



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JULY 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Terry Pottmeyer, Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present. Councilmember Debbie Bertlin was absent.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Parks & Recreation Summer Staff Introductions

Parks & Recreation Director Bruce Fletcher introduced the Parks & Recreation Summer Staff and thanked them for doing an outstanding job.

APPEARANCES

Meg Lippert, 4052 94th Ave SE, is concerned about using Mercer Island park land for MICA. She believes that park land will be destroyed, that there is a feasible way to purchase land in the Town Center, and that MICA would be an asset to the Town Center.

Tom Acker, 2427 84th Ave SE, asked that, during this election season, there be some sort of agreement on how to separate communications, propaganda versus city business. He requested that candidates have the same access to materials and information as Councilmembers do. He also asked if there are any public lands that the City Council is looking at selling or is in the process of selling.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Wong to:

Adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015 as written.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2015

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Wong to:

Adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2015 as written.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$497,291.16 (07/16/15)

Recommendation: Certify that the materials or services hereinbefore specified have been received and that

all warrant numbers listed are approved for payment.

Payroll: \$743,158.02 (07/10/15)

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

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Brahm to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5091 Parks Impact Fees

DSG Director Scott Greenberg provided an overview of the three different types of impact fees; parks, transportation, and schools. He noted that both rate studies for transportation and parks fees will be presented at the October 5 Council meeting with the potential ordinances taking effect on January 15, 2016. He spoke about school impact fees, noting that the schedule is shorter and that school impact fees could potentially be effective October 16, 2015. He noted that the Planning Commission has recommended an exemption of school impact fees for affordable housing, and asked Council to think about granting this same type of exemption for parks and transportation impact fees. He then introduced Jennifer Harris and Lisa Grueter from Berk Consulting.

Jennifer Harris introduced parks impact fees by providing an overview of the inputs of growth-based fee analysis. She spoke about the 20-year growth projections, the Level of Service (LOS) objectives and methodology options, and the per capita LOS application. She discussed commercial growth-based fees, the other funding contribution discount, and the park system value needed for growth. She also spoke about the SEPA mitigation fee alternative, CIP projects and growth-based fees, and potential impact fee discounts. For context, she presented some representative impact fees from other cities.

Council asked questions regarding the discount factor percentage and what should be considered in terms of the discount rate.

Council directed staff to:

- impose GMA impact fees, as opposed to SEPA mitigation fees
- use the per-capita investment methodology to determine the fee
- include land value in the valuation formula
- use the King County Countywide Planning Policies growth scenario for the population projection
- come back to Council with a package of CIP projects aligned with the updated level of service standards and impact fees
- appropriate funding for Phase 2 to proceed with adopting parks impact fees

Council agreed to further consider whether to include employees in the formula used to calculate an impact fee and whether to assess an impact fee on commercial floor area.

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Pottmeyer to:

Appropriate \$16,600 from the 2014 General Fund surplus for preparation of a parks impact fee rate study.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bassett, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bertlin)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Bertlin's absence was excused.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Treat noted that the August 3 Executive Session will need to be rescheduled, an Executive Session will be added to the September 21 meeting, and a Town Center interim report presentation will be added.

Mayor Basset spoke about scheduling a WRIA8 ILA and runoff presentation. Council decided to add this item to the Consent Calendar.

Deputy Mayor Grausz noted that the MICA lease discussion also needs to be scheduled.

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wong noted that SCA has forwarded a letter to the King County Council urging them to put the Best Starts for Kids levy on the November ballot. He extended his appreciation to the PTA and Aljoia for hosting and sponsoring the candidate forums and asked about using the Albertsons parking lot until New Seasons Market opens.

Councilmember Cero spoke about the City's communications with the public in maintaining impartiality.

Deputy Mayor Grausz expressed his thanks for all of the Sister City events. He noted that a preliminary Town Center interim report is being circulated. He believes it is a comprehensive document which will give Islanders a good understanding of what is now being considered and is a good step towards moving the process along.

City Manager Treat noted that interviews are currently being scheduled with the new consultant. He stated that the City is still hopeful to have the interim report out to the public by July 31.

Mayor Bassett read a statement on behalf of Councilmember Bertlin. She commented on the Town Center visioning process and expressed her frustration over not receiving a draft interim report and the lack of a revised schedule. City Manager Treat responded that progress has been made and the City is moving toward an interim report. He stated that staff takes this project very seriously and that the interim report needs to be a good document. He is hopeful that the report will be ready on July 31. He also noted that the previous schedule was put on hold while the consultant reviews the process going forward.

Councilmember Pottmeyer spoke about the dedication of the new fire station. She attended the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board meeting and noted that two groups of foresters will be coming to Pioneer Park to discuss root rot and that some yield signs will be posted in the southeast quadrant of the park.

Councilmember Brahm spoke about the Sister City visit and the exchange of gifts, Summer Celebration, the art unveiling at the sculpture gallery, and Pianos in the Parks. She also spoke briefly about the Mostly Music in the Park concert series and the Shakespeare in the Park plays.

Mayor Bassett spoke about the upcoming Sound Transit board meeting, the fire station ceremony and the 911 memorial artwork, and his conversation with the CEO of New Seasons Market.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk