



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 30, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, and Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present. Councilmember David Wisenteiner was absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:02 pm, Mayor Bertlin convened the Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(l) for approximately 60 minutes.

At 5:49 pm, Mayor Bertlin adjourned the Executive Session and Council took a brief break.

Mayor Bertlin convened the Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm.

STUDY SESSION

AB 5547: Mercer Island Transit Interchange and King County Metro Concurrence with ST Settlement Agreement

Senior Project Manager Kirsten Taylor, Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe, and Michael Lapham of KPG, the City's on-call traffic engineering firm, provided analysis of Sound Transit's Mercer Island Transit Interchange Operational and Configuration Study, the 77th Avenue SE and North Mercer Way roundabout design, and recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle improvements to enhance safety and access to the light rail station.

Mr. Lapham also reviewed the potential southbound 80th Avenue SE local bus stop, explaining that the bus stop could be included initially and later removed or simply added later. He also explained that the Study did not identify safety issues with design of the roundabout or new bus layover spaces on North Mercer Way and recommended restricting northbound left turns when the pedestrian crossing phase is activated as this will reduce the potential for vehicle-pedestrian collisions.

Council asked several questions and reached consensus that Mayor Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Nice, and Councilmember Anderl would consult with City Manager Underwood and Senior Project Manager Taylor to respond to Council questions at its Regular Meeting on May 7.

APPEARANCES

Jackie Dunbar, Mercer Island, spoke about keeping the budget surplus in the reserves for future use and encouraged Council to fund lifeguards with some of the surplus.

Tom Acker, Mercer Island, does not support a counselor only levy as he believes it should be priority in the City budget, but he does support a parks levy for capital infrastructure needs. He supports the Council decision to review the Mercer Island Transit Interchange further before making a decision.

Ira Appelman asked why mental health counselors are in each school, all day long. He believes the program is too large and that two elementary schools should share a counselor.

Gary Robinson spoke about misgivings with Sound Transit and that Mercer Island needs a proactive plan for the Transit Interchange.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

AB 5553: Youth & Family Services (YFS) Department Funding History & Proposed Budget Adjustments to 2019-2020 YFS Fund Budget

Youth and Family Services Director Cindy Goodwin outlined the history of YFS and its funding configuration. She also provided an overview of the Thrift Shop, its business practices, sales, and volunteerism and staffing history. YFS Director Goodwin then outlined the 2019-2020 Budget reductions and restorations, the 2020 deficit spending reductions, and the school counseling fees pilot project.

Council asked staff if the revenue that is needed for 2020 could be generated by the Thrift Shop. Thrift Shop Business Coordinator Suzanne Philen noted that adding an apparel position and donation attendant position would generate close to that amount, by capturing the value coming in the door instead of sending it to Goodwill. Council directed staff to come back with the next phase of the Thrift Shop staffing model to generate \$109,000 in revenue for 2020 needs.

Jody Kris, MIYFS Foundation President, spoke about the MIYFS & MISD Foundations deep desire to keep full time mental health counselors in the schools. She noted that when they heard that the City may have funds to cover the costs, they decided that they would rather set those funds aside to help in the future when the cuts are deeper. She also noted that the Mercer Island Coalition is a community group and that staff has not been attending meeting, but rather have only been providing data and information to guide their work.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Wong to:

Decline the \$87,000 generous donation from the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation restore the Elementary School Mental Health Counselors

Passed: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Bassett to:

Approve the proposed YFS Fund deficit spending reductions in the amount of \$315,307 for 2020 by:

- 1. Increasing community-based counseling fees**
- 2. Generating revenue from the proposed school counseling fees (pilot project)**
- 3. Eliminating the Administrative Coordinator position (1.0 FTE)**
- 4. Eliminating the pay-for-performance program**
- 5. Adding back the Administrative Assistant (0.5 FTE) for 2020**
- 6. Using \$61,360 in 2019 salary savings**

Passed: 5-1

FOR: 5 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, and Weiker)

AGAINST: 1 (Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Wong to:

Prepare budget adjustments as part of the First Quarter 2019 Financial Status Report to appropriate \$170,000 from 2018 YFS Fund Budget Savings or from Thrift Shop sales to fully fund the Elementary School Counselors and Administrative Support in 2019 and 2020.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

Set aside \$109,000 from the 2018 General Fund Budget Savings or from additional Thrift Shop revenues should the school counseling fees pilot project not come to fruition. Before General Fu

Failed: 0-6

AGAINST: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Nice:

Motion to Amend: Set aside \$109,000 from the 2018 General Fund Budget Savings or from additional YFS revenues should the school counseling fees pilot project not come to fruition.

Failed 0-6

AGAINST: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Weiker:

Set aside \$109,000 from the 2018 General Fund Budget Savings should the school counseling fees pilot project not come to fruition.

Passed 5-1 (Anderl dissented)

Absent 1 (Wisenteiner)

It was agreed that City Manager Underwood would coordinate Thrift Shop tours for Councilmembers.

AB 5554: Planning Commission's Recommendation for Code Cleanup Amendments (1st Reading)

Community Planning and Development (CPD) Director Evan Maxim and CPD Planner Andrew Leon reviewed the proposed amendments with Council as follows:

- Clarifying Amendments
 - Amendments to MICC 19.01, 19.02, 19.04, and 19.16
- Noticing Amendment – proposes to revert the noticing requirements for major single-family dwelling building permits to the requirements under Ordinance 17C-12
- Department Name Amendments
 - Name change from “Development Services Group” to “Community Planning and Development Department”

The City Council provided further direction on the amendments, particularly surrounding railings on rooftop decks. Staff will incorporate the City Council’s direction in the draft development regulations prior to adoption on the May 21 agenda.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Wong to:

Set Ordinance No. 19C-04 for second reading and adoption on the May 21, 2019 Consent Calendar.

Passed: 6-0

FOR: 6 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Wisenteiner's absence was excused.

Mayor Bertlin will be absent June 4.

Planning Schedule

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz reviewed the Planning Schedule and upcoming meetings:

- TBD - Study Session with Mercer Island Coalition
- July 17: Special Joint Meeting with Planning Commission

- August 20: Potentially Canceled
- September 3: Cancel or move (9/10) due to Labor Day?
- September 10: Special meeting (rescheduled 9/3)?
- October 1: Cancel? Rosh Hashanah is 9/29-10/1. Meeting cannot move to October 8 as Yom Kippur is 10/8-10/9
- October 15: Joint Meeting with MISD Board, 6-7pm?
- November 5: Cancel or move (11/12) due to Election Day (
- November 12: Special meeting (rescheduled 11/5)?

Council will make decisions on these proposed changes later in the summer.

Board Appointments

Mayor Bertlin noted that Boards and Commissions applications are still being accepted.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Bassett spoke about the climate bill signing by the Governor on May 7 in Seattle.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:19 pm.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk