



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

---

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00 pm at City Hall, 9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong (arrived 5:10 pm) were present. Councilmember Dave Wisenteiner was absent.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Nice to:

**Approve the agenda as presented.**

Passed: 5-0

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, and Weiker)

ABSENT: 2 (Wisenteiner and Wong)

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:02 pm, Mayor Bertlin convened the Executive Session for approximately 60 minutes:

- A. To discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i);
- B. 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); and
- C. 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 consider the maximum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).

At 6:02 Mayor Bertlin adjourned the Executive Session and called the Regular Meeting to order.

## STUDY SESSION

### AB 5608: HB 1406 and HB 1923 Briefing and ARCH Update

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz presented a briefing and recommended action steps related to affordable housing legislation passed by the state legislature in 2019, including HB 1406 and HB 1923.

Deputy Director of Community Planning and Development Alison Van Gorp's provided an update on ARCH's consultant work. Evaluation of the program operations and stewardship of the Homeownership Program was moved to a future meeting due to timing.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

### AB 5592: Peace Day Proclamation

Community Engagement Manager Diane Mortenson introduced Mercer Island Rotary members to receive a proclamation to commemorate International Day of Peace on September 21, 2019 and announce the Mercer Island inaugural Peace Walk. She also spoke about the partnership between Mercer Island Rotary and the Parks & Recreation Department to place twenty 6-foot high solid cedar poles, dedicated to Peace in the community, that are connected along a walkable path on the Island.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin proclaimed September 21, 2019 as Peace Day on Mercer Island and encouraged all citizens to join the Mercer Island Walk for Peace on Saturday, September 21, beginning at 10:00 am at Rotary Park.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Interim City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following:

- International Day of Peace and Mercer Island Rotary Peace Walk, Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 AM, Rotary Park
- Hidden in Plain Sight Event, Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 PM at Mercer Island High School
- Recology Update: New Cart Delivery, Cart Pick-up, Service Level Change Requests, Commercial & Multi-Family Sites, Private Road Waivers
- Streamlining City Business Licenses, October 10 business will renew MI licenses through the State's Business Licensing system.
- Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan Process Update
  - September 23: Community Open House #3, 6-8 PM at MICEC.
  - September 23 - 30: Online Open House Survey
  - October 15: City Council reviews draft master plan and provides additional feedback.
  - November 19: Final Plan brought to City Council for proposed adoption.
- New Fire Engine
- New Website Sneak Peek
- National Preparedness Month Events
- Thank You to Summer Event Sponsors
- Thank you to Finance Director Chip Corder for 14 years of dedicated service!

## **APPEARANCES**

Alex Zimmerman, President of Standup America, spoke to the Council about being trespassed from King County cities and fascism.

Ashely Hay asked the Council what they plan to do about the bus intercept issue. She noted that most of the Island does not want to become a regional bus hub for the entire eastside.

Ian Goodhew spoke in opposition to the bus intercept. He asked the Council to make each of their positions known on the bus intercept.

Olivia Lippens urged the Council to hear the Moms for Safe Mercer Island pleas to stop the bus intercept. She noted that there were over 200 families in the group.

Jake Jacobson stated that it is time to say no to the bus intercept and use the provision in the Settlement Agreement to do so.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Payables: \$233,178.42 (08/29/2019) & \$364,750.59 (09/05/2019)**

**Recommendation:** Certify that the materials or services hereinbefore specified have been received and that all warrant numbers listed are approved for payment.

**Payroll: \$826,238.98 (09/03/2019)**

**Recommendation:** Certify that the materials or services specified have been received and that all fund

warrants are approved for payment.

**Minutes of the September 3, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting.**

**Recommendation:** Approve the September 3, 2019 Special Meeting minutes as written.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Nice to:

**Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.**

Passed: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**AB 5609: King County Regional 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin presented the 2020 Update to the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. She noted that in January 2013, a partnership of King County cities and special purpose districts formed a partnership to pool resources and to create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding success.

She further noted that with an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City can compete for both mitigation project funding, specified grants, and reimbursement following a declared disaster. She explained that the Draft Mercer Island Annex to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to King County. Following King County's review, the entire regional plan is submitted to FEMA in December 2019. FEMA will then approve the plan by spring of 2020 at which time King County and local jurisdictions will adopt the final approved plan.

**AB 5607: State Initiative 976, Limits on Motor Vehicle Taxes and Fees Measures**

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz presented information about Initiative Measure No. 976 (I-976) to repeal, reduce, or remove authority to impose certain vehicle taxes and fees; limit annual motor-vehicle-license fees to \$30, except voter-approved charges; and base vehicle taxes on Kelley Blue Book value. She reviewed state and local funding and state multimodal accounts impacts. She noted that Mercer Island's Transportation Benefit District would be repealed if I-976 passes reducing the Street Fund revenue by \$375,880 and the reduction of \$34,00 in revenue from the State's Multimodal Transportation Account for pedestrian and bicycle facility maintenance and construction projects.

Ms. Spietz reviewed the process and state law regarding Council's option for taking a position on a state initiative.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Wong to:

**Direct staff to generate a resolution stating its opposition to Initiative I-976 and schedule a public hearing for October 7 to consider opposing views.**

Failed: 3-3

FOR: 3 (Bassett, Bertlin, and Wong)

AGAINST: 3 (Anderl, Nice, and Weiker)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

Discussion continued and Council decided to not take a position on I-976.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Planning Schedule**

City Manager Jessi Bon reminded the Council that the October 7 meeting has been rescheduled to October 1 and she reviewed the revised agenda. She also spoke about the Joint meeting with the School Board on October 24 and noted that the November 5 meeting was moved to November 4 due to the General Election.

**Councilmember Absences & Reports**

Councilmember Wisenteiner's absence was excused.

Mayor Bertlin noted that applications for the vacancies for the Open Space Trust Board and Design Commission are due September 18

Councilmember Wong spoke about the proposed Regional Homeless Authority and commenting to the Sound Cities Association.

Councilmember Anderl spoke about the September Utility Board meeting and the utility rate setting for 2020.

Mayor Bertlin congratulates and thanked staff for the successful Doo Wop event. She reminded all about the Peace Walk on Saturday. She spoke about the recent Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. She also thanked the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce for the ArtUncorked Event.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED**

At 8:36 pm, Mayor Bertlin convened an Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) approximately 60 minutes.

At 9:25 pm, Mayor Bertlin adjourned the Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Attest:

---

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

---

Deborah Estrada, City Clerk