



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MARCH 19, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the meeting to order at 5:02 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, David Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed: 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(I) for approximately 30 minutes.

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)(I) for approximately 30 minutes.

At 5:35 pm, Mayor Bertlin adjourned the Executive Session.

Mayor Bertlin convened the Regular Meeting at 5:37 pm.

STUDY SESSION

AB 5540: East Link Construction and Mercer Island Transit Interchange Study Updates

Senior Project Manager Kirsten Taylor introduced Luke Lamon (Government & Community Relations), Jemae Hoffman (East Link Light Rail Development Manager), and Mike Bell (East Link Executive Project Director) of Sound Transit and Katie Chalmers (Service Planning Supervisor) of King County Metro and explained that they would provide an update on the East Link Extension and address the construction progress and the Mercer Island Transit Interchange.

Sound Transit reviewed the construction progress to date and summarized the Goals and Objectives for the East Link Construction and Mercer Island Transit Interchange:

- Seamless Transfer Experience
- Minimize Transfer Distance
- Provide Multi-Modal Access
- Maximizes Benefits to Mercer Island
- Minimizes Overall Property Impacts
- Minimizes Local Community Access Impacts on 80th Avenue SE Bridge
- Cost-Effective Design
- Limits Idling and Regional Bus Circulation through Town Center
- Complete by East Link Revenue Service Start Date

Council recessed from 6:12 pm to 6:18 pm

Appearances

Jackie Dunbar, Mercer Island, asked if there will be a public bathroom included at the station if there is bus layover for drivers to take a break.

Sarah Fletcher, Mercer Island, asked how ST and Metro staff arrived at the meeting. She also encouraged the Council to read Bill Hirt's blog (Stop East Link Now).

Mary Sue, Mercer Island, asked how many attendees arrived in a car for the meeting. She spoke about her concern that the train on the floating bridge is experimental and asked how bus service will be eliminated when the engineering for the train on the bridge has not been confirmed.

Tom Alberts, Mercer Island, asked if there will be a sound barrier for the residential neighborhood north of the proposed turnaround.

Matt Goldbach, Mercer Island, asked what the benefits are for Mercer Island with the interchange. He also asked if the perception of 60% more buses is true.

City Council Q&A

Councilmembers asked Sound Transit and King County Metro several questions related to the East Link Construction and the Mercer Island Transit Interchange regarding:

- Rail travel times and the increase in light rail ridership over time?
- Will the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride open prior to the start of East Link service?
- The number of buses at the designated layover and whether the interchange can operate without it.
- Safety concerns regarding potential pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle conflicts related to the designated layover space.
- Continuation of the 630 Shuttle?
- Purpose and benefit to the 80th Avenue SE bus stop?
- What is the minimum amount of layover space needed for Metro operational requirements and will every bus layover?
- Will the space allocated for the transit interchange be necessary after light rail service reaches Issaquah and other Eastside communities in 2041?
- What are the plans for the remaining property after the roundabout is built and how is Sound Transit assisting homeowners impacted by the 77th/N Mercer Way roundabout?

City Manager Julie Underwood responded to Council questions and explained that staff would work with Sound Transit and King County Metro to respond to public comments and City Council questions and bring information back at a later meeting. Additional information would also be provided on Let's Talk Mercer Island.

Council recessed from 7:08 pm to 7:16 pm

SPECIAL BUSINESS

AB 5535: Women's History Month Proclamation

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz introduced Ms. Eileen Concannon, a Mercer Island resident, community activist, and retired attorney to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Bertlin proclaimed March 2019 as Women's History Month and urged all Islanders to take the opportunity to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Julie Underwood reported on the following:

- City Clerk Deb Estrada was awarded the 2019 Washington Municipal Clerks Association City Clerk of the Year
- MIYFS Foundation Event - Over \$377,000 raised; a 3.85% increase
- Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area
 - Mountains to Sound Greenway (also known as the I-90 Trail) has become our nation's newest National Heritage Area
 - NHA designation increases visibility for Greenway communities like Mercer Island!
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - TIP public comment period is now through April 15
 - Learn more about the TIP, view the previous TIP, or submit a comment by visiting letstalk.mercergov.org
- Volunteer at a Restoration Event:
 - Gallagher Hill Open Space, Saturday, March 23, 10 am – 2 pm
 - Island Crest Park, Saturday, March 30, 10 am – 2 pm
- Tree Removal Notice at SE 30th in Town Center
 - Four trees scheduled to be removed the last week of March
 - Removal is necessary to mitigate tripping hazards caused by uplifted roots
 - Site-appropriate replacement trees will be incorporated into a larger project slated for 2020
- Recycling Event at Luther Burbank Park, South Parking Lot, Saturday, March 30, 9 am – 3 pm
- Vision 2050:
 - Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is updating the regional plan for managing growth
 - Forecasts show the region needs to plan for 1.8 million additional people and 1.2 million new jobs by 2050
 - The regional growth strategy will inform countywide growth targets and city comprehensive plans
- PSRC recently released the Draft State Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) – comments due April 29, 2019

Mayor Bertlin noted that there would be a second comment period regarding the SEIS in July 2019.

Councilmember Wisenteiner asked City Manager Underwood about the status of funding the school mental health counselors as discussed at the February Planning Session. City Manager Underwood responded that staff intended to bring alternatives back at the proposed April 30 Special Meeting.

APPEARANCES

There were no appearances.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Bertlin reported that Councilmembers Anderl and Wong asked to remove AB 5541: Due Diligence Costs for the City's Proposed Commuter Parking Project from the Consent Calendar. Mayor Bertlin moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

Payables: \$218,414.49 (3/07/19)

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

Payroll: \$842,412.14 (3/15/19)

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

Minutes: March 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Adopt the March 5 meeting minutes.

AB 5542: Community Planning & Development Temporary Records Assistant Appropriation

Recommendation: Appropriate \$12,000 from the Technology Fee Reserve to extend the contract for the temporary Community Planning and Development Records Assistant.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

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

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5541: Due Diligence Costs for the City's Proposed Commuter Parking Project

In response to Councilmember questions, City Manager Julie Underwood explained that the purpose of the agenda bill was to appropriate funds for due diligence and negotiations work related to the Purchase and Sale Agreement. She provided a breakdown of the due diligence and negotiation costs, which included:

- Environmental consultant fees,
- Rent to Parkway Management per PSA,
- Professional Services (survey, appraisal),
- RFQ Advertising, Open House costs, and
- City Project Management (limited City staff time).

City Manager Underwood further noted that all appropriations would be reimbursed by known polluter BP/ARCO and the Sound Transit Settlement funds when the commuter parking is constructed.

City Manager Underwood reported that the next step would be to meet with the negotiation teams and review the MOU progress at the April 16 Study Session. Additional MOU check-ins are scheduled for May 21 and June 18.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Wong to:

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Heartland Consulting LLC to provide the evaluation, engagement and forthcoming negotiations work associated with developing a Memorandum of Understanding with MainStreet Property Group LLC. and transfer \$304,838 from the Contingency Fund to the Town Center Parking Facilities Fund and appropriate \$304,838 for additional due diligence and negotiation costs related to the City's proposed commuter parking project, which will be reimbursed by Sound Transit when the project is constructed.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anderl, Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

AB 5539: Fiscal Sustainability Plan Progress Report

City Manager Julie Underwood introduced Steve Toler with Management Partners. Mr. Toler participated in the meeting by phone and shared a project update on the Fiscal Sustainability Plan.

Mr. Toler explained that the plan involved an in-depth analysis of fiscal strategies that outline fiscal impacts and feasibility customized to the requirements and needs of Mercer Island. The project update entailed:

- Project Approach
- Preparation for the April 16 City Council discussion involving comparative (peer agency) research, budget strategies and feasibility analysis, and budget strategy scenarios,
- Analyzing Potential Strategy Success, and
- Fiscal Sustainability with four budget scenarios.

