



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 26, 2018

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## RECEPTION

The City Council hosted a community reception honoring Representative Judy Clibborn on the eve of her retirement from public service.

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, and Councilmembers Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present. Councilmember David Wisenteiner was absent. Position #4 was vacant.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

**Approve the amended agenda as follows:**

1. **Study Session – Legislative Priorities**
2. **Appearances**
3. **Regular Business**
4. **Appearances for Proposed Commuter Parking & Mixed-Use Project RFQ**
5. **Continue Regular Business**

Passed 5-0

FOR: 5 (Bassett, Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, Wong)

## STUDY SESSION

### **AB 5504: Legislative Priorities Review with 41st Legislative District Delegation**

Mayor Bertlin welcomed Representative Tana Senn and Senator Lisa Wellman from the 41st Legislative District Delegation. She noted that Representative-Elect My-Linh Thai was unable to attend, and that retiring Representative Judy Clibborn elected not to attend.

Representative Senn and Senator Wellman spoke to the Council about the upcoming legislative session and noted the issues they would focus on, including: mental health, affordable housing, homelessness, special education, school safety, early learning, condominium liability reform, allowing state patrol to destroy confiscated weapons, mental health counseling in schools, home visits for every newborn born in the state, the environment, climate change, property tax adjustments for seniors and the disabled, revenue readjustment, and women's health.

Mayor Bertlin reviewed the City's legislative priorities for 2019:

1. Improving I-90 Access
2. Providing Local Funding Options
3. Preserving and Protecting Regional Parks
4. Protecting Our Health
5. Protecting Our Seniors, Veterans, and Disabled Residents
6. Preserving and Protecting the Environment

Mayor Bertlin noted that in relation to Priority 3, the City would like the \$2 million for Parcel 12 returned to the City to be incorporated into Aubrey Davis Park. Senator Wellman encouraged the City to submit the 2019 Senate Democratic Caucus Member Requested Local Community Project Information Form to request the funding.

## **APPEARANCES (FIRST ROUND)**

Ira Appelman, 9039 East Shorewood Drive, stated that (1) Tully's is a good site for MICA, but is against vibrancy; (2) given that the Island voted against Proposition 1, Council should reject its 1% property tax (plus new construction) as a priority, and (3) he does not agree with celebrating Judy Clibborn's career.

Nancy Hewitt-Spaeth, 8320 SE 34th Street, thanked the Council for their support of MICA.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **AB 5499: Review Two Finalists for Proposed Commuter Parking & Mixed-Use Project RFQ**

City Manager Julie Underwood provided background information regarding the proposed project, its funding, and the RFQ process. She introduced the two final development teams for the Mercer Island Commuter Parking & Town Center Mixed-Use Project RFQ: Shelter Holdings / Weinstein A+U and Mainstreet Property Group, LLC. Both groups presented their responses to the RFQ. Mayor Bertlin reminded the Council and the community that no decision would be made this evening.

Mayor Bertlin noted that Council questions of the development teams would occur after the second round of Appearances.

## **APPEARANCES (SECOND ROUND)**

The following people encouraged the Council to support MICA as part of the Proposed Commuter Parking & Mixed-Use Project:

- Katie Parkinson, Mercer Island, Senior at MIHS, including YTN
- Carolyn Parkinson, MIHS Student, including YTN
- Will Parkinson, Sophomore at MIHS, including YTN
- Robin Parkinson, 3870 83rd Avenue SE, MI parent, spoke on behalf of YTN Board
- Pradyumna Misra, 8035 W. Mercer Way
- Mimi Katano, Executive Artistic Director of YTN, including YTN
- Erin Vivian, Mercer Island, Vice Chair of MI Arts Council
- Cory Southwall, works for YTN, including YTN
- Carol Franz, 3260 80th Ave SE
- Phoenix Smith, Seattle, works and shops on Mercer Island
- Ira Appelman, 9039 E. Shorewood Drive
- Sharon Perez, MICA Director Strategic Relationships
- Bharat Shyam, 8405 SE 34th Pl
- Jean-Louis Robadey, 5830 W. Mercer Way
- John Hill, 8914 SE 56th Street
- Roy Schuler, 3045 60th Ave SE

### **REGULAR BUSINESS (CONTINUED) – AB 5499: Review Two Finalists for Proposed Commuter Parking & Mixed-Use Project RFQ**

Both teams made presentations and were questioned at length by City Council. Council asked several questions that addressed the following:

- Which firm is better suited?
- Which project is better suited for funding for MICA?
- Would you be willing to finance MICA?
- How many parking spots and what are the criteria?
- How would shared parking work?
- What's the unknown that makes your firm nervous?
- Is the design flexible?
- What assurances does the City have that the project will get done? Will there be a performance bond?

- What is the long-term vision for the project?
- What is the impact on Greta Hackett sculpture garden?
- How do you envision bringing more energy to that part of the Town Center.

In conclusion, City Manager Underwood requested that Council submit additional questions to her by Friday, November 29, to be forwarded to both teams for response.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Meeting adjourned at 11:05 pm.

Attest:

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Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

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Deborah Estrada, City Clerk