



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JULY 6, 2015

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 30 minutes.

Mayor Bassett convened the Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 25 minutes at 6:31 pm.

Mayor Bassett ended the Executive Session at 6:51 pm. The Regular Meeting resumed at 7:00 pm.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Bertlin to:

Add an item to the beginning of Regular Business regarding the property issue discussed in Executive Session.

Passed 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Cero)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

2014 Citizen of the Year Recognition for Roger and Nancy Page (Island Books)

The Mercer Island City Council named Roger and Nancy Page, owners of Island Books, as the 2014 Citizens of the Year.

Mayor Bruce Bassett noted that Roger has worked at Island Books since 1984, when he was a part-time Christmas gift wrapper. Roger was promoted to bookseller, then to floor manager.

By 1991, Roger and Nancy had married and were thinking about buying a home and starting a family, inspiring him to tell his three bosses that he needed to move up or move out. The ladies happily sold him the store. They took an already special institution and made it even more beloved and more of an integral part of the Mercer Island community.

Roger and Nancy see their goal as to serve the community and believe that if they do it well, and are welcoming and caring, the business will go on and everything will work out. He noted that Roger thinks of fundraisers as

parties. The Mayor noted that a few years ago the donation total was over \$300,000 from the several hundred fundraisers they've held over the years.

Roger and Nancy spoke about their history at Island Books. He stated that the more they gave, the more the community gave back to them.

Roger spoke about the playhouse that has been in the store for 40 years, noting that patrons come in with their children and tell them that they used to play in the house when they were young. He enjoys watching the generations flow through the store.

Councilmembers spoke about Roger and Nancy and the institution that have created for the community, Island Books.

APPEARANCES

Jeff Becker, 3437 74th Ave SE, loves the PCC model and would like to have a PCC on Mercer Island. He is overwhelmed by how much people care about the topic of a grocery store. He heard the message that the City does not want to get involved, but is concerned because it is such an important issue. He hopes that the investment group looks at the big picture and that the Council understands how much it means to the community.

Craig Reynolds, 8105 SE 48th Street, noted that PCC is so important to him because it is a co-op. He noted that PCC has employed the co-op model successfully in the Puget Sound area and that co-ops exist to serve their members. He stated that other groceries stores say they are committed to local and organic foods, but what they are really committed to is there shareholders. He noted that PCC values good wholesome food and buying from fair trade operations.

Steve Williamson, Director of Community Affairs at UFCW21, 3826 S Lucille Street, Seattle, noted that United Food and Commercial Workers is the largest private sector union in Washington State with 91 of its over 45,000 members living on Mercer Island. These members would like to continue working on Mercer Island which can be done through the passage of a worker retention policy.

Lara Sanderson, 8100 Evergreen Lane, spoke about cooking food and food advocacy. She described opening Stopsky's on Mercer Island, and the need to close the store as providing local, organic, homemade food and maintaining employee pay and benefits was too important to compromise. She spoke about the Bring PCC to Mercer Island group, asked Council to stand up for grocery workers who live on the island, and to use the tools available to enable the best outcome for all involved.

Jim Eanes, 2930 76th Ave SE, got involved because 19 of the Albertsons employees are Mercer Island residents and three of them live on his block. He spoke about them as valued neighbors and homeowners.

Helen Neville, Senior VP of Marketing for Metropolitan Markets, cannot underestimate the importance that local businesses have on a community. She noted that Metropolitan Market is locally owned and operated and that its founder and CEO is a Mercer Island resident who would love to serve his neighbors by having a store on the Island.

Susan Hatch, 9004 Shorewood Drive, used to live in Seattle and thought of the Seward Park PCC as a community. She spoke about spraying Roundup on knotweed around the Island and about the City of Vancouver banning the private spraying of Roundup. She also spoke about the dangers of Roundup and would like to see it banned on Mercer Island.

Jenni Mechem, 8451 SE 36th Street, thanked the Council for considering her for the Planning Commission. She thinks that PCC would be a fabulous idea for Mercer Island.

Al Lippert, 4052 94th Ave SE, spoke about pickle ball at the Community Center. He offered to meet with staff to provide input about the schedule in order to increase the hours for pickle ball.

Michelle Goldberg, 2212 78th Ave SE, expressed her concern about Phase 3 of the Town Center visioning process. She stated that the engagement plan was developed without any input from the public. She would

have liked to have seen an effort to reach out to the community, educate the public, and provide the details about school enrollment, traffic, and density issues. She spoke about the Phase 3 phone survey and questioned whether it will really be representative of the entire community. She suggested that the City send out a survey with the water bills.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, objected to a violation of the OPMA by only reading a generic purpose for the Executive Session. He believes that Council is using a generic statement to hide from the public what is really going on. He does not think that Seth Harry should be rehired. He also noted that Deputy Mayor Grausz stated that most Islanders favor 5-story buildings which he does not think is true. He spoke about the Albertsons building and thinks that worker retention is an interesting idea.

Tom Acker, 2427 84th Ave SE, noted that Save our Suburbs was started as a grass roots effort. He stated that he is not involved with SOS anymore but wanted to clarify that SOS was never anti-growth but is pro, responsible growth. He noted that SOS does not have a slate of candidates that they have endorsed and that it is also untrue that there is a slate of incumbents from SOS running. He spoke about the interior of Island Books and the exterior of Starbucks and would like to see more of that intentional design on the Island. He thinks that major decisions about degrading the Islands levels of service should wait until after the election. He asked who he can work with to do a public-private partnership to possibly acquire the assemblage of Hines properties.

Salim Nice, 5619 89th Ave SE, spoke about the Town Center visioning budget appropriation. He is concerned that impact fees are not part of the budget and noted the need for residents to be included in the process. He thinks it makes sense to wrap up the transportation and park impact fee work. He would like to see the survey funded for the stakeholder meetings and the \$44K spent on the necessary language to institute the transportation and park impact fees.

Gary Robinson, 6026 East Mercer Way, attended the City Council Mini-Planning Session and was amazed that the MICA presentation was presented as a slam dunk. He spoke in support of a public-private partnership to put MICA on the Hines property rather than at Mercerdale Park.

Holly Glaser, 4554 East Mercer Way, does not want to lose Mercerdale park to MICA. She noted that what she wants out of a grocery store is to know that the employees will be able to go buy food for themselves and have a living wage. She thinks it is disgraceful to pay people the lowest possible wage.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2015

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

Adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2015 as written.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015

The City Clerk will correct the June 15, 2015 minutes and bring them back at the next meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$223,347.81 (06/11/15), \$1,161,391.54 (06/20/15), & \$302,665.07 (06/25/15)

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

Payroll: \$799,917.54 (06/26/15)

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

AB 5089 Summer Celebration Fireworks Permit

Recommendation: Approve the Public Fireworks Display for July 11, 2015, sponsored by Summer Celebration!

It was moved by Wong; seconded by Brahm to:

Adopt the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

REGULAR BUSINESS

No AB Albertsons Grocery Site Update

Mayor Bassett noted that there is great community interest in this topic and it is on the agenda simply to provide an informational update.

City Manager Treat noted that a lease has been fully executed for the site and that a public announcement is expected within the next week.

Deputy Mayor Grausz stated that he asked the City Attorney to circulate the worker retention ordinance so that Councilmembers could understand what the public appearances were referring to.

Councilmember Wong asked if the Council had any interest in talking about the principles of worker retention.

The Council discussed the worker retention ordinance and decided not to review it further.

No AB Executive Session Action

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Brahm to:

Authorize the City Manager to sign the settlement agreement, utility easement, quit claim deed, and related documents regarding the ownership of the right-of-ways adjacent to the property located at 2913 70th Ave SE.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

Councilmember Cero noted that he would have liked this item to be discussed in open session at the next meeting.

AB 5090 Town Center Visioning and Code Update Budget Authorization

Development Services Group Director Scott Greenberg highlighted the changes to the Town Center Visioning and Code Update Budget Authorization, noting that the City is proposing to not renew the contract with 3 Square Blocks and to use EMC Research to survey the public regarding the Town Center. He also spoke briefly about impact fee funding.

Mayor Bassett spoke about advancing through the interim report, selecting a consultant to look at the input the City has been getting from the public and the liaison and stakeholders committees, and deciding on a proposed path forward. He also spoke about looking several steps ahead to try and wrap up the project.

City Manager Treat noted that taking a pause to assess the Town Center work does not apply to the impact fee work and that the City will be able to find the funds to move forward on this work.

Council consensus was to have the interim report prepared and authorize the City Manager to hire a consultant to review the Town Center Visioning and Engagement process to date.

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Wong to:

Appropriate \$25,000 from the 2014 General Fund surplus for the Town Center Development community engagement services.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

The Council decided to move forward on impact fees. Staff will report back to Council on impact fees after the first phase of the study, at which point Council can authorize staff to move forward with the second phase.

Following discussion there was Council consensus to continue with consultant Seth Harry.

AB 5088 Acquisition & Lease Purchase Financing of a Midi Pumper Fire Truck

Finance Director Chip Corder spoke about the acquisition and lease purchase financing of a midi pumper fire truck. He noted that this truck will be replacing one that is 31 years old.

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Bertlin to:

Suspend City Council Rules of Procedure 5.2, and adopt with one and final reading Ordinance No. 15-13, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Purchase Agreement between the City of Mercer Island and Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. for the acquisition of one Midi Pumper fire truck for a total cost, including all applicable discounts and sales tax, of \$341,294.64; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Master Tax-Exempt Installment Purchase Agreement with Municipal Asset Management, Inc. to finance the acquisition of said fire truck.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

No AB Fourth of July report

Fire Chief Steve Heitman provided a report about the 4th of July on Mercer Island, noting that staffing was increased for the day. He stated that there were six firework related calls, all in a very concentrated area, and that there were no EMS calls.

AB 5087 Adoption of the 2014 Washington Cities Electrical Code (WCEC) (1st Reading)

Building Official Don Cole spoke about adopting the 2014 Washington Cities Electrical Code.

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Pottmeyer to:

Suspend the City Council Rules of Procedure 5.2 requiring a first and second reading of all ordinances.

Passed 6-1

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

AGAINST: 1 (Cero)

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Bertlin to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 15C-14, amending MICC Title 17, Construction Codes, as required by the State of Washington.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Bertlin will be absent July 20.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Treat noted that the changes to the Town Center visioning process will most likely shift the planned dates for Town Center and Comp Plan item review. He also noted that, if needed, the moratorium would be reviewed in advance of the December 15 expiration date.

Councilmember Bertlin would like to revise the City Council Rules of Procedure to include a social media policy.

There was support from three other Councilmembers to add it to the Planning Schedule. City Manager Treat will work with staff to add the item to a future agenda.

Board Appointments

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Brahm to:

Affirm the appointments of Tian Tenison to Position #2 (expiring May 2018) on the Community Advisory Board and Jennifer Mechem to Position #6 (expiring May 2018) on the Planning Commission.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Pottmeyer, Wong)

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wong spoke about the upcoming SCA PIC Meeting on July 8 in which members will be asked to vote to encourage the King County Council to put the Best Starts for Kids levy on the ballot in November.

Councilmember Bertlin attended the Parks & Rec Subcommittee meeting and reported that the Calkins Point project and the ballfield lights project will be moving forward. She also noted that Summer Celebration and the SE 47th trail were discussed.

Deputy Mayor Grausz asked that information about bus route ridership be shared with the Council, noting that it is very encouraging to see the community using this service. He also spoke about the email from AWC regarding revenue changes from the legislative session and noted the upcoming Fire Station dedication.

Councilmember Pottmeyer spoke about being able to speak openly with neighbors regarding the SE 47th trail. She also spoke about the public comment on using Roundup and hopes the City can find alternatives.

Councilmember Brahm spoke about the Sister City activities over the next week and that the delegation arrived today. She also spoke about the SCA networking dinner, the two new sculptures in the sculpture garden, and the grand piano in Mercerdale Park. She provided a suspension bridge update and noted that Summer Celebration is this weekend.

Mayor Bassett spoke about the Sister City delegation visit and Summer Celebration. He also spoke about recent Sound Transit discussions and, in the future, possibly starting to summarize public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk