



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES PLANNING SESSION MARCH 26, 2022

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Salim Nice called the 2022 City Council Planning Session to order at 9:00 am in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor David Rosenbaum and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Wendy Weiker and Ted Weinberg participated in person in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Craig Reynolds participated remotely using Zoom.

APPEARANCES

Ira Appleman (Mercer Island) spoke regarding the City Council Priorities. He spoke about his concerns around what is included in the City Council priorities and urged the City Council to consider external issues and how to protect the community.

Sophia Rosales and Anouk Grandmougin (Mercer Island), students at MIHS and members of the ACLU Club, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 21C-02 (public property uses). They spoke about how they have engaged with both the Chief of Police and City Council regarding this ordinance and how after this meeting many of their concerns had been relieved. They encourage more community engagement on this topic.

Karina McSweeney (Mercer Island), student at MIHS and member of the ACLU club, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 21C-02 and expressed her concerns regarding it, and suggested more community engagement on this topic. She also spoke about meeting with staff and City Council to discuss the impacts of the ordinance.

Kiana Nasrabadi (Mercer Island), student at MIHS and member of the ACLU club, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 21C-02 and her concerns regarding it. She also spoke about possible community partnerships to support homelessness on Mercer Island and encouraged funding for this support.

Jonathan Harrington (Mercer Island) thanked the City Council for their support of Resolution No. 1570 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and how we need quantifiable measurable matrixes to be included in the Climate Action Plan. He asked the City Council to consider a residential construction requirement that includes EV ready wiring for one vehicle.

Tom Acker (Mercer Island) thanked the City Council for their work. He spoke regarding the City Council priorities and encouraged the City Council to remember the priorities received from community surveys: public safety, parks, transportation, and retail in Town Center. He also spoke about sticking to the workplan so as not to overburden City Council and staff, and about Sound Transit and the lack of communication with the neighbors.

Gary Robinson (Mercer Island) thanked the City Council for the work that they have been doing for the community.

PLANNING SESSION BUSINESS

AB 6043: Review and Update City Council Priorities

City Manager Jessi Bon gave a brief introduction on the City Council Priorities. She noted that Councilmembers were encouraged to submit suggestions for 2023-2024 priorities in advance of the Planning Session and the suggestions were compiled as an Exhibit to AB 6043.

Mayor Nice presented a set of priorities, based on the common themes from Councilmembers' suggestions, as a starting point for Council discussion as follows:

- Broadly communicate and engage with the community on issues of importance to listen, instill trust, and promote sound decision-making.
- Develop data-driven economic development and retail plans and strategies to activate Town Center.
- Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure and capital facilities.
- Continue to restore city services with fiscal sustainability while focusing on the government's effectiveness, efficiency, and priorities.
- Create a robust legislative process that includes developing state and federal legislative priorities, identifying resource requests to support city initiatives, and guiding leadership and staff teams on engagement and lobbying strategies.

Following discussion and questions, the City Council proposed additional priorities regarding sustainability and parks and decided to add a preamble that encompasses some of the ongoing priorities.

City Manager Bon suggested that Council take a break and that staff would compile a draft set of priorities with a preamble for the Council to review.

The City Council took a break at 10:18 am. The Planning Session reconvened at 10:42 am.

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz provided a draft preamble and set of priorities for 2023-2024 for Council consideration as follows:

The City of Mercer Island provides outstanding municipal services that enhance and protect the environment, the quality of life, and the health, safety, and welfare of our community. We engage with the community on issues of importance to listen, instill trust, and promote sound decision-making. We strive to create and maintain an environmentally sustainable and inclusive community that is safe and supportive for current and future generations.

In the 2023-2024 biennium, we will continue to restore city services with fiscal sustainability while focusing on the government's effectiveness and efficiency, and the following priorities:

1. *Develop data-driven economic development and retail plans and strategies to activate Town Center and other business areas.*
2. *Sustain and enhance our natural environment, especially parks and open spaces, to benefit this generation and others that follow.*
3. *Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.*
4. *Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.*

There was consensus from the Council to have staff bring this back to the Council for final review and approval an upcoming Council meeting.

AB 6044: 2021-2022 Work Plan Update

City Manager Jessi Bon provided a brief update on the 2021-2022 Work Plan. Mayor Nice led the review of the each of the proposed items for the 2023-2024 Work Plan. There was consensus from the City Council for the following items to preliminarily be added to the 2023-2024 Work Plan:

1. Legislative Strategy and Contract for Lobbyist
5. Develop a DEI Plan for the City
6. Establish a Special Revenue Fund for Community Planning & Development
10. Establish a Town Center Community Planning & Development Liaison

14. Restoration of I-90 Island Crest Way SOV access to WB I-90 HOV to reduce Town Center Traffic following loss of access to center roadway
16. Town Center removal of “big bend” replace with parking or park (SE 27th Street & 76th Ave SE)
17. Ban Personal Fireworks
19. Establish a Town Center Police Precinct Volunteer Program
20. School Zone Cameras
21. Body Worn Cameras for Police
24. Comprehensive Facility Assessment for City Hall, the Maintenance Building, and Luther Burbank Admin Building
29. Park Land Donation Program
30. Early Action GHG-Reduction Initiatives & Programs from the City’s Climate Action Plan
35. First/Last-Mile Transportation Initiatives
36. Expand Curbside/Doorstep Recycling Options
37. Define a Sustainable Funding Plan for Youth & Family Services Operations

Staff will prepare budget proposals (if needed) for the items listed above for the City Council to review as part of the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget process in the fall. Council will then determine which items will be added to the budget and the 2023-2024 Work Plan.

The City Council took a break for lunch at 11:52 am. The Planning Session reconvened at 12:40 pm.

AB 6045: Review City Council Rules of Procedure

Chief of Administration Ali Spietz provided an overview of the proposed changes to the City Council Rules of Procedure. There was consensus from the Council to include the following additional changes proposed by Councilmembers:

- **Section 2.2 – Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor:**
 - Add “or upon vacancy of the office”
 - Conduct mayor election and then deputy mayor election
- **Section 3.1(G) – Remote Participation:** Strike sentence about remote attendance being the rare exception and amend technological difficulties.
- **Section 3.1(H) – Roll Call Voting for Hybrid Meetings:** Change all voting to roll call voting
- **Section 3.3(C) – Agenda Approval/Amendment:** change to “...the Mayor may, with the concurrence of the majority of Council...”
- **Section 8.8 – Board & Commission Code of Ethics:** Amend to include current process of signing a statement acknowledging they have received, read, and agree to be bound by the City’s code of ethics MICC Chapter 2.60 and RCW Chapter 42.23.
- **Section 8.12(E) – Board & Commission Appointment Process:** rewrite to clarify tie votes and when applicants to not get enough votes
- **Section 8.13(A) – Board & Commission Vacancies:** amend to include how to vote on multiple vacancies on one board or commission.

Staff will bring the amendments to a future Council meeting for review and approval.

AB 6046: 2021 Community Member of the Year Nomination

Councilmembers nominated citizens for the 2021 Community Member of the Year award. Following discussion of the nominees, the Council made their selection for 2021. The nominee will be honored at an upcoming 2022 Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Attest:

Salim Nice, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk