



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:01 pm, Mayor Wong convened an Executive Session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

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 6:24 pm, Mayor Wong adjourned the Executive Session.

After a brief break, Council went into open session at 6:31 pm.

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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 Zoom.

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

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson 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)

## APPEARANCES

Meg Lippert, Mercer Island – Spoke in support of protecting Mercerdale Park and encouraged Council to consider alternatives to dropping a prefab building on public parkland. She suggested one or two prefabs on the empty land surround City Hall, thereby keeping the entire Thrift Shop drop off location off of public park land.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

### AB 5753: Update on Thrift Shop Facility Study – Investigation and Estimates

Public Works Director Jason Kintner and Sr. Project Manager Gareth Reece gave an overview of the Thrift Shop Operations and its conceptual options and cost estimates.

The update on Thrift Shop Operations included:

- Partial Re-Opening (Sundays only)
- Additional Safety Measures (30% occupancy, social distancing, masks, and customer traffic management)
- Donation Processing Update (no donation since February, Pandemic requires more processing space)

- Prioritizing Additional Re-Opening of Thrift Shop (Anticipate more hours in October)
- Volunteers needed
- Staff Evaluating 2-building Operation

Staff reviewed the project goals and two development options for consideration, noting that costs related to each facility are estimated separately so options can be combined or modified:

- Option A – Retail Emphasis (\$1,420,000 total estimate; 30% contingency)
  - Expands retail space by approximately 1,920 square feet
  - Opens floor space to reduce interruption of retail area
  - Relocates processing to the existing Recycling Center location
  - Processing remains within existing roof overhang of Recycle Center – approximately 2,000 sq ft
- Option B – Production Emphasis (\$1,200,000 total estimate; 15% contingency)
  - Slightly smaller interior remodel of the Thrift Shop
  - Structural walls remain, reducing the scope of work and permit requirements
  - Approximately 1,790 square feet in additional retail floor space
  - Processing is moved to the Recycle Center site

Director Kintner further explained that Thrift Staff were reviewing both concepts and are working to develop donation processing, and retail workflows to inform estimates of retail revenue. Staff are also working to expand Thrift Shop operational hours, including evaluating needs to begin collecting donations.

Council debated the options at length and City Manager Bon reminded Council that a decision will not be made at this time but will be brought back to Council at its October 20 meeting.

#### **AB 5755: 2021-2022 Organizational Changes**

City Manager Bon explained that the purpose of the presentation was to provide the City Council with a preview of the organizational structure proposed as part of the 2021-2022 Preliminary Biennial Budget, scheduled for publication on October 1, 2020. Bon explained that Mercer Island is an organization in transition and that recent financial challenges had resulted in workforce reductions and necessitated considerable organizational change. She went on to explain that many city services were suspended or significantly modified and the timing to restore those services was unknown. Because the ongoing financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic warranted a conservative and cautious approach to planning, Bon reported that the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget reflected a modified and reduced organizational structure as compared to prior years, and retained the flexibility to adapt as circumstances and needs changed during the biennium.

City Manager Bon explained that her recommended organizational structure was developed with the following themes in mind:

- Prioritize delivery of essential services.
- Provide stability for the organization.
- Maintain a focus on continuous process improvement and efficiency.
- Strengthen and build the Capital Projects Team to ensure maintenance and stewardship of the City's critical infrastructure systems.
- Provide for succession planning and anticipate near-term retirements.
- Embrace transitions and remain flexible as circumstances and community needs change and evolve.
- Seize the opportunity this transition has created for us to grow and evolve.

In response to Council questions and requests for clarification, Bon explained that budget review and discussions would continue across several meetings, with budget adoption scheduled for December 1. She noted that during the City Council's review of the preliminary budget, staff would need direction on the six positions proposed for City Council consideration.

#### **AB 5746: City Council Liaison Appointments**

Mayor Wong reported that at the September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting, City Council postponed initial action on the G. Rich Hill Code Amendment Application and set a new City Council review date and possible initial action for no later than March 2021. At that time, Council expressed a willingness to make available liaisons from the City Council to help facilitate and to participate in such discussions, as desired by the JCC, FASPS and their

community neighbors.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Anderl to:

**Appoint Councilmembers Jacobson and Rosenbaum to serve as City Council liaisons to community discussions until February 28, 2021.**

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)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

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Benson Wong, Mayor

Attest:

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Deborah Estrada, City Clerk