



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

Mayor 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.

City Manager Bon participated remotely from City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington. The City Attorney and Mercer Island City Leadership Team participated from remote locations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Anderl delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Weiker to:

Approve the agenda.

Passed 7-0

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

STUDY SESSION

AB 5809: YFS Levy Discussion

Deanna Gregory, with Pacific Law Group, discussed considerations for funding Youth and Family Services and outlined the following for City Council consideration:

- Determine programs to be funded and amount of funding gap (Scenarios 1-4)
- Voter Considerations
- Annual Increase Limitations
 - Lifting the 101% Levy Lid
 - Single Year Lift
 - Multiple Year Lift
- Levy Lid Lift Process and Election Dates
- Ballot Measure Requirements

City Council asked several questions to which City Manager Bon suggested that staff would do additional research and return in early April with more information. There was **Council Consensus** to research and/or provide additional information regarding the following:

- Single Year Levy Lift Option for consideration on the November ballot
- Modeling related to Levy Term
- YFS's current capacity
- Update on Geriatric Counselor and caseload
- School Counselors' caseload

SPECIAL BUSINESS

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci addressed the City Council and responded to questions regarding the following 2020 Accomplishments:

- COVID Response and Recovery (Childcare, Shelters, Arts, culture, and science organizations, Small businesses, and Community organizations)
- King County Budget (Criminal legal system reform, Transit, Behavioral health, Eastrail, Kokanee, and Housing stability)
- Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account
- Climate Action Toolkit

Looking ahead to 2021, Council Chair Balducci provided an update on the following:

- Vaccine Distribution and COVID-19 Recovery
- Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal
- Strategic Climate Action Plan
- Health through Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Redistricting
- Law Enforcement Reform
- Transportation

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- COVID-19 Update:
 - Puget Sound Region Moves into Phase 2
 - New COVID-19 Strain in King County
 - Vaccine Rollout
 - How to Make a Vaccine Appointment
- Council and Boards & Commissions Schedule Updates
- City Service Updates:
- City Reports Sculpture Theft – ‘Counterpoint’
- Interim Fire Chief Services
- January Storm Debris Hand-off
- Updating Boat Launch Fee Structure
- Thrift Shop Operations & Thank you Thrift Shop Volunteers
- MICEC and Recreation Restart
- Development Application for Code Amendment Request Withdrawn

APPEARANCES

David Beatty, Mercer Island – addressed Ordinance No. 21C-02 and expressed concern that it would exasperate the homeless situation. He expressed concern that the ordinance does not address available housing options.

Ashley Hay, Mercer Island – speaking on behalf of the Mercer Island Preschool Association, Hay advocated for preschoolers, requesting that the Mercerdale Park be fully accessible to all children of all ages and capabilities.

John Hamer, Mercer Island – spoke in support of making Mercerdale Park accessible to all children.

Bonnie Godfred, Mercer Island – encouraged Council to leave Mercerdale Park the way it is, without adding more buildings.

Frank Schott, Mercer Island – addressed the Thrift Shop expansion and his passion for the YFS services. Believes that the funding provided by the Thrift Shop is important, but that the current facility is limited. Offered to serve on a committee that looked at all available options for the Thrift Shop.

Jill Hawkins, Mercer Island – addressed the need to recognize individuals with rare diseases and encouraged Council to recognize Rare Disease Day to raise awareness around this issue. She also encouraged individuals to “wear their stripes” in recognition of Rare Disease Day on February 28.

Tom Acker, Mercer Island (7:25) – thanked Council for their work and service and thanked Jill Hawkins for her efforts on Rare Disease Day. He also addressed the Code of Ethics and the changes that he believes need to be made, specifically the complaint process. He further noted that public officials should not get involved until the investigation is completed and suggested that a corrective action review board be created.

Meg Lippert, Mercer Island – encouraged the City Council to save a small northwest corner of the Town Center Park from a non-parkland use. Furthermore, she emphasized the importance of protecting Mercer Island's parkland heritage and requested that Council find a different place to construct the Thrift Shop.

Robin Russell, Mercer Island – encouraged City Council to protect Mercerdale Park and not expand the Thrift Shop in such a way that it would impact the park.

Victor Raisys, Mercer Island – urged Council to direct staff not to accept additional growth capacity from King County and the High-Capacity Transit regional geography caucus. He also encouraged Council to focus on mitigating the impacts of the growth on the community's infrastructure, businesses, and quality of life.

There being no additional public comments, Mayor Wong closed Appearances.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Accounts Payable Report for the periods ending January 15, 2021 (\$865,312.94) and January 22, 2021 (\$1,070,765.42)

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

Certification of Payroll dated January 29, 2021 in the amount of \$761,757.23.

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

Approve Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Video Meeting.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes as written.

AB 5803: Black History Month Proclamation No. 260

Recommended Action: Award the SCADA-Water Equipment Replacement project to Bainbridge Island Electric in the amount of \$367,609 and direct the City Manager to execute the construction contract.

AB 5804: MIYFS Foundation Day Proclamation No. 261

Recommended Action: Mayor Wong proclaims February 2, 2021 as MIYFS Foundation Day in the City of Mercer Island.

AB 5805: Bid Acceptance: SCADA-Water Equipment Replacement Project

Recommended Action: Award the SCADA-Water Equipment Replacement project to Bainbridge Island Electric in the amount of \$367,609 and direct the City Manager to execute the construction contract.

AB 5796: Public Sewer Easement Extinguishments and Replacement

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to terminate sewer easements AFN 4635647, 4655749, and 4709245 as depicted in Exhibit 3 in exchange for a new 15-foot-wide realigned easement by executing instruments to be approved by the City Attorney.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Nice to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein as presented and amended.

