



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Salim Nice 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 Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, 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 Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 7-0

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** Next City Council Meeting – November 4 at 5:00 pm, Arts Council – October 16 at 5:30 pm, Open Space Conservancy Trust – October 17 at 5:00 pm, and Planning Commission – October 23 at 6:00 pm.
- **City Services Updates:**
 - Police Modular Building Update – The third modular building has arrived, and installation is under way. Final interior finishes, access control, and furniture installation is expected in the next two weeks.
 - Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks – A digital survey to collect information on how the community uses Clarke and Groveland Beaches is open through October 22.
 - Luther Burbank Boiler Building – The steel roof cap has been installed on the Boiler Building chimney. The architect and engineering team conducted a substantial completion walk-through and will publish a list of the remaining project work to guide completion. Trenching for new electrical work may be delayed until spring if weather conditions deteriorate in the next several weeks.
 - Sewer SCADA System Replacement – Work to maintain the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system began on sewer pump stations 12, 15, 16, and 17 to replace electrical control panels and instrumentation in both the dry and wet wells. The work is anticipated to take approximately two weeks at each station.
 - Reservoir Improvements – The reinvestment work on the south reservoir has begun with paint removal on the interior and then the contractor will shift to spot welding structural roof support elements.
 - Planning Commission Recruitment – The recruitment for the Planning Commission is open through October 25. The City Council is recruiting for five positions, with terms beginning January 1, 2025.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Arbor Day Celebration – October 19 from 10am – 2pm in the Gallagher Hill Open Space.
 - Pumpkin Walk – October 27 from 5pm – 8pm at Mercerdale Park.

- Bloodworks Northwest Blood Drive – November 4 from 10:30am – 4:30pm at MICEC.
- **News:**
 - City’s Credit Rating – The City received the assessment of the City’s creditworthiness from Moody’s credit rating division maintaining the City’s current Aaa rating, the highest rating for a local government. This signals the City’s strong capacity to meet its financial commitments, even under adverse economic conditions.

APPEARANCES

Jennifer Goodrich (Mercer Island) spoke on behalf of the Mercer Island Farmers Market about the Comprehensive Plan.

Elisabeth Grove (Mercer Island) spoke about the climate commitment act.

Vihaan Tandon (Mercer Island) spoke about the climate commitment act.

Quinn Harper (Mercer Island) spoke about the climate commitment act.

Dan Nordale (Mercer Island) spoke about the Mercer Island Country Club.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6554: October 4, 2024 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the October 4, 2024 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$831,343.08 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

Certification of Claims:

- A. Check Register | 00220938-00221025 | 09/27/2024 | \$1,399,891.75**
- B. Check Register | 00221026-00221076 | 10/04/2024 | 1,748,289.38**
- C. EFT Payments | July 2024 | \$2,727,712.23**
- D. EFT Payments | August 2024 | \$2,490,904.90**

Recommended Action: Certify that the City Council has reviewed the documentation supporting claims paid and approved all checks or warrants issued in payment of claims.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024.

AB 6539: 2024 Work Plan Update

Recommended Action: Receive report. No action necessary.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Approve the Consent Agenda as amended, and the recommended actions contained therein.

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6555: Public Hearing - 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 5:24 pm. There being no public comments, Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 5:25 pm.

Mayor Nice noted that the City Council would return to this item as the last item of business tonight for the

presentation and discussion.

AB 6552: ARCH 2025 Work Program and Budget Approval

CPD Deputy Director Alison Van Gorp presented the 2025-2026 Arch Work Program that focuses on affordable housing investments, administration of affordable housing assets, and on following key ARCH strategic plan programs. She spoke about the ARCH administrative budget that covers staffing and operations to carry out the Work Program and about Mercer Island's 2025-2026 contributions.

City Council asked questions about the ARCH work program.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Anderl to:

Approve the ARCH 2025-2026 Work Program and Administrative Budget, including Mercer Island's contributions of \$95,259 in 2025 and \$98,405 in 2026.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6553: Reallocation of ARCH HTF Funds for Redmond Plymouth Housing Project

CPD Deputy Director Alison Van Gorp spoke about the reallocation of ARCH Housing Trust Fund (HTF) funds for the Redmond Plymouth Housing project.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Reallocate \$53,300 previously awarded to Plymouth Housing to the Redmond Supportive Housing Project, with revised conditions as described in Exhibit 1.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6551: First Reading of Ordinance No. 24C-15 Open Space Zone Code Amendment

Management Analyst Carson Hornsby presented the proposed Open Space Zone code amendment. He discussed the background on the creation of the Open Space Zone, the purpose and designation requirements for open space lands, and the uses permitted. Management Analyst Hornsby spoke about the development standards for setbacks, restrooms, signs, kiosks, and trail standards, and presented the proposed Zoning Map that includes everything classified as open space in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

City Council asked questions about the proposed ordinance.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Jacobson to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 24C-15 for second reading on November 4, 2024 with an effective date of December 31, 2024.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Amend the definition of Passive Recreational Uses and Trail as follows:

Passive Recreational Uses. Passive recreational uses have a low impact on the natural and built environment, facilities used, and include activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, walking, jogging, or picnicking. ~~Passive recreational uses place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, passive recreational uses are highly compatible with natural resource protection.~~

Trail. An off-street path for passive recreational uses. Trails may include structural components such as boardwalks, bridges, and stairs.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

AB: 6555: Presentation and Discussion - 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Workshop (Revenue Forecast, Operating Budget & Budget Proposals)

Finance Director Matt Mornick discussed the economic outlook, the effects of inflation, and general sales tax revenues. He presented the 2025-2026 Revenue forecast for the General Fund and the newly established Development Services Fund and spoke about the General Fund forecast.

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the accomplishments in 2023-2024 and presented the 2025-2026 staffing plan. She discussed the 2025-2026 Work Plan including the facility and policy work in the coming biennium.

Finance Director Mornick presented the seven budget proposals that were included for City Council consideration.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Approve budget proposals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 [presented in AB 6555, Exhibit 3] and direct staff to include the associated funding in the final 2025-2026 Biennial Budget

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Weiker to:

Amend to pull \$12.5K from budget proposal #3 Gun Buyback Program to budget proposal #1 – Municipal Facility Replacement Fund contribution slated for 2025. This proposal pilot modeled after the City of Kirkland’s buyback program. The program includes a monetary incentive (e.g. gift card) for each gun relinquished via scheduled gun buyback events. In the alternative enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Kirkland (or other municipality operating a gun buy-back program) to purchase guns, if any, from Mercer Island residents seeking to donate gun(s) to any such gun buyback program subject to reasonable reimbursement from the City of Mercer Island.

MOTION PASSED: 4-3

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

AGAINST: 3 (Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weinberg)

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Jacobson to:

Authorize the City Manager to open recruitment for two Water Utility Capital Team Members (budget proposals 6 & 7) ahead of the final budget adoption

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Jacobson to:

Direct staff to create a 2025-2026 work plan item for development of a program enabling the funding of affordable housing efforts through a fee-in-lieu option and draft a budgetary impact statement to be brought back to the City Council at the November 4 meeting for review and consideration of inclusion in the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget.

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Amend the 2025-2026 workplan to include the following items to be considered individually:

- 1. A shopping cart regulation ordinance aimed at deterring and managing organized retail crime by regulating cart containment, retrieval, and misuse to prevent their use in organized theft.**
- 2. An ordinance to amend business license criteria, allowing for revocation or suspension in cases where businesses fail to take proactive measures against organized retail crime and do not collaborate with law enforcement.**
- 3. An ordinance introducing mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders of public disorder crimes, with treatment options as alternatives, to reduce recidivism and encourage rehabilitation.**

4. **A public awareness campaign, with the suggested title "See Something, Say Something – A Community Response to Shoplifting and Organized Retail Crime," aimed at educating the public on the impact of organized retail crime, encouraging safe reporting practices, and promoting community involvement in crime prevention.**

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the November 4 meeting.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted that there was an SCA PIC and a PTA Council meeting last week.

Councilmember Weinberg noted that there was a K4C meeting, and that his next open lunch is on October 19 at Pagliacci.

Councilmember Reynolds noted there was a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting last week,

Councilmember Jacobson noted that the Utility Board met last week.

City Council was in recess from 7:17 pm – 7:25 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 pm, Mayor Nice convened an Executive Session in Room 103 at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA and via Microsoft Teams.

The Executive Session was to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and for planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg participated in person Room 103.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 8:18 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk