



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 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 Lisa Anderl, Daniel Becker, and Ted Weinberg attended in person. Councilmembers Craig Reynolds and Wendy Weiker attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Anderl to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 7-0

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

Councilmember Reynolds left the meeting due to technical difficulties at 5:05 pm. Councilmember Reynolds returned at 5:15 pm.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Eastside Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Recognition

Mayor Nice recognized Eastside Fire and Rescue Chief Ben Lane for his years of service and wished him well in retirement.

City Council thanked Chief Lane for his service.

Chief Lane said a few words and introduced Deputy Chief Kara Putnam who has been assigned as the new deputy chief to Mercer Island.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:**
 - City Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 2 at 5:00 pm
 - Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, November 19 at 6:00 pm
- **City Updates:**
 - Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts Celebration – On November 18, Council, City staff, and friends of late Councilmember Jake Jacobson gathered at the pickleball courts at Luther Burbank Park for a dedication ceremony in his honor
 - First Hill Playground Replacement – Construction continues at the First Hill Playground and installation of the Alpha Tower is underway that will feature two slides and is designed for ages 5-12. Construction remains on track to conclude by the end of the year.

- King County North Mercer Sewer Interceptor – The work is now complete on the sewer pipe repairs and asphalt patching on 81st Ave SE between North Mercer and SE 24th St. The roadway is now open to traffic and final paving is scheduled for spring of 2026.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Holiday Tree Lighting: December 5 at 5:30 pm at Mercerdale
 - Community Holiday Party: December 19 at 6:00-8:30 pm at Mercer Island Community & Event Center
 - Argosy Christmas Ship: December 19 at 8:30-9:00 pm at Luther Burbank Park
 - Holiday Makers Market: December 6 at 10:00 am-3:00 pm at Mercer Island Community & Event Center
- **News:**
 - Thank you Covenant Shores!
 - In late October the Thrift Shop brought its van to Covenant Living at the Shores to pick up residents' donations and the van was quickly filled.
 - Thank you MIYFS Foundation! The City of Mercer Island has received a generous, one-time donation of \$30,000 from the MIYFS Foundation to bolster food-security efforts and mitigate the impact of recent reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

APPEARANCES

Addie Smith spoke about being a hate crime survivor.

Dan Nordale (Mercer Island) thanked the Council for the dedication of the Luther Burbank Pickleball Courts to Jake Jacobson and spoke about the proposed amendments to the temporary uses and structures ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6806: November 10, 2025 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the November 10, 2025 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$1,039,635.78 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6807: Certification for Claims Paid October 16, 2025 through October 31, 2025

Recommended Action: Approve the October 16, 2025 through October 31, 2025 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$2,399,259.81 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2025.

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2025.

AB 6777: 2024 Police Department Annual Report

Recommended Actions: Receive report. No action necessary.

AB 6805: Confirmation of the Municipal Court Judge Reappointment

Recommended Action:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 1686 confirming the reappointment of Judge Jeff Gregory to continue as the Mercer Island Municipal Court Judge for a four-year term, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Municipal Court Judge Employment Agreement, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A to Resolution No 1686, and to execute future amendments to the Agreement based on needs and changes to the Municipal Court's operations, provided that financial impacts of the amendments are within the approved budget.

AB 6809: Omnibus Ordinance Related to Permanent Regulations for Housing Production and Permit

Streamlining (Ordinance No. 25C-27 Second Reading)

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-27 relating to permanent regulations for housing production and permit streamlining as set forth in Exhibit 1 to this AB.

AB 6810: B&O Tax Code Amendment (Ordinance. No. 25C-23, Second Reading)

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-23 to update City Code related to business & occupation tax.

AB 6811: Utility Easement Replacement (9150 Fortuna Drive)

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute document relinquishing water easement (recording number 8510300965, located at 9150 Fortuna Drive) substantially in the form in Exhibit 2, in exchange for a new 20-foot-wide public utility easement substantially in the form in Exhibit 3, after the new public water infrastructure is accepted by the City Engineer and put into operation.

AB 6812: Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Jail Services with South Correctional Entity (SCORE)

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to the interlocal agreement with SCORE for jail services as substantially shown in Exhibit 1 to AB 6812.

AB 6813: Sound Transit Roundabout Bill of Sale

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute the Bill of Sale for the roundabout at North Mercer Way and 77th Ave SE substantially in the form included as Exhibit 2.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and the recommendations contained therein.

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6820: Sound Cities Association Voting Delegate for the North Caucus Meeting

Mayor Nice asked if anyone was interested in being the voting delegate for the Sound Cities Association North Caucus Meeting on December 9. Councilmember Reynolds volunteered.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Anderl to:

Appoint Councilmember Reynolds as the voting delegate at the Sound Cities Association North Caucus Meeting on December 9, 2025.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6808: Permanent Regulations for Temporary Uses and Structures, Including Outdoor Dining (Ordinance No. 25C-26 Second Reading)

CPD Director Jeff Thomas provided background on the regulations related to temporary uses and structures. City Council asked questions about the proposed amendments.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-26 relating to Permanent Regulations for Temporary Uses and Structures, Including Outdoor Dining as shown in Exhibit 1 to this AB.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Nice to:

Direct the City Manager to keep the docket item related to temporary uses and structures open and return to City Council in 2026 with options to include public notification as part of the temporary

uses and structures Type 1 permit.

PASSED: 6-0-1

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

ABSTAIN: 1 (Weinberg)

AB 6815: Public Hearing Amendments to the Historical Designation Criteria in MICC 16.01.030 to Comply with HB 1576 (Ordinance No. 25C-28 First Reading)

Mayor Nice opened the public hearing at 6:03 pm. There being no public comment Mayor Nice closed the public hearing at 6:04 pm.

CPD Director Jeff Thomas provided background on the development of the amendments to the regulations related to historical designation criteria and introduced Assistant Planner Madelyn Nelson who spoke about the state legislative updates that triggered the proposed amendments and provided an overview of the proposed amendments.

City Council asked questions about the proposed amendments.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Set Ordinance No. 25C-28 for second reading and adoption.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6814: 2025-2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Public Hearing, Financial Status Update, and Budget Adjustments

Mayor Nice opened the public hearing at 6:12 pm. There being no public comment Mayor Nice closed the public hearing at 6:12 pm.

Finance Director Matt Mornick provided the financial status update through Q3 2025. He discussed General Fund revenues, Parks & Recreation revenues, General Fund expense, and REET revenues.

Finance Director Mornick spoke about the property tax ordinances, the 2026 NORCOM budget, and the budget amendments included in Ordinance No. 25-33.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-33, amending the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-30, appropriating funds and establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied for fiscal year 2026.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Anderl to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-31, establishing the dollar amount and percentage increases of the regular property tax levy and the levy lid lifts for fiscal year 2026.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Becker; seconded by Weinberg to:

Adopt Resolution No. 1684, approving NORCOM's 2026 budget allocation to the City of Mercer Island.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6819: Fire Apparatus Acquisition and Financing (Ordinance No. 25-34, First Reading and Adoption)

Management Analyst Carson Hornsby presented the background information on the replacement of the fire apparatus.

Eastside Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief of Safety and Support Services Greg Garat spoke about the replacement of the fire apparatus with an Enforcer Pumper Type-1 Fire Engine and discussed the timeline to receive the apparatus.

Finance Director Matt Mornick discussed the joint purchasing agreement, the financing of the lease purchase agreement, and the budgetary impacts related to the purchase of the new apparatus.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Suspend City Council Rules of Procedure Section 6.2 requiring a second reading of an ordinance.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-34 authorizing the purchase of one Pierce Enforcer Pumper and authorizing a joint purchase agreement between the City, EF&R, and Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. and a Master Tax-Exempt Installment Purchase Agreement with Municipal Asset Management, Inc. to finance the City's apparatus, substantially in the form of the drafts attached as Exhibits A and B to Ordinance N. 25-34.

PASSED: 7-0

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

Councilmember Weiker was absent from the meeting from 6:56 pm – 7:10 pm.

AB 6817: Adoption of 2026 Legislative Priorities

Senior Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham Adams presented the 2026 State Legislative Priorities. City Council asked questions and provided feedback on the priorities.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Weinberg to:

Adopt the City of Mercer Island 2026 State Legislative Priorities, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6817 as amended.

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Nice to:

Amend the text of the "Preserving and Protecting the Environment" section to be the following: The City supports legislation, partnerships, and funding opportunities that advance the implementation of the City's adopted Climate Action Plan. This includes initiatives for clean energy, emissions reduction, electrification of public assets, and innovative practices that promote resilience and protect natural resources.

PASSED: 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Weiker)

AB 6818: Code Amendments to Chapter 10.22 MICC Impounding (Ordinance No. 25C-32)

Management Analyst Amelia Tjaden discussed the background on the code amendment and provided an overview of current impound procedures. She spoke about the proposed amendments contained in Ordinance No. 25C-32, the establishment of an administrative fee, and how the impound procedures would change with the proposed amendments. City Council asked questions about the proposed amendments.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-32 for second reading and adoption.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6816: 2026 Annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendments Docket

CPD Director Jeff Thomas presented an overview of the docket proposals that were received in 2025, the Planning Commission's review of the proposed docket items, and the Planning Commission recommendation to docket no items for 2026. City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Accept and adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation to docket no Comprehensive Plan or Development Code amendment proposal received for 2026.

PASSED: 7-0

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the December 2 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted there is a special Farmers Market this weekend.

Councilmember Weiker noted she attended the King County Utilities Summit.

Councilmember Weinberg noted that the Eastside Transportation Partnership met and that his next monthly open lunch is on Saturday December 20 at Riviera Maya Restaurant.

Councilmember Reynolds noted that the Parks & Recreation Commission recently held a joint meeting with the Open Space Conservancy Trust.

Councilmember Becker thanked the Council for the opportunity over the last six months to fill position No. 7 and thanked Mayor Nice for his service on the City Council.

City Council was in recess from 7:23 pm – 7:32 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:32 pm, Mayor Nice convened an Executive Session in Room 104 at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA and via Microsoft Teams.

Executive Session 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 Councilmember Lisa Anderl, Daniel Becker, and Ted Weinberg participated in person. Councilmembers Craig Reynolds and Wendy Weiker participated via Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 7:46 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Salim Nice, Mayor

Attest:

Andrea Larson, City Clerk