



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING JULY 1, 2025

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 Daniel Becker, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg (arrived at 5:03pm) attended in person. Councilmember Lisa Anderl attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weiker to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weinberg)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** City Council Meeting on July 15 at 5:00 pm. No City Council meetings in August.
- **City Services Updates:**
 - **Pro and Con Committees:** City is accepting applications for Pro and Con Committees to write voter pamphlet statements for the Public Safety and Maintenance Facility bond measure. Applications are due by noon on July 11.
 - **Roanoke Park Playground Replacement:** Work to replace and upgrade the aging playground at Roanoke Park to enhance safety, accessibility, and play experiences for children of all ages is progressing. The project should be completed by the end of the month.
 - **Aubrey Davis Trail Safety Improvements:** This project provides safer pedestrian crossings, improved visibility, traffic calming, and enhanced wayfinding to make the trail safer for users is almost complete. Last week, the City's contractor installed supplemental signage to increase safety of trail users.
 - **King County Sewerline Upgrade:** Final paving is occurring on 81st Ave SE (just north of North Mercer Way) and on North Mercer Way between 81st Ave SE and Island Crest Way.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Summer Celebration – Saturday, July 12
 - National Night Out – Tuesday, August 5
- **News:** Island House Assisted Living welcomed MIPD officers for a presentation on "How to Spot Scammers."

APPEARANCES

Addie Smith spoke about being a hate crime survivor.

Michele Silbey (Mercer Island) thanked the City Council for passing the Gun Violence Awareness Day proclamation.

Jonathan Harrington (Mercer Island) spoke about the proposed amendment to the 1% for the Arts Fund.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Reynolds requested to remove AB 6724: Gun Violence Awareness Day (Proclamation No. 364) from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Nice moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

AB 6719: June 25, 2025 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the June 25, 2025 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$961,225.64 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6720: Certification for Claims Paid May 16, 2025 through May 31, 2025

Recommended Action: Approve the May 16, 2025 through May 31, 2025 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$7,237,067.59 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025.

AB 6721: Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation No. 363

Recommended Actions: Approve Proclamation No. 363 proclaiming July 2025 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.

AB 6722: Ratification of the Mercer Island Annex to the 2025-2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 1679 ratifying the Mercer Island Annex to the 2025-2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

AB 6723: Interlocal Agreement with MISD for Mental Health Counseling Services

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District for mental health counseling services during the 2025-2026 school year substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6723.

AB 6727: 2025 City Council Committee and Liaison Assignments

Recommended Action: No action necessary.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Weiker to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6724: Gun Violence Awareness Day (Proclamation No. 364)

Councilmember Reynolds spoke about the importance of Gun Violence Awareness Day.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve Proclamation No. 364 Proclaiming June 6, 2025 as Gun Violence Awareness Day on Mercer Island.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6726: Condemnation of Property at 9655 SE 36th Street (First Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 25-20)

City Attorney Bio Park spoke about the condemnation of the property at 9655 SE 36th Street.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-20 at first reading, pursuant to City Council Rules of Procedure 6.3(C)(3), condemning the property at 9655 SE 36th Street.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6725: 1% for Art in Public Places Fund Code Amendments (Ordinance No. 25C-19 First Reading)

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz presented the proposed code amendments to the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to allow the City Council to partially or fully exempt projects from contributing to the Fund.

City Council discussed the proposed amendments.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-19 as amended, upon first reading, to amend MICC 4.40.200 related to the 1% for Arts in Public Places Fund.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Becker to:

Amend Section 4.20.200(C) of Ordinance No. 25C-19 as follows:

All authorizations and/or appropriations for qualifying capital improvement projects shall include an amount of not less than one percent of the total project cost to be set aside for transfer to the 1% for art in public places fund, unless the City Council by a majority vote exempts or partially exempts a qualifying capital improvement project from this section. The City Council may vote to exempt, fully or partially, only those projects that involve the use of general obligation bond proceeds as described in subsection E. When partially exempting a project, the City Council may establish the amount less than the minimum amount described in subsection D to be set aside for transfer to the fund.

Motion to Amend PASSED: 7-0

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

Amended Motion PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

Direct the City Manager to complete a review of the 1% for the Arts Fund code in 2026, in collaboration with the Arts Council, and prepare recommended code changes, if needed, for City Council consideration.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6715: Conduct First Reading of Ordinance No. 25-13 related to the Bond Levy for the Public Safety and Maintenance Facility

City Manager Jessi Bon presented Ordinance No. 23-13 for first reading to place a bond measure on the November 2025 General Election to fund the design and construction of the Public Safety & Maintenance (PSM) Facility.

