



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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.

Mayor Benson Wong was absent.

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

At 5:50 pm, Deputy Mayor Weiker adjourned the Executive Session.

After a brief break and resolving several technology problems, Council went into open session at 6:13 pm.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Weiker called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm from a remote location.

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.

Mayor Benson Wong was absent.

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

Councilmember Jacobson led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

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

Passed 6-0

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

Absent: 1 (Wong)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- Remembering MIYFS Foundation Board Member Maitreyi Krishnaswamy
- COVID-19 Update

- Council and Boards & Commissions Updates
 - Virtual Meeting Schedule
 - Parks & Recreation Commission Back to Work Virtually
 - 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Schedule
- City Services Updates
 - Monday's House Fire
 - Reminder: Docket Proposal Period Extended
 - Thrift Shop Update, Donations Update, & Volunteers Needed
 - Med Takeback Event – October 24
 - Luther Burbank Docks Open House
 - Fall Recycling Event & YFS Fundraiser – October 17
 - Arbor Day
 - Mask Giveaway Events
 - MIFD Assists Residents with Flood Yard
 - Expanding Staff Certifications – Casey Leyde (WDM3)
- Other Updates
 - Winter Storm Information Page
 - Upcoming Election Information
 - Safety Reminders from MIFD
 - October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month
 - Holiday Lights at Mercerdale Update

APPEARANCES

Addie Smith, Mercer Island – reported that she and her daughter are hate crime survivors and have experienced racism on the Island several times. She spoke in opposition to Automatic License Readers, noting that they were too expensive.

Meg Lippert, Mercer Island – Lippert spoke in opposition to expanding the Thrift Store/Recycling Center footprint at Mercerdale Park and encouraged Council to put all parkland into a conservancy. She also suggested that the Recycling Center could be in the back of City Hall, on city land, adjacent to available parking.

Ira Appelman, Mercer Island – Appelman expressed concern that the City did not notice the Mercerdale Park neighbors about the proposed Thrift Store expansion. He also spoke in opposition to the expansion of the Thrift Store.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Accounts Payable Reports for the periods ending:

A. October 2, 2020 in the amount of \$841,480.16

B. October 9, 2020 in the amount of \$606,901.46

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

Certification of Payroll dated October 9, 2020 in the amount of \$712,809.60

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

Approve Minutes of the following meetings:

A. September 15, 2020 Regular Video Meeting

B. September 22, 2020 Special Video Meeting

AB 5763: One-Year Extension to the 2018-2020 Police & Police Support Collective Bargaining Agreements

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to sign the Extension Agreements for the 2018-2020 Police and Police Support Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Mercer Island Police Association for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Anderl to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker

Absent: 1 (Wong)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5768: Public Hearing - 2021-2022 Biennial Budget

Deputy Mayor Weiker opened the public hearing at 7:04 pm.

Ira Appelman, Mercer Island – Reported that his was the twelfth Biennial Budget presentation that he has participated and expressed his support for the police budget with the addition of two police officers, as presented by Chief Holmes. He went on to outline how long it takes to onboard a new police officer and reiterated prioritizing police safety.

There being no additional comments by the public, Deputy Mayor Weiker closed the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

AB 5764: Cultural Competency Trainings and Community Listening Sessions Appropriation

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz reviewed with City Council its previous direction regarding Cultural Competency Training. Three virtual trainings, “Understanding Implicit Bias and the Impact of Racial Stereotyping” are scheduled for November 12 and 16, and December 4. Community Listening Sessions will be scheduled in the first quarter of 2021 at a cost of \$10,000. Staff will schedule City Councilmembers and board and commission members in the trainings and dates for community listening session will be publicized once established.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Appropriate \$20,000 from the available fund balance in the General Fund for (1) cultural competency trainings for City Councilmembers and boards and commissions members and (2) community listening session on race and social justice.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker

Absent: 1 (Wong)

AB 5767: Additional Coronavirus Relief Funds Allocation for EOC Costs & Small Business Grant Program

Sarah Bluvus, EOC Small Business Liaison, explained that the purpose of the agenda bill was to accept the additional award of \$367,050 through Washington State’s Coronavirus Relief Funds, made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, and to seek approval to allocate \$270,000 of the funding to a COVID-19 relief grant program for Mercer Island businesses.

She went on to explain that the lottery system, which included:

- City staff evaluate applications based on the established eligibility criteria.
- All eligible applicants were sorted into one of three pools according to priorities outlined in the program scope.
- Funds would be allocated based on the pool priorities, with awardees selected by lottery from Pool 1, then Pool 2, then Pool 3.
- Once the lottery selection is completed, a committee comprised of City staff and City Council liaisons will conduct a final review of the awards to ensure eligibility.
- The internal committee would then present the outcome of the lottery process to the City Council for review and approval on November 2, 2020.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Authorize the City Manager to accept CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds from Washington State in the amount of \$367,050.

Passed 6-0

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

Absent: 1 (Wong)

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Appropriate \$270,000 to fund the Mercer Island COVID-19 Relief for Small Businesses Grant Program.

Passed 6-0

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

Absent: 1 (Wong)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Appropriate \$97,050 to support the City's emergency operation in response to the Pandemic.

Passed 6-0

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

Absent: 1 (Wong)

AB 5768: Receive the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget

Matt Mornick, Interim Finance Director, provided a brief budget recap explaining that the City Council received the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget on September 30 and began its review of the preliminary budget on October 13, 2020.

Mornick went on to outline the following:

- 2021-2022 Expenditure Budget is \$142.4 million
- Funding for Staff Positions (New/Restored Positions, Unemployment Costs)
- General Fund Surplus
- Department Overviews:
 - Public Works/Operations
 - Recreation Transition Team
 - Youth and Family Services
 - Capital Improvement Program
 - Financing Strategy
 - Proposed Expenditures & Revenues
 - Capital Funds
 - REET
 - I-976 Update
 - Utility Rates Update
 - Overview of Capital Projects:
 - Public Buildings
 - Vehicles & Equipment
 - Technology
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Streets, Pedestrians, & Bikes
 - Sewer, Storm Water, Water Utilities

Mornick concluded his presentation and reviewed the next steps in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Process:

- November 2
 - Address follow-up questions.
 - Prioritize budget proposals for potential use of Unassigned General Fund Balance.
- November 17
 - Address follow-up questions.
 - Adopt Property Tax Levy, NORCOM rates, and Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Utility rate increases per Utility Board recommendations.
- December 1
 - Return with final 2021-2022 Biennial Budget for City Council adoption.

City Manager Bon recommended that Council bring back the children's program first as part of the Recreation Transition Plan. She also explained that staff intend to review cost recovery for off Islander rentals.

Council asked questions and discussed the preliminary budget at length.

Council Consensus to add the following items to the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget:

- Direct staff to add \$400K per year for one-time start-up to restore recreational programming for consideration as part of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget
- Commit \$50K to create Micro police station in the Tully's building.

City Manager Bon reported that staff would return on November 2 to discuss items that came out of the last two meetings and discuss appropriation of the General Fund surplus and one-time funds. She further reported that staff are developing an Excel spreadsheet (calculator) that will allow Council to turn the budget proposals on and off and see how they impact the various funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Bon reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule:

- Monday, November 2 is a Special Video Meeting that will include a Study Session with the City's Bond Counsel
- November 17 - Final Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget
- December 1 - Budget Adoption is scheduled
- December 19 – may be canceled

Councilmember Absences

Mayor Wong's absence was excused.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Anderl provided an update on the previous two Utility Board meetings and the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board meeting.

Councilmember Jacobson reported that the Parks & Recreation Meeting is meeting on November 5 and the Eastside Transportation Partnership will meet on October 21.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the Regular Video Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Attest:

Wendy Weiker, Deputy Mayor

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk