



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2024

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## 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 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Craig Reynolds and Ted Weinberg attended in person. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, and Wendy Weiker attended via Zoom.

## 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: 7-0

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

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** Next City Council Meeting – December 3 at 5:00 pm. Design Commission on December 4 at 6:00 pm and Planning Commission Special Meeting – date to be determined.
- **City Services Updates:**
  - Luther Burbank Sports Courts – Courts are open for play! An official opening will be scheduled for spring 2025.
  - 4004 Island Crest Way Repair and Improvements – Damaged landscaping has been removed as well as the contaminated topsoil. Next week crews will bring in new topsoil, trees, and shrubs. The irrigation system will be reinstalled, work is weather dependent and should be completed by the end of December.
  - Sewer SCADA System Replacement – The project is nearing 30% completion milestone. This project will pause in late December and resume in 2025.
  - Town Center Pedestrian Improvements – Concrete work continues along 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and will continue in the coming week, weather permitting. Replacement of eleven ADA ramps along SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street and at the SE 28<sup>th</sup> Street and 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection has been completed.
  - Healthy Youth Initiative – YFS Healthy Youth Initiative hosted a Youth Suicide Prevention for Adults webinar where 25 attendees learned tools to identify signs and symptoms of suicide and how to intervene.
  - Stop the Bleed Training – Emergency Management hosted two Stop the Bleed classes where nearly 50 Islanders received hands-on training on how to correctly apply a tourniquet, pack a wound, and apply pressure during life-threatening bleeding.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - YFS Holiday Programs – Gifts for Kids, Holiday Meals, Financial Assistance Program. The Hopelink Mobile Market will be at MICEC on 12/4 and 12/20.
  - Illuminate MI – Tree lighting – December 5 at Mercerdale Park.
  - Holiday Makers Market – December 7 at MICEC.
  - Family Movie Night – December 13 at MICEC.

- Argosy Christmas Ship – December 15 at Luther Burbank Park Swim Beach.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale – December 5 – 9 during library hours.
- **News:**
  - Athletic Field Bookings Pilot Program – The Recreation Team has been piloting online reservations for athletic fields.

## APPEARANCES

Kim Florence (Mercer Island) spoke about e-bike and e-scooter safety.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### AB 6572: November 1, 2024 Payroll Certification

**Recommended Action:** Approve the November 1, 2024 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$840,999.43 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

#### Certification of Claims:

- A. Check Register | 00221325-00221429 | 11/01/2024 | \$860,164.92
- B. Check Register | 00221430-00221492 | 11/08/2024 | \$770,943.07
- C. EFT Payments | September 2024 | \$2,334,030.66
- D. EFT Payments | October 2024 | \$3,261,727.29

**Recommended Action:** Certify that the City Council has reviewed the documentation supporting claims paid and approved all checks or warrants issued in payment of claims.

### City Council Special Hybrid Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2024

**Recommended Action:** Approve the City Council Special Hybrid Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2024.

### AB 6573: Second reading of Ordinance No. 24C-16 related to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

#### Recommended Actions:

1. Move to adopt Ordinance No. 24C-16 amending the City's Comprehensive Plan by repeal and replace of the 2015 Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan with the 2024 Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan.
2. Move to direct the City Manager to complete the final formatting and plan layout for publication in Q1 2025.

### AB 6566: Sound Transit Right of Way Dedication

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute the instruments substantially in the form included as Exhibits 2 and 3 accepting Sound Transit Right-of-Way dedication.

### AB 6568: Accessory Structure Agreement (3072 71st Avenue SE)

**Recommended Action:** Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute an Agreement substantially in the form of Exhibit 1 with James A. McDermet and Nancy Rock-McDermet to place an accessory building less than five feet from the rear property line adjacent to First Hill Park.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

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

## REGULAR BUSINESS

### AB 6571: Public Hearing: 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Workshop, Third Quarter 2024 Financial Status Update, and Adoption of Budget Resolutions and Ordinances

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 5:18 PM. There being no public comments, Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 5:18 PM.

**AB 6575: Public Hearing: Interim Regulations Related to Permit Processing in Chapters 19.15 and 19.16 MICC (Ord. No. 24C-17)**

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 5:19 PM. There being no public comments, Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 5:19 PM.

**AB 6576: Public Hearing and First Reading of Ord. No. 24C-18 on Interim Regulations Related to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and HB 1220 for Affordable Housing Capacity and Requirements in Title 19 MICC**

Mayor Nice opened the Public Hearing at 5:19 PM.

Tenley Tobin (Woodinville) spoke about building height.

Colin Skone (Seattle) spoke about affordable housing targets.

Mayor Nice closed the Public Hearing at 5:26 PM.

**AB 6574: Sound Cities Association Voting Delegates for the Annual Meeting and North Caucus Meeting**

Mayor Nice explained that the City Council needed to appoint delegates to vote on behalf of the City of Mercer Island at the Sound Cities Association (SCA) Annual Meeting on December 4, 2024 and the SCA North Caucus Meeting on December 13, 2024.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

**Appoint Councilmember Weinberg as the voting delegate at the Sound Cities Association Annual Meeting on December 4, 2024 and Councilmember Weiker as the voting delegate at the North Caucus Meeting on December 13, 2024.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

**AB 6571: Discussion: 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Workshop, Third Quarter 2024 Financial Status Update, and Adoption of Budget Resolutions and Ordinances**

Finance Director Matt Mornick presented the Q3 2024 Financial Status update including budget to actuals for revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and Utility Funds. He spoke about the adjustments that have been made to the preliminary 2025-2026 Biennial Budget. Finance Director Mornick discussed the final elements of the budget that are being presented including the property tax levies ordinances and the resolutions approving NORCOM's 2025 budget, updating the City's ambulance transportation fees, and updating the City's Financial Management Policies to incorporate policy and/or administrative decisions from the previous year.

City Council discussed the budget and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 24-19, appropriating funds and establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied for fiscal year 2025.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 24-20, establishing the dollar amount and percentage increases of the regular property tax levy and the levy lid lifts for fiscal year 2025.**

PASSED: 6-0-1

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

ABSTAIN: 1 (Jacobson)

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Adopt Resolution No. 1665, approving NORCOM's 2025 budget allocation to the City of Mercer Island.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Adopt Resolution No. 1666, updating the City's Ambulance Transport Fees to align with Eastside Fire and Rescue's Ambulance Transport Fees for fiscal year 2025.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Adopt Resolution No. 1667, updating the City's Financial Management Policies to incorporate policy and/or administrative decisions from the previous year.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

**AB 6575: Discussion: Interim Regulations Related to Permit Processing in Chapters 19.15 and 19.16 MICC (Ord. No. 24C-17)**

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the proposed interim regulations related to permit processing.

Senior Planner Molly McGuire discussed the purpose of Ordinance No. 24C-17 to enact interim regulations to be consistent with SB 5290 that goes into effect on January 1, 2025. She discussed the previously adopted interim regulations that are extended with this ordinance, the new interim regulations including land use review types, review processing and procedures, application requirements, and determinations of completeness and letters of completeness.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

**Schedule Ordinance No. 24C-17 for second reading and adoption on December 3, 2024.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

**AB 6576: Discussion: First Reading of Ord. No. 24C-18 on Interim Regulations Related to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and HB 1220 for Affordable Housing Capacity and Requirements in Title 19 MICC**

CPD Director Jeff Thomas spoke about the interim regulations related to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and HB 1220 for affordable housing capacity and requirements.

Senior Planner Adam Zack discussed the background and purpose of Ordinance No. 24C-18 for compliance with HB 1220 and the updated Housing Element of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the increase in building height in Town Center, and the affordable housing until requirements.

City Council asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Reynolds to:

**Schedule Ordinance No. 24C-18 for second reading and adoption on December 3, 2024.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

**AB 6557: 2025 State Legislative Priorities Adoption**

Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham-Adams presented the 2025 State Legislative Priorities.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

**Adopt the City of Mercer Island 2025 State Legislative Priorities, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6557.**

PASSED: 7-0

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Councilmember Absences and Reports**

Councilmember Weinberg noted that there was a K4C meeting and an Arts Council meeting. He noted that his next open lunch is on November 24 at the Crawlspace Gastro Pub.

City Council was in recess from 6:33 pm – 6:43 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:43 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.

The Executive Session addressed the following:

1. Collective Bargaining - 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); and
2. Pending or Potential Litigation - Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); and
3. Real Estate Acquisition - 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
4. Performance of a Public Employee - Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Craig Reynolds and Ted Weinberg participated in person. Councilmember Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, and Wendy Weiker attended via Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 7:42 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

  
Salim Nice, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Andrea Larson, City Clerk