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5808: Healthy Youth Initiative Program Update

YFS staff provided a detailed overview of the Health Youth Initiative:

- History of Prevention on Mercer Island (Funding, Strategy, and Accomplishments)

- Healthy Youth Initiative Task Force
- Prevention Science & Mercer Island Data (Smoking/Vaping, Alcohol Use & Binge Drinking, Riding with a Drinking Driver, Marijuana Use, Depression, and Suicide)
- Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success and Sober Truth on Prevention Underage Drinking Act (STOP) Grants
- Prevention & Health Promotion Strategies
- COVID-19 – Prevention in a Pandemic and Expanding the YFS Virtual Reach
- Current Healthy Youth Initiative Projects & Partnerships:
 - “Attentive Parenting” in Partnership with University of Washington’s (UW) School of Social Work
 - “Mental Health First Aid” in Partnership with Jewish Family Service in Seattle
 - “COVID-19 Check-In with Yourself” Partnership with UW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
 - “S.A.F.E. Club & Minds Matter” in Partnership with Mercer Island School District

AB 5807: King County Planning Policies Growth Targets.

Jeff Thomas, Community Planning and Development Interim Director, reviewed the background for the King County Planning Policies Growth Targets and provided City Council with an update since the January 19 meeting:

- County-Wide Planning Policies and Growth Targets Schedule:
 - Urban Growth Capacity Study: March 2021
 - Regional Geography Caucus Meetings: March 2021
 - Growth Management Planning Council: June 2021
 - King County Council: Summer 2021
 - Cities Ratification: Fall 2021

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Jacobson to:

Authorize the City Manager to direct staff to continue advocating with King County and the High-Capacity Transit regional geography caucus for the lowest possible growth targets related to employment and housing, with housing units not to exceed 1,204, and for the County-Wide Planning Policies Growth Target Update Process and to bring the matter back to the City Council for further consideration and direction once the results of the Urban Growth Capacity Study are available.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 5806: Thrift Shop Operations Update

Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director, reviewed the project’s background and its public engagement results with City Council.

- Background:
 - June 2020 - Early concept was developed with the goal of increasing retail floor space.
 - September 2020 – Staff presented two conceptual options that achieved the project goals
 - November 2020 – Staff presented Return-on-Investment analysis for both options
 - November 2020 – Council requested a public process to solicit ideas from the community
- Public Engagement
 - December 2020 thru January (7 comments, 26 contributions to location ideas)

Kintner explained that operations due to the Pandemic continue to be challenging and current operations will need to be modified as the Recreation Reset process is underway.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Weiker to:

Suspend the Thrift Shop and Recycling Center Project and direct the City Manager to begin a Thrift Shop Restart Plan, which includes identifying short-term solution for successful and sustainable donation processing during the Pandemic.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 5810: City Council Sustainability Committee Discussion

Mayor Wong introduced the Sustainability Committee, noting that the Committee was originally form in 2008. He further reported that as part of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget process, the City Council funded a full time Sustainability Program Analyst to design and oversee on-the-ground implementation of sustainability programs, measure, and outreach.

City Manager Bon explained that Sustainability Analyst would continue serving as Communications Manager until such time that the position is filled.

There was **Council Consensus** that Mayor Wong and Councilmembers Reynolds and Nice would serve on the Committee.

The Committee's suggested role was outlined as follows:

- Providing recommendations on the Sustainability Work Plan with final approval by the full City Council.
- Reviewing King County – Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Outreach activities and that of similar groups and deciding collectively the political advocacy (if any) that should be considered by the full City Council.
- Reviewing and making recommendations regarding the signing of support letters that are circulated for signature by mayors of K4C member cities, or by mayors of SCA member cities, involving issues or positions that are consistent with K4C's Updated Joint Climate Commitments that Mercer Island signed in 2019.
- Staying informed of pending legislation that might be of particular interest to Mercer Island and providing reports to the full City Council so it can determine in a timely manner whether it wants to take a particular position relative to certain legislation.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Reynolds to:

Reinstate the City Council Sustainability Committee and adopt the Sustainability Committee's suggested role that is described in the four bullets of the agenda bill. (see above)

PASSED: 7-0

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences reported.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Bon briefly outlined the February 16 meeting:

- The Rich Hill Code Amendment was removed because the application was withdrawn.
- The emergency ordinance adopted last summer allowing for outdoor commerce has ended and will need to be renewed at the next meeting.
- There will be an update on the Recreation Restart Plan and a request for a recreation position to assist with administration.
- March agendas are already very full.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Weiker

- February 10 is the YFS Breakfast
- Sound Cities Association is having a forum on February 5

Councilmember Reynolds – K4C Outreach Committee is very busy with the legislature

Councilmember Jacobson:

- Snake Hill Park improvements were removed to minimize injury by users. There will be a community meeting on February 6.
- Mercedale Park Zoom meeting on February 8

Councilmember Nice

- Provided an update on the Arts Council meeting. There was Council Consensus to support efforts by the Arts Council as the Recreation Restart plan progresses.

Mayor Wong

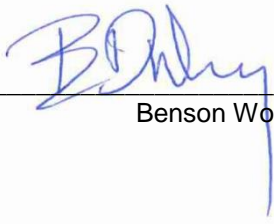
- SCA met on January 27 with several key speakers that discussed 2020 activities and upcoming 2021 activities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular Council Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.



Benson Wong, Mayor

Attest:



Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk