



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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## 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 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Jake Jacobson, Craig Reynolds, and Ted Weinberg participated in person in the Slater Room Council Chambers. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl and Wendy Weiker (arrived at 5:03 pm) joined via Zoom.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

**Pull AB 6407: ARCH Housing Trust Fund Project Approvals from the consent agenda and move it to a future Council meeting.**

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Approve the agenda as amended.**

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

## STUDY SESSION

GIS Coordinator Leah Llamas provided a history of GIS and how it serves the entire City. GIS Analyst II Matt Ringel spoke about how GIS supports City functions, with the highest support going to CPD, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works. He discussed the different types of maps that GIS creates from paper maps to WebGIS, the City's internal interactive online map, and provided a demo of how it works. He discussed the different capabilities of WebGIS including viewing property documents, creation of mailing lists, viewing arial photos through the years and more. GIS Analyst II Ringel discussed the other interactive maps that are used for permits and land use projects, for parks and field inventories, and real time tracking of street conditions.

GIS Coordinator Llamas provided an overview of the GIS information and data that is available to the public through the GIS Map Portal and provided a demo of the GIS Map Portal. She discussed the other duties that GIS provides for the City including addressing with the help of the Fire Marshal, land rights and ownership including City easements, public records requests, data sharing with E911/Norcom and King County, and regional collaborations for arial photos. GIS Coordinator Llamas discussed the key projects and enhancements that GIS is working on, spoke about the importance of GIS data to an organization.

City Council asked questions and thanked staff for their work.

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** Next City Council meeting is March 5, and the City Council Planning Session on Friday, March 1 at 9 am. Upcoming Board and Commission Meetings: Planning Commission on February 28.
- **Update on City Hall Transitions:** The first two MIPD modular buildings will be delivered on February 27. Thank you to the Utility Billing team for their work on cleaning out City Hall.
- **City Services Updates:** Parks Zone will be returning to the Parks & Recreation Commission on March 7 for review this spring. Island Crest Park Athletic Fields turf replacement is nearing completion. For the Sewer Basin 40 Project 12,000 feet of cured-in-place pipe is being installed and work should be completed by the end of March. Luther Burbank Boiler Building is getting a facelift this spring. Mercer Island Chinese Association in partnership with the City celebrated the Lunar New Year on January 10 with over 1,500 people attending. ARCH is looking for members for the Community Advisory Board, applications are due March 15.
- **Legislative Session Updates:** Mayor Nice testified in opposition to HB 2160, the transit-oriented development bill, in support of HB 1956, the fentanyl education and prevention bill, and in opposition of HB 2474, which inserts Department of Commerce into our permit review process related to transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and homeless shelters. AWC is leading the advocacy work on the bills related to recruitment and retention of police officers.
- **Upcoming Events:** Senior Resource fair at MICEC on March 2. Save the date for Mostly Music in the Park 2024, the schedule is shorter this year due to sewer line replacement work scheduled in Mercerdale Park.
- **News:** Thank you to Officer Lum for her work with the Mercer Island Girl Scouts. MI Thrift Shop is now open on Fridays for shopping from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

## APPEARANCES

Liz Friedman (Mercer Island) spoke about the timing of the Stroum Jewish Community Center’s proposal on the docket.

Denise Joffe (Mercer Island) spoke about the timing of the Stroum Jewish Community Center’s proposal on the docket.

Addie Smith spoke about being a hate crime survivor.

Paul Burstein (Mercer Island) spoke about the timing of the Stroum Jewish Community Center’s proposal on the docket.

Dan Nordale (Mercer Island) spoke about the timing of the Mercer Island Country Club’s proposal on the docket.

Amy Lavin (Mercer Island) spoke about the timing of the Stroum Jewish Community Center’s proposal on the docket.

Else Soelling (Mercer Island) spoke about the long plat development at the former Boys & Girls Club property.

Alex Tsimmerman comments violated the City Council Rules of Procedure. Mayor Nice cut him off and asked him to leave the meeting.

City Council was in recess from 6:29 pm – 6:40 pm.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### AB 6403: February 9, 2024 Payroll Certification

**Recommended Action:** Approve the February 9, 2024 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$817,233.66 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

### Certification of Claims:

- A. Check Register | 218599-218666 | 2/2/24 | \$492,001.93**
- B. Check Register | 218667-218777 | 2/9/24 | \$1,623,769.50**

**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 Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024 Regular Hybrid Meeting**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the City Council Meeting minutes of the February 6, 2024 Regular Hybrid Meeting.

### **AB 6404: Rare Disease Day, Proclamation No. 322**

**Recommended Action:** Proclaim February 29, 2024 Rare Disease Day on Mercer Island.

### **AB 6412: Luther Burbank Park Aquatic Lands Lease and Stormwater Outfall Easement**

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager to execute Aquatic Lands Lease 20-B09917 and Aquatic Lands Outfall Easement 51-106374 with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for Luther Burbank Park substantially in the form as set forth in Exhibits 2 and 3, and any future technical non-substantive amendments required to administer the property agreements.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

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

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **AB 6409: Realignment of Arts Council Position Terms and Expiration Dates**

City Clerk Andrea Larson presented the housekeeping amendment to MICC 3.55.030(B)(3) to realign Arts Council position terms and expiration dates. She explained that the misalignment came from the reduction of the Arts Council from eleven to seven members and that the proposed amendment aligns with the current expirations of position terms.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 24C-01 amending MICC 3.55.030(B)(3) to realign Arts Council position terms and expiration dates.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

### **AB 6408: Briefing on the ARCH Strategic Planning Process**

Deputy CPD Director Alison Van about Mercer Island's participation in the ARCH Strategic Plan planning process with the city liaisons from each member jurisdiction of ARCH.

ARCH Executive Director Lindsay Masters presented background on ARCH, the goals of the ARCH Executive Board, the process for the development of the draft ARCH Strategic Planning Process and strategies, and the implementation process for the strategic plan.

City Council discussed the presentation and asked questions.

### **AB 6411: Readoption of 2021 Construction Code Updates (Ordinance No. 24C-02, First Reading Adoption)**

CPD Director Jeff Thomas presented the proposed code amendment for the re-adoption of the 2021 Construction Code update after the adoption was delayed by the State Building Council in 2023. He noted the

state requires adoption of the 2021 Construction Codes by March 15, 2024.

City Council discussed the proposed amendments and asked questions.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 24C-02 amending MICC Chapter 17 with the updated editions of the Construction Codes to be effective on March 15, 2024, as mandated by the State of Washington.**

PASSED: 5-0-1

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

ABSTAIN: 1 (Jacobson)

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

### **AB 6405: Site Concept for the Town Center Long-Term Regional Transit Commuter Parking Project**

Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham-Adams presented information regarding reimbursement opportunities under the Sound Transit Settlement Agreement, including the requirements and possible project types for funding. He spoke about the proposed project site for a long-term regional transit community parking project in the Town Center. He explained the three parcels that are contained within the proposal including the former Tully's property and parcels A-1 and A-2. He discussed the project objectives of 1) alignment with the Sound Transit Settlement agreement; 2) be a flexible public parking program; 3) improve aesthetics of the property; 4) improve safety and accessibility; 5) protect green space and deploy sustainable design initiatives; and 6) support multi-modal transportation options.

Management Analyst Cunningham-Adams spoke about the proposed project including reconfiguration and replacement of existing parking, expansion of greenspace, and how staff will return with a project cost estimate at a future meeting. He discussed potentially needing to convert part of the Tully's property to Right-of-Way to allow for parking enforcement by the Police Department. He noted that the proposed new greenspace will be greater than the proposed converted greenspace and spoke about the next steps in the project timeline.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Weinberg to:

**Authorize the City Manager to proceed with the design for the Town Center Long-Term Regional Transit Commuter Parking Project as shown in AB 6405.**

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Planning Schedule**

Chief of Administration Spietz spoke about the March 1 Planning Session and the March 5 Regular Meeting.

### **Councilmember Absences and Reports**

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted that last week there was a PTA Council meeting, a SCA PIC meeting, and a PTA Advocacy Committee meeting. He thanked everyone who worked on the MIYFS Foundation breakfast and noted that it was very inspirational.

Councilmember Reynolds noted there was a joint Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission meeting, and that Parks & Recreation Commission is returning to in person meetings in March. He thanked everyone for the work on the MIYFS Foundation breakfast. And noted there is a [Mathnasium Seattle Universal Math Museum](#) breakfast on March 14 at the MICEC to celebrate Pi Day. He also spoke about testifying as a citizen before the legislature on the allowance of destroying firearms that are confiscated by Washington State Patrol or gun buyback programs.

Councilmember Anderl thanked everyone who attended the MIYFS Foundation Breakfast and spoke about the WIRA8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting.

Councilmember Jacobson noted that the Utility Board met last week and encouraged the public to apply for the vacant position when recruitment opens.

City Council was in recess from 8:06pm – 8:16pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:16 pm, Mayor Nice convened an Executive Session in Room 104 at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> 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 to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Jake Jacobson Craig Reynolds, and Ted Weinberg participated in person in Room 104. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl and Wendy Weiker joined via Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 9:18 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm

Attest:

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Salim Nice, Mayor

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Andrea Larson, City Clerk