



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR HYBRID MEETING JANUARY 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers Wendy Weiker (5:04 pm), and Ted Weinberg participated in person in the Slater Room Council Chambers. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, and Craig Reynolds joined via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council delivered the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Weinberg; seconded by Rosenbaum to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

PASSED: 7-0

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jessi Bon reported on the following items:

- **Accessing City Services:** Reminder how to access City services through the Customer Service Team.
- **Council, Boards & Commission Meetings:** Next City Council meeting is February 6, 2024. Upcoming Board and Commission Meetings: Arts Council on January 17, Planning Commission on January 24, and Parks & Recreation Commission on February 1.
- **Update on City Hall Transitions:** Relocation of Court services to Newcastle City Hall is almost complete. Police modular buildings are getting prepared for delivery early next month. Staff are working through modifications to the Slater Room Council Chambers.
- **City Services Updates:** Parks Maintenance staff have completed tree chipping in the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery, repainted the interior of the restroom at Deane's Children's Park, and working on winter weather response. The Utilities Team continues work on preventative maintenance to keep our systems running and stay on top of issues. Sewer Basin 40 project is making great progress and is nearing completion. The new water main on 60th Ave SE in the East Seattle neighborhood has been pressure-tested. Roanoke Park Playground replacement virtual public meeting on January 30.
- **Upcoming Events:** Island Lanterns return to Mercerdale Park; pick up lanterns at MICEC. Save the date for Summer Celebration 2024 on Saturday July 13.
- **News:** YFS volunteer Mary Duray won the Alliance of Eastside Agencies "Volunteer of the Year." Congratulations Mary! Bloodworks Northwest hosted another successful blood drive at MICEC providing 40 units of blood.
- **Memoriam:** Remembering Karlene Johnson who passed away in December 2023. Karlene was an Individual and Family Therapist with YFS for the past 11 years. The City of Mercer Island extends our heartfelt condolences to Karlene's family, friends, coworkers, and the many clients she served. She will be greatly missed.

APPEARANCES

Kian Bradely, Mercer Island, spoke in support of adding housing capacity.

Trevor Reed, Mercer Island, spoke in support of adding housing capacity.

CONSENT AGENDA

AB 6392: December 29, 2023 Payroll Certification

Recommended Action: Approve the December 29, 2023 Payroll Certification in the amount of \$1,023,644.27 and authorize the Mayor to sign the certification on behalf of the entire City Council.

Certification of Claims:

A. Check Register | 218225-218288 | 12/29/2023 | \$562,219.83

B. Check Register | 218289-218369 | 01/05/2024 | \$772,727.17

C. EFT Payments | November 2023 | \$4,717,641.53

D. EFT Payments | December 2023 | \$2,772,370.69

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 Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 Regular Hybrid Meeting

Recommended Action: Approve the City Council Meeting minutes of the January 2, 2024 Regular Hybrid Meeting.

AB 6394: West Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders, Phase 4 Bid Award

Recommended Action: Award the West Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders, Phase 4 contract to New X, Inc. – a Washington-based company – and authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with New X in an amount not to exceed \$437,416.87 for the construction of the West Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders, Phase 4 project and set the total project budget at \$677,751.

AB 6396: Amendment to the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network Operator Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment to the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Operator Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (ILA) substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit 1 of this AB, and to execute for the best interest of the City any future amendments to the same ILA that are de minimis or non-substantive.

AB 6398: Island Crest North Infield Appropriation Request

Recommended Action: Appropriate an additional \$152,561 to complete Phase 1 of the Island Crest Park Athletic Fields Upgrade project. Additional funding will come from the Capital Improvement Fund available balance.

It was moved by Rosenbaum; seconded by Jacobson to:

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

PASSED: 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 6393: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, Housing Element – Housing Capacity Direction

CPD Director Jeff Thomas reviewed the requests received from City Council at the January 2 City Council

meeting regarding housing capacity, the Area Median Income (AMI), Government transfer payments, Accessory Dwelling Units, the staff analysis of the Planned Business Zone (PBZ), and the Racially Disparate Impacts evaluation counts from the source data.

Mr. Thomas presented the three options for addressing the housing capacity deficit: 1) increase height in Town Center, 2) allow multifamily in C-O zone, or 3) increase density in MF3 Zone.

City Council discussed the proposal and asked questions of staff.

It was moved by Jacobson; seconded by Reynolds to:

Remove PBZ zone located on the south end of the island from further considerations in the capacity analysis.

PASSED: 7-0

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

It was moved by Reynolds; seconded by Jacobson to:

Direct the Housing Work Group to develop a recommended plan for adding required additional capacity in the Town Center but not limited to adding “one floor option” with due consideration of the impact on the Island businesses and a charge to look for options that mitigate the impact to Island businesses.

PASSED: 4-3

FOR: 4 (Anderl, Jacobson, Reynolds, and Weinberg)

AGAINST: 3 (Nice, Rosenbaum, and Weiker)

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Weiker to:

Add multifamily residential use to the CO zones not directly abutting a parcel in a single-family zone.

PASSED: 7-0

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

AB 6391: 2023-2024 Capital Project Update

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner presented an overview of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and discussed the four programmatic areas that are included in the CIP: 1) Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, 2) Streets, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Facilities, 3) Utilities – Sewer, Water, and Stormwater, and 4) General Government – Equipment, Public Buildings and Technology. He presented updates on the City Hall closure, 2023 and 2024 water, sewer, and stormwater system improvement projects, , 2023 and 2024 Street, Pedestrian, and Bicycle facility projects, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space 2023 and 2024 capital projects. He discussed the facilities conditions assessment of City facilities, the Clarke and Groveland Beach Park joint Master Plan, and the postponement of the Mercedale Park Master Plan until after the completion of the sewer project and other competing needs.

AB 6395: Parks Levy Annual Progress Report

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner spoke about the Parks Levy annual progress report and introduced Senior Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham-Adam who provided the background on the Parks Levy, and discussed the base levy that that covers the full cost of operation and maintenance of Luther Burbank Park and partially supports operations and capital projects in other developed parks, open space, and athletic fields. Chief of Operations Kintner discussed the playground replacements that are included in the 2023-2028 Parks Capital Improvement Plan. Natural Resources Project Manager Lizzy Stone discussed Forest Management at Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.

OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Schedule

City Manager Jessi Bon spoke about the February 6 Meeting.

Councilmember Absences and Reports

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum noted that at the last PTA Council meeting City staff were thanked for the lights in

Town Center and for the new school zone flashing lights by Northwood Elementary.
Councilmember Weiker thanked the Public Works team for all their work during the winter weather.

City Council was in recess from 6:58pm – 7:16pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:16 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 was to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and 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).

Mayor Salim Nice, Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum, and Councilmembers, Wendy Weiker and Ted Weinberg participated in person in Room 104. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Jake Jacobson, and Craig Reynolds joined via Microsoft Teams.

Mayor Nice adjourned the Executive Session at 9:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Council Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm

Attest:



Andrea Larson, City Clerk



Salim Nice, Mayor