



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MAY 20, 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, 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 Weinberg to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 6-0

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Mayor Nice read Proclamation No. 361 and presented Jennifer Goodrich with the 2024 Community Member of the Year award. Jennifer has served on the Board of Directors of the Mercer Island Farmers Market (Board) since 2018. Through her service and leadership on the Board she has continually shown her dedication to the Mercer Island Community. During her tenure as President, she guided the Market through the challenging post-COVID period, demonstrating remarkable commitment and resilience. She has spent countless volunteer hours strategic problem-solving and has a deep passion for creating a vibrant community gathering space.

City Council thanked Jennifer for her service to the community.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Weinberg to:

Approve Proclamation No. 361 proclaiming Jennifer Goodrich as the 2024 Community Member of the Year.

PASSED: 6-0

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

City Council was in recess from 5:08-5:17 pm.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** City Council Meeting on June 17 at 5:00 pm, Design Commission on June 4 at 6:00 pm, Parks & Recreation Commission on June 5 at 5:00 pm, Utility Board on June 10 at 5:00 pm, and Planning Commission Special Meeting on June 10 at 6:00 pm.
- **City Services Updates:**

- Advanced Metering Infrastructure –Staff can now track water usage in real time instead of relying on bimonthly water readings. Recently staff have used the system to be able to identify spikes in water usage for 17 separate utility customers, where each spike is likely tied to an unknown water leak.
- PW Building Seismic Retrofit – The Public Works building seismic retrofits are nearing completion. New roofing membrane has been installed, and the contractor has begun drywall repairs to the ceilings. Drywalling, sanding, and painting will continue over the next two weeks.
- Water System Improvements – Design work is underway on three large water system projects that should be under construction in early 2026 including the 2025 AC Main Replacements in the Mercerwood neighborhood, the second phase of Pressure Reducing Valve Replacements primarily along West Mercer Way, and the Water Supply line Project.
- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan – Last month the Parks Capital Team visited 54 classes across four elementary schools. More than 1,200 students from kindergarten through fifth grade shared their ideas for the new Deane's Children's Park playground.
- Upcoming Pickleball Court Closures – The pickleball courts at Luther Burbank Park will be closed June 2-15 to install acrylic surfacing. The two westernmost courts will also be closed June 30-July 3 to restore the Summer in the Wetlands mural.
- Town Center Parking Facility – Construction at the Town Center Parking Facility is progressing well. Contractors formed and poured all new concrete sidewalks within the parking facility and along SE 27th Street. The project will be substantially completed by the end of June. Landscaping will occur in the fall.
- Reservoir Improvements – Reinvestment work on the City's two 4-million-gallon water reservoirs continues. The south reservoir has undergone final cleaning and disinfection and is being refilled. The south reservoir will be placed back in service later this month after regulatory water testing protocols are met.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - First Thursdays in the Nursery – Join Natural Resource staff on the first Thursday of each month from 12-2pm at the Luther Burbank Caretakers Building to help care for the plants in our native plant nursery.
 - Mostly Music in the Park – The 2025 Mostly Music in the Park outdoor concert series schedule has been posted. Stop by Mercerdale Park in July and August for our outdoor concert series.
- **News:**
 - Congrats to Eastside Fire & Rescue Deputy Fire Chief Doug McDonald on his retirement after 34 years of service.

APPEARANCES

Laura Crawford (Mercer Island) spoke about the Open Space Conservancy Trust appointments.

Daniel Thompson (Mercer Island) spoke about the need for a comprehensive work plan or group to study the three systemic intersections on the Island: (1) the big left on Island Crest Way between 80th Ave NE and North Mercer Way, (2) East Mercer Way and SE 36th Street, and (3) SE 27th Street through Town Center.

Addie Smith spoke about being a hate crime survivor.

Matt Goldbach (Mercer Island) thanked the City Council for their part in the celebration of life for Jake Jacobson.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6693: May 23, 2025 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the May 23, 2025 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$981,640.66 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6694: Certification for Claims Paid April 16, 2025 through April 30, 2025

Recommended Action: Approve the April 16, 2025 through April 30, 2025 Accounts Payable Certification

of Claims in the amount of \$2,952,282.94 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025.

AB 6695: Pride Month Proclamation No. 360

Recommended Actions: Approve Proclamation No. 360 proclaiming June 2025 as Pride Month on Mercer Island.

AB 6684: Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 25C-08 to renew Interim Residential Parking Regulations Responsive to SB 6015

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-08 renewing interim regulations for residential parking regulations in response to SB 6015 with an effective date of June 3, 2025.

AB 6702: 2025 Open Space Conservancy Trust Appointments (Resolution No. 1678)

Recommended Action: Approve Resolution No. 1678, appointing members to the Open Space Conservancy Trust.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Anderl to:

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

PASSED: 6-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6704: City Council Position No. 7 Candidate Interviews and Appointment

Mayor Nice reviewed the process for filling a vacancy on the City Council. He noted that since the May 28 application deadline Adam Ragheb withdrew his application, leaving two applicants, Daniel Becker and Zachary MacLean.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C Mayor Nice drew names randomly to determine the order the applicants would speak. Each applicant was given five minutes to speak to the City Council on the four areas outlined in the application materials.

Zachary MacLean spoke first and Daniel Becker spoke second. The City Council asked questions of the candidates.

Councilmember Reynolds nominated Daniel Becker for appointment to Position No. 7.

Councilmember Anderl nominated Zachary MacLean for appointment to Position No. 7.

Mayor Nice asked for a motion to close nominations.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

Close nominations for position No. 7.

PASSED: 6-0

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

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix C, the City Clerk conducted a roll call vote in the order the nominations were received.

Position No. 7 - Round 1 Votes Called for Daniel Becker Results:

Anderl – Becker

Nice – Becker
Reynolds – Becker
Rosenbaum – Becker
Weiker – Becker
Weinberg – Becker

Receiving six votes Daniel Becker was appointed to Position No. 7 on the Mercer Island City Council.

AB 6696: AWC Annual Meeting Voting Delegate

Mayor Nice noted that Councilmember Weinberg had volunteered to be the voting delegate at the AWC Annual Meeting on June 26, 2025 and asked if any other Councilmembers were interested in attending.

Councilmember Weiker also volunteered to be a voting delegate.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

Appoint Councilmember Weinberg and Weiker as the voting delegate(s) at the AWC 2025 Business Meeting on June 26, 2025.

PASSED: 6-0

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

AB 6703: Councilmember Appointment to ARCH Focus Group

Mayor Nice noted that Councilmember Reynolds had volunteered to attend the ARCH Focus Group Meeting on June 11, 2025 and asked if anyone else wished to attend the focus group.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Anderl to:

Appoint Councilmember Reynolds to attend the ARCH Focus Group on June 11, 2025.

PASSED: 6-0

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

AB 6697: Public Hearing on Interim Regulations related to Objective Design Review Standards (HB 1293) in Title 19 MICC (Ordinance No. 25C-11 First Reading)

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 6:06 pm. There were no public comments, and Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 6:06 pm.

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the background of the interim design review regulations.

Principal Planner Adam Zack presented the legislative background related to HB 1293 including that design standards must be clear and objective and provided an overview of the amendments in Ordinance No. 25C-11.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-11 for second reading on June 17, 2025 as amended.

PASSED: 6-0

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

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Weiker to:

Amend MICC 19.11.040(D)(4) as follows:

4. Affordable units may not be smaller than other units with the same number of bedrooms in the development, unless the code official determines that rooms within the affordable units provide adequate space for their intended use. In no case shall the affordable units be more than ten percent smaller than the market rate units having the same number of bedrooms in the development, or less than 500 square feet if a studio unit, 600 square feet if a one-bedroom unit, 800 square feet if a two-bedroom unit, 1,000 square feet if a three-bedroom unit, or 1,200 square feet if a four-bedroom unit; whichever is less shall be of a minimum size equal to the average size of market rate units for the same bedroom count. For example, if the average size

of market rate one-bedroom units in a development is 650 square feet, each affordable one-bedroom unit in the development shall be a minimum of 650 square feet.

PASSED: 6-0

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

AB 6698: Briefing on Design Review Alternatives

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the purpose of design review alternatives being presented.

Principal Planner Adam Zack presented the legislative background on this item related to HB 1293 related to clear and objective design standards and discussed that MICC establishes three decision makers that can be assigned design review authority including the Design Commission, Hearing Examiner, or Code Official. He spoke about the current process for design review with the Design Commission and the alternatives that are available.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Anderl to:

Direct the City Manager to prepare an ordinance to sunset the Design Commission and reassign design review decisions to the Hearing Examiner for City Council review on June 17, 2025.

PASSED: 6-0

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

AB 6700: New Dwellings in Existing Buildings (HB 1042) in Title 19 MICC (First Reading Ordinance No. 25C-12)

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the background of the proposed amendment to MICC Title 19.

Principal Planner Adam Zack presented an overview of HB1042, the Planning Commission's recommendation, and next steps.

Planning Commission Chair Daniel Thompson presented the Planning Commission's recommendation.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Schedule a second reading of Ordinance No. 25C-12 for June 17, 2025

PASSED: 6-0

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

AB 6701: Review and Discussion of Schematic Design for Public Safety and Maintenance Facility

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the schematic design for the Public Safety and Maintenance (PSM) facility.

Aaron Young, from Northwest Studio, presented the background of the schematic design, the facility tours that the Design Team conducted, and an overview of what is included in the PSM facility. He presented the PSM facility site plan and the five design strategies that were applied including protecting equipment, vehicles, and staff, and promoting efficient operations. He discussed how the design strategies were implemented in the schematic design, the parking circulation on the site, and MIPD and Public Works parking and vehicle storage. Mr. Young spoke about the site organization to promote efficient operations, discussed how each department that will be housed in the PSM will utilize the facility, and how and what workspaces will be shared between workgroups or departments. He spoke about equipment and vehicle storage in the PSM Facility.

Mr. Young spoke about the revised cost estimates to construct the PSM Facility, the third-party value engineering peer review, the recommendations that were received, and the cost savings recommendations that were implemented in the schematic design. He presented the revised cost estimate.

City Council asked questions and discussed the proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted that he and Chief of Operations Kintner will present the PSM Facility presentation to the PTA Council tomorrow, that there is a Sound Cities Association PIC Meeting next week, and that the opening day of the Farmers Market went well.

Councilmember Weiker and Anderl congratulated Daniel Becker on his appointment to Position No. 7 on the City Council.

Councilmember Weinberg noted his next monthly open lunch is on June 21 at Mioposto.

Councilmember Reynolds noted there is a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.

City Council was in recess from 9:10 pm – 9:14 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:14 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 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), and to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmember Lisa Anderl, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg participated in person.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 10:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk