



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 23, 2018

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Salim Nice called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin (5:50 pm), Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, and Councilmembers Wendy Weiker and Benson Wong were present.

Councilmembers Bruce Bassett and Davide Wisenteiner were absent. Position #4 was vacant.

STUDY SESSION

AB 5489: King County Sewer Project Update

Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Bon, Public Works Director Jason Kintner, and Information and Geographic Services Director Mike Kaser outlined for Council the King County Sewer Project Update as follows:

- Project Timeline & Coordination:
 - Sewer project design is at 60% and working towards 90% by end of 2018.
 - Construction anticipated to begin in 2021.
 - ROW restoration and City sewer infrastructure improvements, potential installation of fiber optic conduit, I-90 Trail Improvements.
- City ROW Improvements & Sewer Infrastructure Coordination.
- Potential Fiber Optic Communication Lines – sewer project aligns with fiber optic path between MICEC and City Hall.
- I-90 Trail Coordination:
 - Project will impact a 1.3-mile section of the I-90 Trail, necessitating the development of a restoration plan.
 - Aubrey Davis Master Plan – adoption anticipated by the end of 2019.
 - Sewer Project design scheduled to be 90% completion by end of 2018.
 - ADMP/Community Engagement.
 - WSDOT Recommendation - 12 feet or greater for paved trail width, with 2 feet minimum clearance to either side.
 - AASHTO Standards for the development of bicycle facilities.
- King County Trail Impact – landscape plan is still in development by King County

Council authorized staff to continue working with King County and WSDOT on the I-90 Trail restoration plan, which will include:

- Trail modifications to meet AASHTO & WSDOT Standards.
- Widening the paved surface, the addition of shoulders and/or separate walking paths, where feasible.
- Landscape planning.

Parks & Recreation Director Bon anticipates that staff will report back to Council in early 2019 as the project progresses.

Mayor Bertlin recessed the meeting for 10 minutes at 5:54 pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Nice to:
Approve the amended agenda.
Passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Weiker, and Wong)
ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Wisenteiner)
VACANT: 1 (Position 4)

APPEARANCES

Jim Stanton, 7812 SE 78th Street, Mercer Island - Delighted to see the City take advantage of a unique opportunity to make the I-90 Trail safer and more enjoyable.

PUBLIC HEARING

AB 5493: 2019-2020 Proposed Budget: Operating Budget Review by Department

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Chip Corder reviewed the outline of the budget presentation, explaining that each department would focus on the following:

- Organization chart,
- Staffing summary,
- 2019-2020 operating budget analysis, and
- 2019-2020 service packages.

Mayor Bertlin opened the public hearing on the 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget at 6:11 pm.

Ira Appleman, Mercer Island, spoke expressing a desire that the city track staff time, higher fewer employees, and stay within its budget. He also spoke to forecasting funds and his objection to cuts in police, fire, and school mental health counselors.

There being no additional public comments, Mayor Bertlin closed the public hearing at 6:14 pm.

Human Resources Director Kryss Segle briefly reviewed with Council how to understand public sector compensation, explaining the following concepts:

- Laws that impact public sector pay,
- Comparable markets and how Mercer Island stacks up,
- Cost controlling measures,
- Federal and State laws affecting pay (FLSA, ACA, FMLA, Washington Leave Act, and Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave),
- Washington State Bargaining Laws, and
- Compensation considerations for unrepresented employees.

Finance Director Chip Corder presented the Operating Budget portion of the 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget, focusing on the General Fund and its primary drivers:

- Salary & wages (including overtime),
- Benefits,
- Liability insurances,
- Combining the Beautification Fund with the General Fund,
- Internal IT Charges (M&O and replacement), and
- 2019 and 2020 Service Packages.

Following the department directors' presentations of the departments' operating budgets, Council provided the following direction:

- Provide Council with the cost for the Fiscal Sustainability Plan,
- Determine if organizational efficiency assessments can be deferred to future years,
- Determine whether the Urban Forest Management Plan can be delayed and what the consequences are,
- Provide a list of proposed plans, including timeline, mandatory/essential/discretionary, cost, and consequence of not completing,
- Describe the impacts of the increase in the prevailing wage for landscaping services on the Open Space Vegetation Management Project, and
- Add to the Council's Planning Session agenda "Salary Commission Discussion" to consider "zero" salary.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk