Leash Area

Staff further explained that the Draft ADMP includes cost estimates and three levels of prioritization. After discussing staff recommendations at length, Council directed staff to add one more meeting to the planning schedule for more discussion prior to the ADMP’s final adoption.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

AB 5618: Domestic Violence Action Month Proclamation No. 247

Youth and Family Services Senior Programs Manager and Clinical Supervisor Derek Franklin introduced Ms. Rachel Krinsky, Executive Director from Lifewire, a partner agency that provides specific service including victim advocacy, safety planning, 24-hour crisis response, and technical consultation.

Mayor Bertlin presented the proclamation and proclaimed October 2019 as Domestic Violence Action Month and urged all residents to speak out against domestic violence and support efforts to prevent and end domestic abuse and the indifference that sustains it

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Public Works Director and Acting City Manager Jason Kintner reported on the following:

- Unoccupied Tent in Aubrey Davis Park
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) Kickoff
- Caspar Babypants Event at the Mercer Island Community & Events Center
- Construction on the East Seattle Partners Office Building
- Arbor Day Celebration and Volunteer Event on Saturday, October 19 in Homestead Park
- Holiday Lights were strung on the sequoia tree and hedges at Mercerdale Park for the holiday season.

APPEARANCES

Sue Stewart thanked the City Council for inviting comments and agreed with concerns regarding the bike and pedestrian pathway.

Victor Raisys addressed the Comprehensive Plan amendments and expressed concern regarding the six pages on sustainability versus the one page on community development. He asked that Council strike the word "continued" from Goal 14.

Dan Thompson expressed disappointment in the length of the City Council agendas explaining that it works against transparency. He further noted that he never saw a Councilmember present at the ADMP open house events.

Jackie Dunbar reported that she attended each of the ADMP open house events noting that the ADMP was misleading. She agreed with Mr. Thompson that four days was not sufficient time to review a 400-page agenda bill.

Callie Ridolfi thanked Council for adopting a goal to reduce green house emissions and encouraged Council to continue evaluating and measuring the City's greenhouse emission levels and encouraging community participation.

Jeff Lippens spoke in opposition to the bus intercept and expressed that the Council was moving in the wrong direction on economic development. He further noted that he thought it was critical that Islanders understand the intent of Councilmembers as the election draws near.

Ira Appleman expressed his displeasure with how the City is negotiating with Sound Transit, referencing the 2004 amendment to the 1976 agreement and explaining that the problem is more expensive than what Sound Transit agreed to pay.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payroll: \$852,778.37 (10/11/2019)

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

AB 5614: HB 1406 Resolution No. 1568 - Shared Revenue for Affordable Housing

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 1568 declaring the intent of the Council to adopt legislation to authorize a sales and use tax for affordable housing and supportive services.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5617: 2019 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (1st Reading)

Community Planning & Development Director Evan Maxim outlined the Comprehensive Plan Amendment review process, proposed amendments, and the four amendments docketed in November 2018, which included:

1. Town Center subarea designations
2. Climate change
3. Economic development
4. Multi-modal transportation

City Council discussed the Planning Commission's recommendations at length, made several changes to the proposed amendments, and directed staff to consult with the Planning Commission's leadership on revised amendments as appropriate and bring the amendments back to Council for consideration.

AB 5619: Draft 2020 Legislative Priorities

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz presented the draft 2020 City of Mercer Island State Legislative Priorities for the Council's review. She noted that the 2020 priorities are based off last year's priorities, but have been updated to reflect current conditions, interests, and goals of the City Council:

- Transportation Funding
- Sustainable Local Funding
- Maintaining Local Control
- Protecting Our Health
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Wong to:

Adopt the 2020 City of Mercer Island State Legislative Priorities as amended.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

AB 5586: Code Amendments Related to Business Licenses

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz presented amendments to the code regulating business licenses to bring the City in alignment with Washington State's Business License System (BLS). She explained that legislation passed in 2017 requires all jurisdictions administering business licenses to use the State's system or FileLocal. Since BLS is free, the City moved to the system on October 10.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Anderl to:

Suspend the City Council Rules of Procedures Section 6.3 requiring a second reading of an ordinance.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 19C-13, amending Chapter 5 of the Mercer Island City Code related to business licenses.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz reviewed the agendas for the October 24 special joint meeting and the November 4 regular meeting.

Councilmember Absences & Reports

Deputy Mayor Nice and Councilmember Wisenteiner's absences were excused.

Councilmember Bassett reported on the K4C Elected Officials Summit at the Community Center on October 23 and the SCA's Networking Dinner on October 30.

Councilmember Wong reported on Mr. Bryan Cairns Celebration of Life held on October 12.

Councilmember Anderl reported on Mr. Kirk Robinson's Memorial Service scheduled for October 24.

Mayor Bertlin reported on Ms. Meredythe Glass' Celebration of Life

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:01 pm, Mayor Bertlin convened an Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) approximately 30 minutes.

At 10:33 pm, Mayor Bertlin came out of Executive Session and reported that Council would continue in closed session for approximately 10 minutes.

At 10:43 pm, Mayor Bertlin adjourned the Executive Session.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Anderl to:

Authorize the City Manager to prepare and delivery the City's response to Metro's March 10, 2019 letter to Sound Transit, consistent with discussions in Executive Session.

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 2 (Nice and Wisenteiner)

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:44 pm.

Attest:

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Deborah Estrada, City Clerk