Finance Director Matt Mornick reviewed the actions items needed to finalize the ordinance for second reading on July 15 including:

- Any amendments regarding the 1% for the Arts Fund contribution for the Project which informs the final not-to-exceed amount of bond issuance.
- Length of the repayment schedule on proposed bonds.
- Finalize ballot proposition language.
- Finalize Explanatory Statement language.

Along with the City's financial advisor, Justin Monwai from Piper Sandler, and bond counsel, Deanna Gregory from Pacific Law Group, Director Mornick reviewed the City's current debt and spoke about Unlimited Tax General Obligation and recommended that the City issue them via voter approval for the PSM Facility.

Following discussion of the repayment schedule, the City Council decided on 25 years for repayment for the bonds.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weiker to:

Amend Ordinance No. 25-13 to include a full exemption for the PSM Facility project from the 1% for Arts contribution requirement

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weiker to:

Appoint Mayor Nice, Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum, and Councilmember Reynolds to the Ad-hoc Working Group to review the Ballot Proposition and the Explanatory Statement for the PSM Facility bond measure with the City Manager and the City Attorney and prepare a final recommendation for City Council consider at the July 15, 2025 Council meeting.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Becker to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25-13 for second reading and adoption at the July 15, 2025 City Council Meeting

PASSED: 7-0

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

**AB 6716: Parks Zone Code Amendment (Ordinance No. 25C-16 First Reading) and
AB 6717: Parks Zone Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Ordinance No. 25-17 First Reading)**

CPD Director Jeff Thomas introduced Management Analyst Carson Hornsby who presented ordinances amending the City Code and Comprehensive Plan to establish a Parks Zone on Mercer Island. He provided background information about the development of the ordinances including the Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission reviews of the ordinances. Management Analyst Hornsby spoke about the Planning Commission's recommendations and staff's response to those recommendations

Planning Commission Chair Daniel Thompson provided his comments regarding the review process and recommendations for the ordinances.

The City Council asked questions of Chair Thompson and staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-16 for second reading on July 15, 2025.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Direct staff to amend Ordinance 25C-16 to include the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission and incorporate the Planning Commission recommended amendments from Exhibit 3 – log numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16.

Motion to Amend PASSED: 7-0

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

Amended Motion PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Nice to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25-17 for second reading on July 15, 2025.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Direct staff to amend Ordinance 25-17 to (1) include the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, (2) incorporate the Planning Commission recommended amendment to change the Commercial Office Zone in the ROW on SE 36th St to Single Family Residential on the Land Use Map, (3) incorporate all of the Planning Commission recommended amendments to the Land Use Designation Table, (4) incorporate the staff recommended amendment in AB 6717 to revise the Open Space land use designation description, and (5) schedule for a second reading on July 15, 2025.

Motion to Amend PASSED: 7-0

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

Amended Motion PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6718: Shopping Cart Regulations (First Reading of Ordinance No. 25C-18)

Management Analyst Amelia Tjaden presented Ordinance No. 25C-18 that amends the Mercer Island City Code to prevent the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises, to mitigate the illegal possession and accumulation of shopping carts on public or private property, and to limit the operation of shopping carts in public right of ways. She noted that the City's criminal code would be amended to include the following regulations:

- All shopping carts are required to be labeled, and signage posted on the business' property, in accordance with RCW 9A.56.270.
- Removal of shopping carts from the premises of the retail establishment is illegal.
- Operating a shopping cart in the right-of-way, or in a park, is illegal.
- Owners are required to retrieve a shopping cart within 48 hours of the City providing notification of a lost, stolen, or abandoned cart.

The City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-18 for second reading and adoption on July 15, 2025.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Reynolds to:

Amend section 9.24.060 to have the reference to class III civil infraction removed for second reading.

Motion to Amend PASSED: 7-0

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

Amended Motion PASSED: 7-0

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Councilmember Weinberg noted he attended the Association of Washington Cities Conference last week in Kennewick and that his next monthly open lunch is on July 20 at Homegrown.

Councilmember Reynolds noted that National Night Out is on August 5.

Anderl spoke about Summer Celebration on July 12.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk