



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Dave Rosenbaum called the Regular Hybrid Meeting to order at 5:01 pm in the Slater Room Council Chambers at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor Daniel Becker, and Councilmembers Julie Hsieh, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg attended in person. Councilmember Lisa Anderl attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rosenbaum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Reynolds to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker, and Weinberg)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:**
 - City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 5:00 pm
 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting on Wednesday, Thursday, September 3 at 5:00 pm
 - Utility Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 5:00 pm
- **City Updates:**
 - AC Water Main Replacements – The asbestos cement (AC) water main replacement project in the Mercerwood neighborhood continues. The project will replace AV pipe with ductile iron pipe. Bid award is expected in early October and project completion is targeted for Q3 2027.
 - Phase 2 – PRV Station Replacements – This project will replace five pressure reducing valves (PRV) stations that have reached the end of their useful life with four new PRV stations and a new water main. The project is out for bid now with construction expected to begin in October and project completion is targeted for spring 2027.
 - Park Facility Vandalism – Groveland Beach and Deane's Children's Park have both experienced recent restroom closures due to vandalism. Groveland Beach restroom has reopened however; Deane's Children's Park restroom remain closed with repairs expected to be completed next week.
 - Annual Docket Requests – The Annual Docket is the yearly process for the public to submit requests to amend the Comprehensive Plan or Development Code. The City is now accepting requests for amendments to its Comprehensive Plan and Development code between September 1 – October 1, 2026.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Community Blood Drive – September 2 from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm at MICEC
 - Mid Autumn Festival 2026 – September 20 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at MICEC
- **News:**
 - Repair Event Success! Mercer Island hosted a Repair Event this past weekend at MICEC, where skilled volunteer "fixers" helped residents repair small household and personal items rather than discarding them.

APPEARANCES

The following individuals spoke in support of AB 6988: Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment for four properties owned by the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) (Ordinance No. 26-13):

- Denise Joffee
- Charlotte Maines
- Gina Gonchar
- Jane Bouleware
- Thomas Jacobs
- Joe Schocken
- David Azose
- Margie Starnes
- Jill Handaly
- Mark Clausen
- Steven Linkon
- Douglas Rosen
- Robbie Cape

The following individuals spoke against AB 6988: Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment for four properties owned by the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) (Ordinance No. 26-13):

- Anastasia Mironovia
- Pavel Sterba
- Matt Goldbach
- John Hall

Alex Tsimmerman spoke about antisemitism.

The City Council was in recess from 6:09 pm to 6:18 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:18 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum 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 for approximately 20 minutes until 6:35 pm.

Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Mayor David Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor Daniel Becker, and Councilmembers Julie Hsieh, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Weiker, and Ted Weinberg participated in person. Councilmember Lisa Anderl participated via MS Teams.

City Attorney Bio Park participated via MS Teams and other staff participated in person.

At 6:35 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes to 6:40 pm.

At 6:40 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes to 6:45 pm.

At 6:45 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes to 6:50 pm.

At 6:50 pm, Mayor Rosenbaum extended the Executive Session for 5 minutes to 6:55 pm.

Mayor Rosenbaum adjourned the Executive Session at 6:51 pm.

The City Council was in recess from 6:51 pm to 6:55 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6983: July 24 2026 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the July 24, 2026 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$1,027,055.87 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6974: August 10, 2026 Payroll Certification

Recommended Actions: Approve the August 10, 2026 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$1,035,631.24 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6975: August 25, 2026 Payroll Certification

Recommended Actions: Approve the August 25, 2026 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$999,414.08 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6976: Certification for Claims Paid June 30, 2026 through July 15, 2026

Recommended Actions: Approve the June 30, 2026 through July 15, 2026 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$2,833,172.53 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6977: Certification for Claims Paid July 16, 2026 through July 31, 2026

Recommended Actions: Approve the July 16, 2026 through July 31, 2026 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$2,618,643.54 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

AB 6978: Certification for Claims Paid July 31, 2026 through August 15, 2026

Recommended Actions: Approve the July 31, 2026 through August 15, 2026 Accounts Payable Certification of Claims in the amount of \$1,641,184.94 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2026

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2026.

AB 6979: National Recovery Month, Proclamation No. 393

Recommended Action: Approve Proclamation No. 393 proclaiming September 2026 as National Recovery Month on Mercer Island.

AB 6981: Hunger Action Month, Proclamation No. 395

Recommended Action: Approve Proclamation No. 395 proclaiming September 2026 as Hunger Action Month on Mercer Island.

AB 6982: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Proclamation No. 396

Recommended Action: Approve Proclamation No. 396 proclaiming September 2026 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month on Mercer Island.

AB 6984: Amendment to ILA – Rate Increase for 2027 for Jail Services with South Correctional Entity (SCORE)

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to the interlocal agreement with SCORE.

AB 6987: Interlocal Agreement and Lease Agreement Amendments with the City of Newcastle for Municipal Court Operations

Recommended Action:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newcastle for use of the Council Chambers for Mercer Island Municipal Court proceedings, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with the City of Newcastle for Suite 301 in the Newcastle Professional Center located at 12835 Newcastle Way, Newcastle, Washington, for Mercer Island Municipal Court administrative offices, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 2.

AB 6989: Appropriation for Luther Burbank Park Dock and Waterfront Improvements Project and Bid Award

Recommended Action: Award the Luther Burbank Park Dock and Waterfront Improvements Project construction contract, authorize funding, and set the project budget.

AB 6994: Interlocal Agreement with MISD for Mental Health Counseling Services

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District for mental health counseling services during the 2026-2027 school year substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6994.

It was moved by Becker; seconded by Reynolds to:

Approve the Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

PASSED: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)

ABSENT: 1 (Weinberg)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6971: Fire Apparatus Acquisition and Financing (Ordinance No. 26-12, First Reading)

Finance Director Matt Mornick introduced the staff team of Eastside Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief of Support Services Jeromy Hicks and Management Analyst II Carson Hornsby.

Deputy Chief Hicks spoke about the type 2 fire apparatus that is overdue for replacement, the design specifications for a replacement that recommend the purchase of a Piece manufactured engine, and how the proposed apparatus make and model meet the requirements to serve Mercer Island's response area.

Management Analyst II Hornsby presented the purchase agreement with Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. that was drafted to mirror the terms of the type 1 apparatus purchased by the City in 2025, the financing for the apparatus through Municipal Asset Management, Inc who offered the most competitive terms to the City, and the budgetary impacts.

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Becker to:

Schedule the second reading of Ordinance No. 26-12 on September 15, 2026.

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

AB 6988: Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment for four properties owned by the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) (Ordinance No. 26-13)

Jessica Clawson spoke on behalf of the Strom Jewish Community Center (SJCC) application for a Comprehensive Plan map amendment for four properties owned by the SJCC changing from Residential to Commercial Office. She spoke about the background of the docket request and application for the Comprehensive Plan map amendment.

Amy Lavin, CEO of the SJCC, spoke about the history of the SJCC on Mercer Island and the mission of the "J". She spoke about the challenges the SJCC faces to maintain the aging facility due to the limits in the City code.

Jessica Clawson discussed the land use approvals that have been issued over the years on the SJCC properties, the challenges the SJCC has faced since the code changes in 2017 in Ordinance No. 17C-15 that have limited the ability to maintain the facility, the inability to make updates to bring the building into ADA compliance, and the nonconforming provisions in MICC 19.01.050.C. She spoke about the Comprehensive Plan map amendment approval criteria and how the SJCC application meets the approval criteria.

CPD Director Jeff Thomas introduced the staff team of CPD Deputy Director Alison Van Gorp and Senior Planner Molly McGuire who discussed background of the SJCC docket application in 2023 and the 2025

SJCC applications for Comprehensive Plan amendment and Rezone, noting that tonight only the Comprehensive Plan amendment is before the City Council. She spoke about what a Comprehensive Plan amendment is, an overview of the application that was submitted by the SJCC, the project timeline, and the Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan amendment on August 5.

Senior Planner McGuire presented the criteria for Comprehensive Plan map amendments, the Planning Commission findings and recommendation, and the staff recommendation to reject the Planning Commission findings and adopt the staff findings originally presented to the Planning Commission. She spoke about the process for the City Council review and discussion of the Comprehensive Plan map amendment.

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Weinberg to:

Amend the Planning Commission's recommendation by rejecting both amended findings for MICC 19.15.230(F)(1) and (2) and replace these findings with those originally presented by staff to the Planning Commission as detailed in Exhibit 3 and schedule the second reading of Ordinance No. 26-13 for December 1, 2026.

City Council was in recess from 8:17 pm to 8:22 pm.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Becker to amend the main motion to:

Reject amended finding (F)(1), accept finding (F)(2), and replace finding (F)(1) with what was originally presented by staff to the Planning Commission as detailed in Exhibit 3

FAILED: 1-6

FOR: 1 (Anderl)

AGAINST: 6 (Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

MAIN MOTION PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

AB 6963: Water Supply Pipeline Project – Mini-MACC 2 and Near-Term Funding Authorization

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner provided background on the water supply pipeline project, the scope of the project to replace the water supply pipeline with a new City owned 24-inch earthquake resistant water supply pipeline. He noted the new alignment along East Mercer Way, SE 26th Street, Gallagher Hill Road, and SE 40th Street, the work being done to replace aging asbestos cement water main along Gallagher Hill Road, the new water connections and meter meters to serve the Shorewood Apartments, and the coordinated roadway, sidewalk, accessibility, drainage, and lighting improvements that will come in the next phase of work.

Chief of Operations Kintner spoke about the alternative service delivery and how the City is using the Heavy Civil General Contractor/Construction Manager Process (GC/CM) for this project, and the approval being sought for the Maximum Allowable Construction Cost (MACC) for the next phase of work that is contained in Mini-MACC 2 for construction of the 24-inch main. He spoke about next steps and the project timeline noting construction will begin in fall 2026 and will continue through 2027.

It was moved by Anderl; seconded by Reynolds to:

Authorize the City Manager to execute Mini-MACC 2 with Scarsella Brothers, Inc., a Washington-based Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$10,535,100, for construction of the new 24-inch water supply pipeline and associated water-system improvements; appropriate \$6,142,200 from the Water Fund available fund balance to the Water Supply Pipeline Project (90.40.0032); and authorize the City Manager to execute any related documents necessary to complete this work.

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Becker, Hsieh, Reynolds, Rosenbaum, Weiker and Weinberg)

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the September and October meetings.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Councilmember Weinberg noted his next monthly open lunch is at Anise Thai at 12pm on September 20.

Councilmember Reynolds noted there is a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.
Councilmember Hsieh noted the City Council approved Proclamation No. 396 recognizing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and her next monthly coffee chat is at ASA at 11am on September 30.
Mayor Rosenbaum thanked the staff for all of the work they did over the summer on all of the events on the Island.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.


Dave Rosenbaum, Mayor

Attest:



Andrea Larson, City Clerk