Mr. Toler reviewed how a community engagement process might look, explaining that it would include up to two workshops with community members, identify options requiring further analysis, and then incorporate

common themes into the final fiscal sustainability plan.

Councilmembers asked questions and requested that Mr. Toler present more information at the April 16 meeting on strategies that have worked historically. Council agreed that it's important to engage the public and asked that staff work with Management Partners to bring some community engagement options back to the April 16 meeting.

AB 5536: Draft 2019-2020 City Council Priorities & Work Plan

Assistant to the City Manager Ali Spietz introduced the Draft 2019-2020 City Council Priorities & Work Plan which were developed from the Council's discussion at their February 2019 Planning Session. Due to the City's long-term structural deficit challenges the Council focused and reduced its priorities. Staff identified the following three priorities, recognizing that some of the action steps may require additional resources or a shift in resources:

- Priority 1. Implement a Fiscal Sustainability Plan that Aligns with the Community's Priorities
- Priority 2. Prepare for Light Rail and Improve On-and-Off Island Mobility
- Priority 3. Support the Leadership Team's Work Plan

Ms. Spietz noted that the past priorities were added to the document preamble to recognize their importance and relevancy to the Mercer Island community and its Council. Council reviewed the draft priorities, specifically the goals statement and action steps, and requested changes come back to the Council for final adoption on the April 2 Consent Calendar.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences to report.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Julie Underwood review the proposed planning schedule accordingly:

April 2 Regular Meeting:

- City Manager Underwood reported that she would be absent and Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Bon will stand in for her.
- Study Session on King County Parks Levy – 6 to 7 pm
- Parks & Recreation Commission recruitment and work plan
- Proposed Additional Deficit Spending Reductions for the General Fund Only
- 2018 Budget Carryovers
- Opens Space Conservancy Trust Board Annual Report

April 16 Regular Meeting:

- Update on the Commuter Parking & Mixed-Use Project MOU
- Draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan

Council consensus was to schedule a Special Meeting on April 30 at 6 pm to discuss the YFS Fund.

City Manager Underwood also reported that discussion on the Mercer Island Transit Interchange would come back at an April meeting.

May 7 Regular Meeting:

- ARCH Overview for Study Session
- Public Hearing on Transportation Improvement Program
- Fourth Quarter Financial Report

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Mayor Bertlin reported that the Boards and Commission Annual Recruitment process was opened, 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 Weiker reported on the following: King Conservation District meeting, SCA Dinner on April 3, AWC Lobby Day, and Chief Holmes's letter to the editor of the Mercer Island Reporter.

Councilmember Bassett reported that he was in Olympia earlier in the day testifying on the Clean Fuel Standard Bill.

Mayor Bertlin reported on the Mountains to Sound Breakfast on April 3 and the upcoming 41st District Delegation Townhall on Saturday, March 23 at Bellevue College.

Councilmember Wong reported that the King County Parks Levy is scheduled to expire December 31, 2019 unless renewed by voters before the end of the year. On February 21, King County Executive Constantine transmitted a proposal to the King County Council to renew the parks levy, which would place a proposition on the August 6, 2019 ballot authorizing a six-year, \$738 million property tax levy to support parks and to acquire and maintain open space. Sound Cities Association (SCA) has asked members to provide feedback on the levy proposal by March 20. The proposed levy rate is 16.82 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Parks and Recreation Director Jessi Bon outlined the proposed Levy Components and responded to Council questions.

Council directed staff to prepare a letter to King County supporting the following items:

- Incorporating the allocation formula for city passthrough dollars in the body of the levy ordinance,
- Increasing the city passthrough funds from \$29 million to \$60 million, and
- Advocating for funding the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail (Aubrey Davis Park) project.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:27 pm.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk