



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING

### JULY 17, 2018

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#### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bertlin noted that there was not a quorum of the Council at 6:00 pm (only Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, and Councilmember Benson Wong were present). She stated that the Council would begin the Study Session with only three members, as no decisions are scheduled to be made for the item.

#### STUDY SESSION

##### **AB 5444: Review RFQ Criteria for Transit Commuter Parking and a Public-Private, Mixed-Use Development Project on the Tully's/Parcel 12 Site**

City Manager Julie Underwood and Consultant Bob Stowe reviewed the proposed criteria and evaluation for the RFQ with Council:

- Team Qualifications/Experience: Includes the team member's experience, qualifications, and example projects in which the team or key team members have been involved
- Project Vision/Preliminary Concept Proposal: Includes providing a concept or vision for the site, including details on parking, use mix, preliminary ideas on building scale and massing, and development cost and feasibility
- Preferences: Respondents demonstrate how their proposal will address each of the objectives in their written and graphic materials
- Evaluation Method: Team Qualifications, Experience, Project Vision/Preliminary Concept Proposal and Preferences

They noted that staff will host two pre-submission conferences at the Tully's/Parcel 12 site for prospective partners to learn more about the proposed project and the City's requirements.

Council discussed the draft RFQ and provided the following feedback:

- Provide additional opportunities in the process for the full Council's active involvement
- Conduct background checks on the preferred developer partner
- Expand top finalists for the Council's review from a single finalist to two finalists
- Confirm the developer's partner has demonstrated success with community engagement
- Refine the definition of "impactful projects"
- Require potential interested development partners to attend the pre-submission conference and tour

#### SPECIAL BUSINESS

Mayor Bertlin noted that there was still not a quorum of the Council present, but that a Councilmember would be calling in shortly.

##### **AB 5455: National Night Out Proclamation**

Emergency Manager and Crime Prevention officer Jennifer Franklin spoke about National Night Out and introduced residents Michael and Judith Crow and volunteer Sue Robboy, who accepted the proclamation on behalf of the community.

Mayor Bertlin proclaimed August 7, 2018 as National Night Out in Mercer Island and encouraged all Mercer Island residents to join the Mercer Island Police Department and Emergency Management in supporting the 35th annual National Night out, by locking their doors, turning on outside lights, and spending the evening outside with neighbors.

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debbie Bertlin officially called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, and Councilmembers Tom Acker (arrived 7:36 pm), David Wisenteiner (joined by phone at 7:07 pm, left at 8:50 pm), and Benson Wong were present. Councilmembers Bruce Bassett and Wendy Weiker were absent.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wong to:

**Approve the agenda as presented.**

Passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

ABSENT: 3 (Acker, Bassett and Weiker)

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Underwood provided information on the following items:

- Kudos to the Parks and Recreation Department for a successful **Summer Celebration** last weekend!
- **SE 40th Construction Update**
- **Limebike** is Here!
- **MI Connect** app: Quickly and easily submit non-emergency requests
- **Parks & Rec Surveys:** Luther Burbank Dock Repair & Reconfiguration and Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan Kick-Off
- **Summer Events:** Shakespeare in the Park, Movies in the Park, Summer Concert Series, Camp Burbank Community Campout
- **Seafair Weekend:** August 3-5, I-90 is closed: Thurs., Aug. 2, 9:45 am - 12:15 pm; 1:00-2:45 pm and Fri., Sat., and Sun.\*, Aug. 3 -5, 12:55-2:45 pm
- No **Farmers Market** on Sunday 8/5
- **National Night Out:** Tues., Aug. 7, 5:00-8:00 pm, City Hall: Join us for a cookout and tours hosted by the Police Department
- **I-90 westbound closures** between ICW and I-5: Fri. & Sat. July 20-21 from 11pm – 7am, Sun. July 22 from 10:30pm – 4:30 am, Sat. July 28 from 11pm – 7am, Sun. July 29 from 10:30pm – 4:30am

## APPEARANCES

Brian Hildebrandt, 6880 West Mercer Way, spoke about commuter parking and reminded the Council and the residents that the project was billed to the community as an opportunity for a public parking garage and questioned whether public land should be given away and have fewer than 200 spaces. He requested that the requirements for the parking spots be clear.

Sharon Perez, 3404 79th Ave SE, spoke on behalf of the board and staff for the Mercer Island Center for the Arts. She spoke about exploring the addition of space for the arts in public-private partnership at the Tully's site.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

**Payables: \$1,435,029.19 (06/28/18), \$438,198.93 (07/06/18)**

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

**Payroll: \$861,956.91 (06/22/18), \$863,776.59 (07/06/18)**

**Recommendation:** Certify that the materials or services specified have been received and that all fund

warrants are approved for payment.

**Minutes: April 24, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, & June 26, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes**

**Recommendation:** Adopt the April 24, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, and June 26 Special Meeting Minutes as written.

**AB 5456: Code Cleanup Code Amendment (2nd Reading & Adoption)**

**Recommendation:** Adopt Ordinance No. 18C-05 amending Mercer Island City Code Titles 17 and 19 to clarify development standards.

**AB 5449: 1% For Art Project: Arts Council Town Center Banner Project Artist Approval**

**Recommendation:** Approve the Arts Council's recommendation to select Artist Pamela Edwards for the Town Center Public Art Banner Project.

**AB 5453: Development Services Group Temporary Records Clerk**

**Recommendation:** Appropriate \$12,000 from the Technology Fee Reserve to hire a temporary Development Service Group Records Clerk.

**AB 5451: Island Crest Way Crosswalk Enhancement – SE 32nd Project Close Out**

**Recommendation:** Accept the completed Island Crest Way Crosswalk Enhancement project and authorize staff to close out the construction contract.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Nice to:

**Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.**

Passed 4-0

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Wisenteiner, and Wong)

ABSENT: 3 (Acker, Bassett and Weiker)

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**AB 5457: Public Hearing: City's Financial Challenges: Levy Lid Lift Ordinance (1st Reading)**

Mayor Bertlin opened the public hearing at 7:26 pm.

Brian Hildebrandt, 6880 West Mercer Way, supports the levy, but expressed concern about financial trust. He noted that bike-share was ushered in when only 34% of survey respondents wanted to have bike-share. He stated that hasty spending of public funds without public input is worrisome. He expressed concerned that the levy may fail because residents do not trust the Council. He encouraged a transparent process to ensure money will be well spent and make a detailed plan.

Craig Reynolds, 8105 SE 48th Street, served on CAG and stated that he has thoroughly reviewed the financial information. He noted that 17 of the 23 CAG members recommended a levy, which is different than current proposed levy, but maintains service levels. He supports the Council putting the levy on the ballot.

Jon Conrardt, 9320 SE 36th Street, thanked the Council for not kicking the can down the road. He noted that only 17% of the CAG opposed a levy lid lift. He suggested striking the last sentence in section one, as it makes easier to explain the levy lid lift and encourage people to vote for it.

Ira Appelman, 9309 Shorewood Drive, opposes the levy lid lift. He believes that the increase of 25% in the first year and 5% for the next five years is outrageous. He spoke about the survey results not supporting the levy and that taxpayer funds are not being spent responsibly.

Mayor Bertlin closed the public hearing at 7:36 pm.

City Manager Underwood stated that the 1% property tax limit has created a structural imbalance and she spoke about the projected six-year forecast (as revised by Management Partners). She presented information about levy lid lift amount deliberations over the past seven months. She noted that to achieve the difference

between the original staff estimate for the annual levy amount to cover the deficit and the amount proposed in the draft ordinance, a fiscal sustainability plan including efficiencies, service deliver model changes and cost savings, as well as using new or increased revenue tools.

City Manager Underwood presented a draft ordinance to put a levy lid lift on the November 2018 General Election ballot to ask voters to consider sustaining current service levels for police/emergency services, mental health counseling, and safety net services, parks, trails, playgrounds, ballfields, and recreation services.

Councilmember Wong asked spending priorities and ensuring that mental health counseling services would continue without reductions. City Manager Underwood noted that Section 1 of the ordinance addressed this concern. The Council requested edits to the statement to reflect providing the same level of service instead of same amount of funding and removing the last sentence of Section 1.

Mayor Bertlin requested that staff clarify parks and trail maintenance and add code compliance and right of way maintenance in the ballot title and ordinance and. Council concurred.

City Manager Underwood recommended adding a Whereas to the ordinance that identifies the levy impact on a median home's assessed. Council concurred.

It was moved by Nice; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

**Set Ordinance No. 18-07 to July 24, 2018 for second reading and adoption.**

Passed 5-1

FOR: 4 (Bertlin, Nice, Wisenteiner and Wong)

AGAINST: 1 (Acker)

ABSENT: 2 (Bassett and Weiker)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Councilmember Absences**

Councilmembers Bassett and Weiker's absences were excused.  
Mayor Bertlin will be absent August 7.

### **Planning Schedule**

City Manager Underwood reviewed agenda items on upcoming meetings and noted that the August 21 meeting is canceled.

### **Board Appointments**

Mayor Bertlin encouraged the public to apply to fill the vacancies on the Design Commission and noted that applications are due by Friday, August

### **Councilmember Reports**

Councilmember Acker spoke about Summer Celebration, following up with the speaker about Republic Services, and E-bikes on the Island.

Councilmember Wong spoke about the upcoming SCA PIC meeting and the recent forum on cybersecurity. He also noted that longtime resident Myra Lupton would be celebrating her 90th birthday.

Mayor Bertlin spoke about the recent ETP meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm

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Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

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Allison Spietz, Acting City Clerk