



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING – PLANNING SESSION MARCH 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Salim Nice called the Special Hybrid Meeting to order at 9:00 am 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 Jake Jacobson, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg participated in person in the Slater Room Council Chambers. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl joined via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 7-0

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

PLANNING SESSION BUSINESS

AB 6418: Review and Update of City Council Priorities

City Manager Jessi Bon gave a brief introduction on the City Council priorities. She noted that Councilmembers were encouraged to submit suggestions for the 2025-2026 priorities in advance of the Planning Session and the suggestions were compiled into Exhibit 1 to AB 6418.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt the priorities as listed in Exhibit 1 to AB 6418 effective March 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Amend the previous motion to remove priorities #1 and #2 as listed in Exhibit 1 to AB 6418 and to keep priority #3 from the existing priorities.

Motion to amend FAILED: 3-4

FOR: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

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

Main motion FAILED: 3-4

FOR: 3 (Anderl, Jacobson, and Nice)

AGAINST: 4 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Maintain priorities #2-4 from the 2023-2024 priorities and add priority #5 from Exhibit 1 for AB 6418 as priority #1 for 2025-2026.

PASSED: 7-0

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

The draft 2025-2026 priorities for City Council review and approval at a future meeting are as follows:

- Priority 1 *Engage the qualified expertise necessary to provide the guidance to enable the development of a comprehensive long-range plan for Town Center which recognizes, addresses, and balances business, housing, and parking uses.*
- Priority 2 *Sustain and enhance our natural environment, especially parks and open spaces, to benefit this generation and others that follow.*
- Priority 3 *Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.*
- Priority 4 *Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.*

AB 6419: 2024 Legislative Session Update

Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham-Adams spoke about the legislative priorities that City Council adopted in 2023, discussed the engagement between City staff, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, lobbyists, regional partners, and state representatives during the 2023 legislative session. He discussed the bills that Mayor Nice testified on, the funding request that was made for Marine Patrol funding, and requests that the City made for public safety programs and sustainability. Management Analyst Cunningham-Adams spoke about the police pursuits initiative, discussed the housing and land use bills that have been before the legislature, and about potential work plan impacts.

City Council discussed the legislative session and asked questions of staff.

2025-2026 Preliminary Work Plan Discussion

AB 6415: Work Plan Update

City Manager Bon highlighted work completed in 2023, including:

- 2023 Legislative Session
- Regionalization of fire services with Eastside Fire & Rescue
- Shoreline restoration work at Luther Burbank.
- Intersection improvements at Sunset Highway and 77th Ave intersection
- Opening of the Bike Skills area at Deane's Children's Park
- YFS fentanyl awareness programming in partnership with the DEA covering the dangers of fentanyl
- Adoption of the Climate Action Plan
- Adoption of the Town Center Parking Plan
- Partnership with MIYFS Foundation
- Riley Cove dedication
- MI Thrift Shop increase in daily revenue, new dressing rooms, and increased volunteer and production hours
- Police Department's Removal of a derelict boat from Lake Washington
- Drug take back events
- Seafair 2023
- Emergency management training
- Summer Celebration and special events that returned in 2023.

City Manager Bon discussed the challenges the City faced in 2023 including the permanent closure of City Hall and a water emergency in April of 2023.

City Manager Bon spoke about 2024 Work Plan items including:

- Automated Water Meter Project that will deploy 7,900 new water meters on the Island
- SCADA equipment project
- Water reservoir improvements being completed on both reservoirs
- East Seattle neighborhood water improvement project
- Sewer Basin 40 project that is installing 12,000 feet of cured-in-place piping
- Luther Burbank Dock and Waterfront project
- Periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan
- Financial management software implementation.

City Manager Bon spoke about the work that has been postponed or delayed including:

- Mercerdale Park Master Plan
- Groveland/Clark Joint Master Plan
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan
- Park Land Acquisition Strategy

City Manager Bon spoke about the facilities conditions assessments work related to the Luther Burbank Administrative Building, the MICEC Annex, the Fire Stations, and the Mercer Island Community & Event Center will be completed by the end of 2026.

City Manager Bon presented a preliminary review of the 2025-2026 Work Plan highlighting that the replacement of City Hall and the Public Works Building is the highest priority and will require dedicated staff and City Council time this year and into the next biennium. She spoke about the further development of the work plans that will occur during the Biennial Budget discussions in the fall.

City Council discussed the presentation and asked questions.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Direct the City Manager to collaborate with the Mercer Island School District Superintendent and bring to the joint meeting of the City Council and the School Board on March 21st a Letter of Intent between the City and the School District to update and expand the Interlocal Agreement for Fuel Purchase by July 31, 2024. The updated ILA must include the development of a plan and timeline to fund, design, construct, operate, and maintain an electric vehicle fast charger facility. The facility must be sufficient in scale to provide the daily charging needs of the EV fleets of both the City and the School District. The updated ILA must also include the development of a long-term plan for the expansion of the facility to keep pace with the forecast growth of both fleets.

FAILED: 1-6

FOR: 1 (Weinberg)

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

City Council was in recess from 10:31 am – 10:43 am.

AB 6420: City Facilities Discussion

City Manager Bon discussed the future for City Facilities. She provided a background of the long-range facility planning work that began in 2023 and delayed with the permanent closure of City Hall. She provided an overview of City Hall and the Public Works property and facilities housed on this property and the forecasted preliminary space needs for the City Hall teams and Public Works teams.

City Manager Bon discussed the need to prioritize public facilities for the Police Department, Public Works, and the Emergency Operations Center in the first phase. She discussed potential goals for long-range facilities for City Council to consider.

City Council discussed City facilities and provided feedback.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Direct the City Manager to commence planning for the provision of a new Public Safety and Maintenance Building on the current City Hall campus to include delivery of a preliminary scope and cost estimate in Q2 2024.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6428: Land Use Planning Work Plan Discussion

CPD Director Jeff Thomas provided an overview of the Community Planning & Development department and all the functions for which they are responsible. He discussed the current prioritization of the Land Use

Planning Work Plan, spoke about the state mandated code amendments that are currently on the work plan, discussed the interim regulations that need to be either renewed or adopted as permanent regulations, and discussed the docketed items from 2023.

City Council discussed the CPD Work Plan.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Change the prioritization of land use planning work to move docketed items #3 before interim regulations #4.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Direct the City Manager to bring a proposal to City Council at its regular meeting on April 2, aiming to reconstitute the Planning Commission. The new composition shall include four (4) land use professionals not affiliated with Mercer Island entities or interests, to be compensated for their dedicated time, and three (3) laypersons who are Mercer Island residents. The proposal must specify the effective date, detail the range of the number of meetings that will occur annually, outline the annual cost, and describe any necessary amendments to the Mercer Island Municipal Code (MICC).

PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Reynolds)

City Council was in recess from 11:57am – 1:02pm

AB 6428: Land Use Planning Work Plan Discussion – continued

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Direct the City Manager to add a planner position to the Community Planning and Development Department for the remainder of 2024 at a total cost not to exceed \$110,000. This position will be further considered during the 2025-2026 biennial budget process deliberations.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Direct CPD staff to place 23-18 as number 1 on the priority list and 23-15 as priority number 2 within their category.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Nice to:

Amend main motion to place 23-15 as priority number 1, and 23-18 as priority number 2 within their category.

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED: 3-3-1

FOR: 3 (Anderl, Jacobson, and Nice)

AGAINST: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Weinberg)

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS MADE: 5-0-2

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)

ABSTAIN: 2 (Jacobson and Weinberg)

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Nice to:

Direct the City Manager to prepare interim regulations regarding docket item No. 23-15 - Temporary use or structure permits, as soon as reasonably possible.

PASSED: 5-0-2

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

ABSTAIN: 2 (Rosenbaum and Weinberg)

AB 6417: 2023 Community Member of the Year Nomination

City Clerk Andrea Larson walked City Council through the nomination process for the 2023 Community Member of the Year.

Councilmember Jacobson nominated James and Doris Cassan and Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nominated Cantor Bradlee Kurland. They each spoke to their nominees. The Council discussed honoring both nominees.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Waive the City Council Rules of Procedure for Community Member of the Year.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Select James and Doris Cassan and Cantor Bradlee Kurland as the 2023 Community Members of the Year.

PASSED: 7-0

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

Staff will coordinate with the Cassan and Kurland families to coordinate recognition at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

AB 6416: Review of City Council Rules of Procedure

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz discussed the proposed amendments to the City Council Rules of Procedure. She noted that the amendments are from staff and two Councilmembers. To facilitate the review of the amendments, the matrix that was attached as Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 was split into two matrices: one that contained amendments that were correcting grammar, locations, and/or updating current practices that could be adopted in one motion and another listing amendments that warranted Council discussion.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

Adopt amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, ~~23, 24, 25~~, 26, 27, ~~28~~, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63 as listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Amend main motion to pull amendments 23, 24, 25, and 28 as listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 to be discussed individually.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: 5-2

FOR: 5 (Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

AGAINST: 2 (Anderl and Jacobson)

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 23 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 4-3

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

AGAINST: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 24 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

FAILED: 2-5

FOR: 2 (Jacobson and Nice)

AGAINST: 5 (Anderl, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 25 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 4-3
FOR: 4 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, and Rosenbaum)
AGAINST: 3 (Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 28 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.
FAILED: 2-5
FOR: 2 (Jacobson and Rosenbaum)
AGAINST: 5 (Anderl, Nice, Reynolds, Weiker, and Weinberg)

Councilmember Reynolds asked if Councilmembers should periodically repeat the Code of Ethics presentation.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Nice to:
Add to the end of Section 1.5 “to be repeated no less than once every 4 years.”
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:
Adopt amendment No. 5 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 7 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 as amended.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

Councilmember Reynolds withdrew amendment 17.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 20 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 31 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 32 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:
Adopt amendment No. 33 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 as amended.
PASSED: 6-1
FOR: 6 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)
AGAINST: 1 (Weinberg)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Jacobson to:
Amend the language in Section 7.A in the Rules of Procedure as follows:
Channel communications-Communicate through the appropriate department director with a copy to the City ManagerCity staff.
PASSED: 7-0
FOR: 7 (Anderl, Jacobson, Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:
Adopt amendment No. 41 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt amendment No. 45 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 as amended.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt amendment No. 48 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Weinberg)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 49 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt amendment No. 50 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 as amended.

PASSED: 7-0

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

City Council was in recess from 3:26pm – 3:36pm.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 51 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Adopt amendment No. 54 listed in Exhibit 2 to AB 6416 as amended.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Nice to:

Amend the language in Appendix D.F in the Rules of Procedure as follows:

All responsive staff correspondence is copied to all members of the City Council, regardless of to whom it was addressed.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Change all references of “they” and “their” to “he/she” and “his/hers” throughout the Rules of Procedure.

FAILED: 1-6

FOR: 1 (Jacobson)

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Anderl to:

Change all actions to “shall” throughout the Rules of procedure (will to shall, may to shall, should to shall, is/are to shall be).

FAILED: 1-6

FOR: 1 (Jacobson)

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Capitalize “boards” and “commissions” and “committee” throughout the Rules of Procedure.

FAILED: 2-5

FOR: 2 (Andrel and Jacobson)

FOR: 5 (Nice, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

The City Council will next review the City Council Rules of Procedure at its Planning Session in 2027 and every odd year after that, unless warranted by a necessary change.

PASSED: 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Jacobson)

Staff will bring the amendments to a future Council meeting for review and final approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk