



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING APRIL 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 (arrived 6:06 pm), and Benson Wong were present. Councilmember David Wisenteiner was absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Bassett to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed: 5-0

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

ABSENT: 2 (Weiker and Wisenteiner)

STUDY SESSION

AB 5544: Parks 2019-2020 Major Projects Update

Parks and Recreation Director Jessi Bon and Parks Superintendent Paul West outlined the Parks 2019-2020 Major Projects for Council as follows:

- Prevailing Wage Rate Status Update
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update
- ADA Transition Plan
- Aubrey David Master Park Plan
- Groveland Beach Dock and Shoreline
- Clarke Beach Swim Enclosure Removal
- South Mercer Playfield Backstop Improvements
- Luther Burbank Waterfront Plaza
- Luther Burbank Dock Reconfiguration
- Future Capital Planning

Director Bon and explained that the focus for the 2019-2020 biennium is on maintaining existing park assets, with safety projects identified as the highest priority. She noted that this approach is not keeping pace with the aging infrastructure needs of the Mercer Island parks system. Unfortunately, existing funding resources for City parks capital projects (REET, impact fees, the Parks Maintenance and Operations Levy, the King County Parks Levy, grants, and community donations) fall significantly short of meeting the capital funding needs of the City's parks system and many projects are dependent on grant awards.

Director Bon also reported that the PROS Plan update will include a comprehensive parks infrastructure assessment with a life-cycle analysis and planning level cost estimates for infrastructure replacement. The Plan will also include a long-term strategy to address the park shoreline infrastructure and position the City to be competitive for grants.

Staff responded to Council questions and agreed to keep Council updated on the status of grant applications.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Citizen of the Year

The Mercer Island City Council presented the 2018 Citizen of the Year Award to Lisa and Rino Caruccio.

Mayor Bertlin identified a long list of community contributions by the Caruccios, noting that they are truly committed to the Mercer Island community and that their support for the people and the culture on Mercer Island is commendable and deeply appreciated.

Lisa and Rino thanked the Council for the award and recognition.

AB 5543: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz introduced Lawton Penn, Vice President of King County's Sexual Assault Resource Center's Board of Directors and a Mercer Island resident to receive the proclamation.

Mayor Bertlin proclaimed April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Mercer Island and urged all residents to join advocates and communities across King County in taking action to prevent sexual violence by standing with survivors. Together, we commit to a safer future for all children, young people, adults, and families in our community.

In Memory of Myra Lupton

Mayor Bertlin reported that Myra Lupton passed away on Sunday, March 31, and took a few moments to remember her as one of Mercer Island's most engaged residents.

APPEARANCES

Jody Kris, President of the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation, reported that the Foundation is in partnership with the City to help backfill funding on YFS positions cut as a result of Proposition 1 failing, noting that the 50% cut to the geriatric position was restored by the Foundation. She further reported that the MIYFS Foundation has partnered with the Mercer Island School's Foundation to fund the school-based counseling positions cut for the remaining part of the 2019-2020 school year, to allow more time to find a long-term solution.

Mayor Bertlin outlined the next steps before determining how to proceed with the funding from the Foundations, noting that on April 16 the Fiscal Sustainability Plan will be presented by Management Partners and on April 30 staff will provide a comprehensive overview of the Youth and Family Services funding.

Trevor Reed, Mercer Island, explained that he is a transit planner by trade and expressed concern for the Transit Plan, light rail, and Aubrey Davis Park. He encouraged Council to adopt Complete Streets standards and the North Association of City Transportation Officials standards.

Dwight Schaeffer, Mercer Island, addressed the City's contributions to ARCH and encouraged the City Council to eliminate funding for ARCH and prioritize the needs of Mercer Island citizens and efficiencies of Mercer Island government.

Gary Robinson, Mercer Island, spoke to the City Attorney's recent resignation and encouraged the City Council to create a new organizational life cycle and begin building again, explaining that this can only occur when the City Council and City Manager listen to residents and act on what residents prefer.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Bertlin reported that Councilmember Anderl asked to remove AB 5546: 2018 Budget Carryover Requests from the Consent Calendar. Mayor Bertlin moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

Payables: \$343,951.76 (03/18/2019) & \$183,118.82 (03/21/2019)

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

Payroll: \$841,843.04 (03/29/2019)

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

Minutes: February 1-2, 2019 Planning Session Minutes & March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Recommendation: Adopt the February 1-2, 2019 Planning Session Minutes and the March 19, 2019 Regular meeting minutes.

AB 5548: Open Space Conservancy Trust 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Work Plan

Recommendation: Receive report.

AB 5549: Adoption of the 2019-2020 City Council Priorities and Work Plan

Recommendation: Adopt the 2019-2020 City Council Priorities and Work Plan.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Nice to:

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

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5546: 2018 Budget Carryover Requests

Finance Director/Assistant City Manager Chip Corder reviewed the 2018 Budget carryover requests with Council, explaining that every two years staff identifies unspent budget from the prior biennium primarily related to contracted services and capital projects/purchases that are still in progress or otherwise delayed. Staff then seeks Council approval to carry over the unspent budget for these items to the current biennial budget to complete the purchases, services, and projects.

Director Corder reported that the 2018 budget carryover requests operating budget and CIP budget carryovers.

In response to Council questions regarding ARCH contributions, staff explained that the 2018 Budget carryover requests do not impact ARCH. Mayor Bertlin also responded outlining the Council meeting timeline for discussion as follows:

- April 16 - Fiscal Sustainability Plan Strategies & Scenarios
- April 30 - Youth & Family Services Fund
- May 7 - ARCH Work Program, Budget, and Trust Fund Approval

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Wong to:

Approve the 2018 budget carryover requests summarized in Agenda Bill 5546.

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

AB 5550: Parks and Recreation Commission Recruitment and Work Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Jessi Bon spoke about the new seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission the Council created in January 2019. Director Bon explained the general responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Commission, recruitment efforts, and how to learn more about serving on the Commission.

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz outlined the Boards and Commission recruitment process and noted that applications are due May 3.

In response to Council questions regarding Commission authority, Director Bon explained that staff will explain to Commission members that they are policy advisors to the City Council. She further explained how the Parks & Recreation Commission's role will be different from the Open Space Trust.

AB 5545: Proposed Deficit Spending Reductions to 2019-2020 General Fund Adopted Budget

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Chip Corder reviewed the proposed deficit spending reductions to the 2019-2020 General Fund Adopted Budget explaining that the 2019-2020 General Fund and Youth & Family Services (YFS) Fund adopted budgets were balanced by assuming no levy lid lift, using \$1.78 million in one-time resources and making \$1.36 million in net service level reductions.

Director Corder further explained that following the failure of Proposition 1, the Council directed staff to reduce the amount of one-time resources used to balance the 2019-2020 General Fund and YFS Fund budgets by \$1.20 million. He further noted that after Council reviewed the proposed deficit spending reductions at its February Planning Session, Council directed staff to:

- Identify one-time funding to restore two Elementary School Mental Health Counselors that were cut in the 2019-2020 adopted budget, and
- Provide a comprehensive briefing to the Council on YFS Department funding.

Director Corder outlined a summary of proposed expenditure reductions and new revenues, noting that the \$1.34 million is in addition to the \$1.36 million in net expenditure reductions, where were included into the 2019-2020 adopted budget. He also summarized proposed staffing changes which included restoring a Deputy Fire Chief position in 2020 and eliminating the following positions:

- Senior Project Manager in 2020 (City Manager's Office)
- Helpdesk Technician in 2019 (IGS Department)
- MICEC Reservations Specialist in 2019 (Parks & Recreation Department)

Council discussed whether to decide that evening on the proposed deficit spending reductions or wait until after the April 16 discussion with Management Partners regarding the Fiscal Sustainability Plan and the comprehensive review of the YFS Fund on April 30. Council debated restoring the Deputy Fire Chief position and the impact of staff reductions on moral and recruitment.

Staff responded to Council questions and it was agreed that the final decision on proposed deficit spending reductions would be made on May 7, when the ordinance amending the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget would be considered for Council adoption.

It was moved by Bassett; seconded by Nice to:

Approve the proposed deficit spending reductions in the General Fund to the 2019-2020 adopted budget and direct staff to prepare a budget amending ordinance as part of the next financial status report.

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Wisenteiner)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Wisenteiner's absence was excused.

Council consensus was to cancel the July 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Planning Schedule

Parks & Recreation Director Jess Bon reported on the following:

- A 60-minute executive session was added to the April 16 meeting beginning at 5 pm.
- Mercer Island Transit Interchange report was moved to the April 30 meeting.
- ARCH will join Council for the May 7 Study Session and a second item related to ARCH will be on Regular Business.

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Mayor Bertlin reminded Council that the Boards and Commission Annual Recruitment process was open, and that the City was seeking to fill the following positions:

- Arts Council – 2 positions
- Design Commission – 2 positions
- Parks & Recreation Commission – 7 positions
- Planning Commission – 2 positions

Mayor Bertlin further reported that the deadline to submit applications was May 3.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Bruce Bassett reported that he participated in the Sound Transit tour with Deputy Mayor Salim Nice and encouraged other Council members to participate in the next tour. He also reported that he would be in Olympia on Thursday to testify on the Clean Fuel Standard Bill.

Councilmember Wong attended an appreciation event for former Councilmember Terry Pottmeyer who retired from Friends of Youth on March 29.

Councilmember Wendy Weiker thanked City Attorney Kari Sand for her service. She also reported that the SCA dinner was on April 3 and on the outcome of the Mercer Island Rotary 10K

Mayor Bertlin reported that she attended Friendship Circle last week on Mercer Island, the Jewish Family Services event earlier that day, and that the Mountains to Sound breakfast was scheduled for April 3.

Statement of Mayors

Mayor Bertlin reported on the Statement of Mayors letter on the Council dais and whether Council wished to have Councilmember Wong vote at the Sound Cities Association PIC meeting to support the Sound Cities Association endorsement of the letter. She noted she was only made aware of the letter that day and there wasn't time to submit it to Council earlier.

Council debated at length whether to support SCA's endorsement of the Statement of Mayors, the short notice of the letter, and whether Mayor Bertlin should sign it as well. Council did not support Mayor Bertlin signing the Statement of Mayors.

Council Consensus was 4-2 to support SCA's endorsement of the Statement of Mayors.

Mayor Bertlin reported that City Manager Underwood and Community Planning & Development Director Evan Maxim intended to share a draft of the 2050 Vision comments prior to the April 29 deadline.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk