



REVISED CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Bruce Bassett and Councilmembers Dan Grausz, Jeff Sanderson, Wendy Weiker, David Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong were present. Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin was absent.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Weiker to:

Approve the agenda as presented.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:04 pm, Mayor Bassett convened an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation for approximately 50 minutes.

At 7:00 pm, Mayor Bassett adjourned the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

APPEARANCES

Alex Sytman, 4041 85th Ave SE, future student at Northwood Elementary, spoke about the TIP and students who will need and want to walk to school.

Annabelle Lu, 87th Ave SE, future fifth grader at Northwood Elementary, spoke about the TIP and asked the Council to put in a sidewalk to walk to school.

Ellie Sadlier, 8418 SE 44th Street, future fifth grader at Northwood Elementary, spoke about the intersection at 40th & 86th. She is concerned that there are no sidewalks and would like a crossing guard at 86th and SE 42nd St.

Walter Lekowski, 79th Ave SE, will be a 3rd grader at Lakeridge Elementary, spoke about making it safe to walk to bike and school.

Jerry Kavesh, 4265 89th Ave SE, representing families who will be attending Northwood Elementary, presented a petition from Northwood families regarding traffic calming and safe routes on the south side of the complex, specifically SE 42nd Street, for kids to walk and bike to school.

Jenna Sytman, 4041 85th Ave SE, Treasurer of Northwood PTA, asked Council to put student safety as a top priority for transportation projects around Northwood Elementary.

Gwen Loosmore, 79th Ave SE, thanked the Council for re-evaluating the intersection at 86th and 40th. She spoke in favor of the petition for safe routes to school on the south side of the campus and asked Council to prevent the downgrading of intersections.

Baron Dickey, 6809 96th Ave SE, spoke about elected officials and conflicts of interest.

Robert Thorpe, 5800 West Mercer Way, spoke about the Town Center Code Amendments process.

Nancy Hewitt-Spaeth, 8320 SE 34th Street, spoke about building heights, adequate parking, and traffic in the Town Center.

Tom Acker, 84th Ave SE, spoke in opposition to some of the Mayor's proposed appointments to the City's Boards and Commissions. He also stated that the City did not provide an appropriate public information process as prescribed in the Growth Management Act.

Itay Bentov, 4032 90th Ave SE, spoke about the Town Center Code Amendments and the importance of using LEED standards. He also spoke about building design standards.

Randy Bannecker, spoke on behalf of Seattle-King County Realtors, encouraged the Council to be bold with transportation, transit, walkability, and affordable housing to enhance quality of life.

Connie Manson, 3902 86th Ave SE, spoke in support of the work in the Madrona Crest neighborhood and asked that the timing of the intersection be kept to a slow wait time.

Bob Still, 4011 93rd Ave SE, spoke about the importance of "image" to Mercer Island and how it relates to transportation (I-90 construction) and the Town Center Code Amendments.

Tracy Granbois, 8440 SE 82nd Street, noted that the January 19, 2016 minutes misrepresented her comments, spoke about the City's Board and Commission appointment process and the Mayor's proposed appointments, and noted that the 1996 Mercer Island High School reunion will be held on August 20.

John Gebhart, 7360 81st Place SE, spoke on behalf of the Masons, Kiwanis, and VFW regarding their main fundraising event of fireworks sales on Mercer Island.

John Houlihan, on behalf of Dollar Development and Cassan Enterprises, spoke about the Town Center Code Amendments.

Dick Winslow, 3761 77th Ave SE, asked the Council to put efforts into safety, is looking forward to a hotel on the Island, and does not think Mercer Island needs more pizza places. He also spoke about the need for adequate parking and minimizing congestion.

Larry Sergeant, 2920 76th Ave SE, spoke about the Town Center Code Amendments and noted that there is a petition with 800 names on it who do not want more than three stories south of SE 27th Street.

Michelle Goldberg, 2212 78th Ave SE, spoke about the Town Center Code Amendments and asked Council to listen to all Islanders who provided comments about what they want in the Town Center. She asked Council to vote for a plan with three story caps.

Helen Vinding Nyden, 6935 SE 34th Street, spoke about the importance of Council listening to the people who live on Mercer Island and not the developers regarding the Town Center Code Amendments.

Beverly Horwitz, 4332 West Mercer Way, spoke about why she moved to Mercer Island and expressed concern about the Town Center Code Amendments changing the small town quality of life.

Morrene Jacobson, 4250 92nd Ave SE, agreed with the previous speakers and is baffled, with all of the input the Council has received, that Council can just ignore it and decide to do something else.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, noted that the overwhelming public majority is against five story buildings and is for alternative C or less, that it is condescending to ignore the public, and questioned whether the Council thinks they were elected as public servants or as public masters.

Hunter McKay, 18 Meadow Lane, agrees with the last six speakers, asked why the Council is empowered to change zoning against the will of the people of Mercer Island. He asked Council to listen.

Terry Madroom, SE 28th Street, is appalled at her local government ignoring what the public wants in the Town Center. She spoke about over filled schools and the need for more services with increases in population.

Jeff Spelman, 4250 90th Ave SE, spoke in favor of pizza. He asked the Council to give good thought and action to affordable housing practices in the Town Center and stay with 60% of median in three story buildings.

Jenni Mechem, 8451 SE 36th Street, strongly endorses the 5-4-3 plan for slower growth and lower heights. She urged Council to not to get rid of affordable housing as it is needed for single parent families and seniors in this community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Grausz requested removal of AB 5190: MIYFS Foundation Donation to Fund Thrift Shop Staffing Pilot Project. Mayor Bassett moved it to the second item of Regular Business. Councilmember Wong requested removal of the May 16 Minutes. Mayor Bassett moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

Payables: \$753,416.89 (05/12/16), \$986,041.87 (05/19/16), & \$468,703.29 (05/26/16)

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

Payroll: \$760,699.51 (05/27/16)

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

Minutes: May 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Recommendation: Adopt the May 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

AB 5188 Summer Celebration Fireworks Display Permit Application

Recommendation: Approve the Public Fireworks Display Permit for Western International Fireworks for July 9, 2016, sponsored by Summer Celebration.

AB 5187 2016 Fireworks Sales Permit Approval

Recommendation: Approve the Mercer Island Masonic Lodge's permit application to allow the retail sale of "consumer" fireworks in conjunction with Independence Day 2016.

AB 5191 Arts Council Annual Report & Work Plan

Recommendation: Receive Arts Council 2015 Annual Report and approve the Arts Council 2016 Work Plan.

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Weiker to:

Adopt the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Berlin)

REGULAR BUSINESS

Minutes: May 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Approve the May 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Wisenteiner to:

Amend the minutes as follows:

Page 3, AB 5181, replace second paragraph with:

After a lengthy discussion about different Town Center building height proposals including the one recommended by a majority of the Planning Commission, the one suggested by a majority of the Design Commission and others suggested by different Councilmembers, the majority of the Council directed staff to set the building heights in the Town Center as shown in the attached map.

Motion to Amend Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

Amended Motion Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

AB 5190 MIYFS Foundation Donation to Fund Thrift Shop Staffing Pilot Project

Councilmember Grausz spoke about YFS staffing. He would like to have staff review and develop rationale as to why the City still needs to add a full time employee when there has been an increase in volunteer hours. Cindy Goodwin spoke about the challenges of using the work study program. She noted that the Thrift Shop is doing well with volunteers, but they are not as stable as they were in the past.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Wong to:
Accept a donation of \$19,445 in funds from the MIYFS Foundation for funding of a pilot project to enhance Thrift shop staffing.
Passed 4-2
FOR: 4 (Bassett, Sanderson, Weiker, Wong)
AGAINST: 2 (Grausz, Wisenteiner)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

AB 5186 Town Center Vision and Development Code Update (2nd Reading)

Development Services Director Scott Greenberg presented the Town Center Vision and Development Code Update and spoke briefly about major changes to the draft Town Center development standards directed by the Council the May 16 Council meeting.

The Council engaged in a lengthy discussion about building heights.

It was moved by Weiker; seconded by Grausz to:
Adopt Ordinance No. 16C-06 adopting new, final development and design standards for the Town Center zone.

It was moved by Wisenteiner; seconded by Wong to:
Amend the previous motion to eliminate the proposed reduction in parking and go back to original limits.
Failed 1-5
FOR: 1 (Wisenteiner)
AGAINST: 5 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Wisenteiner to:
Amend the previous motion to change TC-4 subarea to the east of 78th between 28th and 30 to TC-3 and change TC-4 subarea south of Tabit Square to TC-3.
Failed 3-3
FOR: 3 (Grausz, Wisenteiner, Wong)
AGAINST: 3 (Bassett, Sanderson, Weiker)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

Main Motion Passed 4-2
FOR: 4 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker)
AGAINST: 2 (Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

It was moved by Sanderson; seconded by Grausz to:
Adopt Ordinance No. 16-08 to extend the Town Center moratorium for five days, until June 20, 2016 to avoid a vesting opportunity in the meanwhile.

Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

MEETING EXTENSION

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Grausz to:
Extend the City Council Meeting past 10:00 pm.

Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

AB 5185 2015 Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update (2nd Reading)

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Wong to:
Adopt Ordinance No. 16-07 approving the 2015 periodic Comprehensive Plan update.
Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

AB 5184 Public Hearing: 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program Preview

Mayor Bassett opened the public hearing.

John Oates, 3021 81st Ave SE, spoke about safety concerns at 86th Ave SE and SE 40th Street.

Marie Bender, 7890 81st Place SE, spoke about the transportation study and feels it is backwards to downgrade the congestion levels allowed outside of Town Center and improve congestion control in the Town Center. She also spoke about the need to focus on the Town Center before allowing more commercial development in the South end and spoke briefly about the bus turnaround.

Tom Acker, 84th Ave SE, opposes the downgrading of any level of service in the Town Center or residential areas.

Michelle Goldberg, 2212 78th Ave SE, stated that she does not support downgrading the level of service anywhere on Mercer Island and asked Council to fix the intersections.

Mayor Bassett continued the public hearing to the July 5, 2016 Council Meeting.

City Engineer Patrick Yamashita presented the Transportation Improvement Program. He provided background and gave an overview of the TIP. He spoke about the public comment period, the continued increase in requests for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and noteworthy changes to the TIP. He also spoke about pedestrian improvements and pedestrian/vehicle circulation improvements near the MISD campus.

Joe Giacobazzi, KPG, presented an alternative analysis to the SE 40th Street & 86th Avenue SE intersection. He spoke about the new elementary school, the limited sight distance and safety issues at the intersection, the four improvement alternatives, and the evaluation criteria. He also spoke about the alternative to widen the intersection and provided both a short-term and a long-term recommendation.

The Council asked questions about and provided feedback to staff about the SE 40th Street/86th Avenue SE Intersection project, Aubrey Davis Park Regional Multi-Use Corridor Plan, North Mercer Way Rechannelization at 77th Avenue SE and Island Crest Way Crosswalk Enhancement – SE 32nd Street project, and transportation level of service (LOS).

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Deputy Mayor Bertlin's absence was excused.
Mayor Bassett will be absent June 20.
Councilmember Sanderson will be absent July 19.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Lancaster reviewed the upcoming meetings.

Board Appointments

Mayor Bassett presented his recommendations for appointments to the open positions on the City's Boards and Commissions. He noted that there are still positions open on the Arts Council and Community Services Board, for which staff will continue to recruit applicants.

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Grausz to:

Confirm the appointment of the following individuals to the City Boards and Commissions:

ARTS COUNCIL:

Position 4, Rene Stratton, Expiring 5/31/2020
Position 5, Amy Barnes, Expiring 5/31/2020

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (ADULT)

Position 5, Linda Paddor, Expiring 5/31/2019
Position 6, Kerra Melvin, Expiring 5/31/2019
Position 8, Stephanie Parmenter, Expiring 5/31/2019

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (YOUTH)

Cole Comstock, Expiring 5/31/2018
Zack Gottesman, Expiring 5/31/2018
Jessica Waller, Expiring 5/31/2018
Allison Bunker, Expiring 5/31/2018
Brandon Wong, Expiring 5/31/2018
Auden Finch, Expiring 5/31/2018

DESIGN COMMISSION

Position 3, Tami Szerlip, Expiring 5/31/2020
Position 4, Anthony Perez, Expiring 5/31/2020

LIBRARY BOARD

Position 1, Richard Winslow, Expiring 5/31/2016

OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

Position 1, Craig Olson, Expiring 5/31/2020
Position 6, Thomas Hildebrandt, Expiring 5/31/2020

PLANNING COMMISSION

Position 3, Daniel Hubbell, Expiring 5/31/2020
Position 4, Lucia Pirzio-Biroli, Expiring 5/31/2020

UTILITY BOARD

Position 1, William Pokorny, Expiring 5/31/2020
Position 2, Kwan Wong, Expiring 5/31/2020
Passed 6-0
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Grausz, Sanderson, Weiker, Wisenteiner, Wong)
ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Sanderson spoke about the Open Space Conservancy Trust's discussion of off-leash dogs in Pioneer Park.

Councilmember Weiker noted that the Northwood Elementary dedication is on Saturday, June 18.
Mayor Bassett spoke about the opening weekend of the Farmers Market.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 12:19 am.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Ali Spietz, City Clerk