



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING JULY 7, 2020

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Benson Wong called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm from a remote location.

Mayor Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, Salim Nice, Craig Reynolds, and David Rosenbaum participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

The Mercer Island City Leadership Team participated from remote locations.

City Manager Jessi Bon, and City Clerk Deborah Estrada participated remotely from separate rooms at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Salim Nice led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Reynolds to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bon reported on the following:

- July 4th Calls for Service
- COVID-19 Update
 - Businesses Must Refuse Service to Unmasked Customers
 - Mask Distribution Friday, July 10 at Mercerdale Park and Tully's Parking Lot
 - Free Safe Start PPE Kits for Local Businesses
 - Paycheck Protection Program Extended to August 8
 - Town Center Outdoor Seating
- City Service Updates
 - Water Main Break
 - Parks Maintenance
 - South Mercer Playfields Turf Replacement Project
 - Events, Facilities, and Rentals
 - Status of Park Amenities
 - Come to a Park, Come Prepared
 - Summer Meals & Resources for Families in Need
 - New Website coming soon
- Metro #630 Update
- Thank You to YFS Counselor Betsy Zuber for 20 years of service
- Thank You and farewell to CPD Director Evan Maxim

APPEARANCES

Ira Appelman, Mercer Island – expressed concern for what he believes is a rushed project to remodel the Thrift

Store, explaining that the public was reassured that projects would not be rushed through during the pandemic. He encouraged the city to put the project immediately on hold until the community has an opportunity to be involved.

Addie Smith, Mercer Island – expressed concern that there is no diversity among staff, City Council, City Hall, or the Police Department. She further noted that there are no black public defenders or an incentive for public defenders to perform. She also asked what changes had been made since the diversity proclamation was adopted.

Al Lippert, Mercer Island – expressed concern that the \$800K for the Thrift Shop project was taken from other projects. He believes expanding the Thrift Shop is a gamble and that the Council should not gamble with the public's money.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve **Accounts Payable** Reports:

- A. Report for the period ending June 12, 2020 in the amount of \$279,658.82,
- B. Report for the period ending June 19, 2020 in the amount of \$308,888.01, and
- C. Report for the period ending June 26, 2020 in the amount of \$269,583.64

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

Approve **Certification of Payroll** dated:

- A. June 19, 2020 in the amount of \$779,332.77
- B. July 2, 2020 in the amount of \$715,743.69

Recommendation: Certify that the materials or services specified have been received and that all fund warrants are approved for payment.

Approve **Minutes:**

- A. June 2, 2020 Regular Video Meeting
- B. June 9, 2020 Special Video Meeting

AB 5715: Mercer Island Fire Department Basic Life Support Core Services Funding

Recommended Action: Accept KCEMS BLS Core Services funding and appropriate \$20,277 for the purchase of EMS supplies and equipment.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5723: Repeal of the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption program

Evan Maxim, Community Planning and Development Director, explained that the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption ("MFTE") was adopted by the City Council in 2011 to encourage the creation of new multifamily housing, and the rehabilitation of existing vacant and underutilized buildings for multifamily housing, through a property tax reduction. The MFTE program was intended to encourage residential development that was identified in the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan; however, following the establishment of the MFTE program, no multifamily projects participated in the program. Maxim continued, explaining that elimination of the MFTE program would not require a Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Maxim responded to Council questions and concerns about shifting the tax burden to the taxpayer.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Anderl to:

Set Ordinance No. 20C-14, repealing Chapter 4.50 of the Mercer Island City Code related to the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption for second reading and adoption on consent for July

21, 2020.

It was moved by Wong, seconded by Rosenbaum to amend the motion to **Set Ordinance No. 20C-14, repealing Chapter 4.50 of the Mercer Island City Code related to the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption for second reading (removing ~~and adoption on consent~~) for July 21, 2020.**

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results of the amended motion were as follows:

Passed 5-2

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Jacobson, Rosenbaum, Nice, and Wong)

AGAINST: 2 (Reynolds and Weiker)

AB 5772: City Manager's Recommendation on Modified 2020 Work Plan

City Manager Jessi Bon reported that the City Council held its annual Planning Session January 24 and 25, 2020 wherein they discussed the 2020-2021 City Council Priorities and new or modified work plan items. At the February 4 Regular Meeting, Council adopted three priorities and identified a list of additional work items. Major projects were charted for the next three years and department work plans were subsequently updated to reflect the new work items.

The impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic greatly affected the 2020 work plan and resulted in many work items being delayed or suspended. As a result, non-essential items were suspended at the end of March and essential services were identified as follows:

- Emergency response to the Pandemic
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Mental health services
- Parks (limited)
- Internal support services needed to sustain these services (human resources, finance, technology, legal, communications, and facilities).
- The purpose of this agenda bill was to review the status of those work items and approve a modified work plan for the remainder of the year.

City Manager Bon explained that Work Plan items identified as "delayed" were still moving forward, but behind schedule; whereas, "suspended" items would not move forward and were subject to further discussion and evaluation. Continuing, she recommended that current service levels be maintained through the end of 2020 and revisit "suspended" and "new" work items as part of the upcoming 2021-2022 budget process.

In closing, Bon outlined the proposed 2021-2022 Budget Development timeline:

- July: Department budget development and review:
- Mid-August: Compile second quarter actuals
- Sept 1: 2020 Q2 Financial Status Report
- End of Sept/TBD: Revenue Forecast, Preliminary Budget, and City Manager Budget message to the City Council
- Oct 6 & 20: Budget study sessions
- November 3: 2020 Q3 Financial Status Report/budget study session
- November 17: Adopt 2021 utility rates, 2021 property tax levy and final 2021-2022 biennial budget

Council confirmed their support to schedule the time needed to review the budget, to which City Manager Bon said she would meet with the Leadership Team and bring back a recommendation for the budget review.

It was moved by Anderl, seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Amend the 2020 City Council Priorities to include "Priority 4 - Provide emergency response services related to the COVID-19 Pandemic."

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve the modified 2020-2021 work plans.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Bon reported that the August 4 Regular Meeting would take place and recommended canceling the August 18 meeting.

It was moved by Weiker, seconded by Jacobson to:

Cancel the August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

A roll call vote was conducted, and the results were as follows:

Passed 7-0

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

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences to report.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmembers thanked CPD Director Evan Maxim and YFS Counselor Betsy Zuber for their service to the City.

Councilmember Rosenbaum encouraged everyone to wear their masks.

Deputy Mayor Weiker reported on the racial equity and justice training offered by SCA on Friday, July 10 at 2:30

Mayor Wong:

- July 14 Special Meeting reminder
- Mayor Wong and City Manager Bon met with State Representatives Senn and Thai to discuss the Council's legislative priorities.
- June 23 meeting with Councilmembers Reynolds and Jacobson, Police Chief Ed Holmes, Chief of Administration Ali Spietz, and Public Works Director Jason Kintner met with Mercer Island High School students and community members regarding recent events surrounding the death of George Floyd, MIPD's Use of Force policies, and former President Obama's Mayors' Pledge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Wong convened the Executive Session at 8:45 to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 60 minutes.

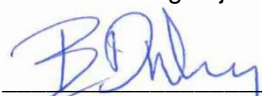
The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before City Council, the Special Video Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Attest:


Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk


Benson Wong, Mayor