



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

STUDY SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 3, 2014

STUDY SESSIONS

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Study Sessions to order at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

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

AB 5018 Mercer Island Library Renovations Update

Mercer Island Library Board Chair Bryan Cairns summarized the MI Library Board report noting that progress has been made on a number of issues, but that discussions fell apart at the third meeting in regards to the children's area and that, in his expectation, few further modifications will be achieved. He also noted that, at the last meeting, the Board did not pursue the suggestion of a moratorium as they felt it was the Council's prerogative to do so, however he has subsequently heard from the majority of the Library Board that they are in agreement with the recommendation to impose a moratorium on the project until a new KCLS Director is in place. He asked for Council direction as to whether the MI Library Board should continue its current course to effect further change or should limit its attention to everyday matters.

Councilmembers asked for clarification on the fire sprinkler issue, asked why the Library Board thinks that no further progress can be made with KCLS on resolving the outstanding issues, and asked if the Library Board has received any response or explanation from KCLS regarding the changes to the children's area.

Chair Cairns noted that KCLS's Acting Director has stated that they have reached a point of no further negotiation, that KCLS has the authority to make the decisions, and that they feel a number of concessions have been made.

KCLS Facilities Design Coordinator Adrienne Ralph spoke about the shelving in the children's area, noted that KCLS's policy is to have open children's areas for both access and visibility, and that the glass wall will allow the square footage in the meeting room to be accessible to all library users. She stated that the construction documents request a seven month construction window in order to keep the library closure to a minimum.

Councilmembers spoke in support of sending a letter to KCLS requesting a pause/moratorium on the Mercer Island Library Remodel Project.

AB 5017 Water System Contamination Event Review

Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin spoke about the tracking of the Boil-Water Advisory incident and the After Action Report (AAR). She noted that the top three corrective actions that have been identified through the AAR process are regional messaging (including procuring new software to combine email distribution lists into one platform), the creation of an emergency management team, and the need for a dedicated Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

Communications Manager Ross Freeman spoke about outreach including email lists and social media, the hundreds of followers and subscribers that were gained during the course of the incident, and the Mercer Island Dine Local campaign.

Melinda Friedman from Confluence Engineering discussed the findings from the evaluation of the microbial occurrence and distribution system best practices. She noted that the objectives of the study were to review Mercer Island's routine operation and maintenance and water quality maintenance practices, identify potential causes and risk factors for the event, and develop recommendations to minimize the risk of future events. She discussed coliform occurrence pathways, the key findings, and preliminary recommendations. She noted that the City has a very active flushing program but there is the lack of a main cleaning program, that biofilm and pipe

scale are impacting water quality but are not likely causes of the coliform event, and that there was no evidence found of purposeful contamination. She spoke about the City strengths and noted that this event presents an opportunity for the City to assess and modify its practices. She also stated that the recommendations were developed in three key areas; reducing contamination risks, enhancing water quality management, and additional improvements such as resource availability, better written documentation, and data management.

Maintenance Director Glenn Boettcher gave an overview of the next steps, including working on an implementation plan and timeline for operating and capital improvements, assessing costs and potential staffing needs, continuing to consult with the Department of Health and Seattle Public Utilities, continue working with Confluence when technical expertise is needed, and providing an update to the Utility Board next week. He also noted that a technical report from Confluence with greater detail will be sent to Council tomorrow.

The Study Sessions adjourned at 7:10 pm.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:20 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

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

Mayor Bassett thanked those who wore red in support of Marysville-Pilchuck High School.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Bassett read a proclamation designating November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

Dr. Picozzi thanked the Council for their support of pancreatic cancer awareness and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. He spoke about the statistics of diagnosis and survivorship and stated that the purpose of the organization is to spread a message of awareness, hope and opportunity.

Councilmember Senn spoke about her father who passed away from pancreatic cancer.

APPEARANCES

Marcia Dawson, 8812 SE 77th Place, read a statement from Cornelia Schneider, asking for moratorium on the Mercer Island Library remodel project until a new KCLS director is hired. She noted that safety should be paramount in any remodel project, public buildings should be energy efficient, Mercer Islander's should be allowed and encouraged to be involved in the planning process, Mercer Island students and teachers could become more intellectually involved particularly if the project was a green project, and that a remodel should keep what is good about the library.

David Fick, 4262 East Mercer Way, is concerned and disappointed about the proposed changes to the library. He feels like this is a government project that does not need to happen as it does nothing to improve the experience of library patrons, the usability of the library, or the size of the library. He stated that the glass wall will create a visual distraction, the elimination of bookshelves in the children's area will reduce book capacity, and putting children's books outside the children's area will create a security issue. He asked Council to send a message to KCLS that Mercer Island does not need a library renovation.

Dick Winslow, 3761 77th Ave SE, urged Council to send the proposed letter to the KCLS board asking for a delay of the interior demolition and reconstruction of the library as it would allow time for more public input. He stated that spending less and getting more is a good idea.

Christine Acker, 7456 West Mercer Way, noted that as a member of MIPA she is in the process of drafting a formal position on the library issue. She appreciates the current functionality of the library particularly the children's area. She expressed concern about the overriding message of waste in an era where we are all trying to be more "green." She appreciates the attention the Council has given to the remodel.

Tabitha Brown, 5615 East Mercer Way, is concerned with the proposed reduction in library staff. She noted that the staff are extremely helpful and believes their positions are necessary. She uses the library frequently for resources for teaching art and relies on personal assistance to help find those resources. She is concerned about preserving the current number of library staff.

Peter Finch, 4118 93rd Ave SE, spoke about two incidents involving his children. He stated that his son was hit by a car in a crosswalk while riding his bicycle to school and his daughter was hit by a car in a crosswalk while walking to school. He noted that the penalty for running into a child is less than the fine for driving with expired tabs which to him seems insufficient. He stated that crosswalks should be more visible so that children feel comfortable walking or riding bikes on Mercer Island.

Meg Lippert, 4052 94th Ave SE, thanked the Council for pursuing sending a letter to the KCLS board. She spoke about two topics; youth engagement and the pitfalls of believing what KCLS says. She stated that KCLS staff has been untruthful, unforthcoming, unreliable, and unresponsive.

Al Lippert, 4052 94th Ave SE, noted that instead of a glass wall in the library, a video surveillance system could be installed such as is used at the community center. He suggested that lights on motion sensors are a money saver and must be planned for the library. He spoke about energy saving LED lights, modern HVAC units, state of the art communications, and making the display case half paper and half LED. He stated that the library should aim high and should go for LEED certification and, instead of using the 3.4 million to make needless cosmetic changes; he would like to use the money to make the library a state of the art LEED building that Mercer Island can be proud of.

Eric Swenson, 8541 East Mercer Way, would like the letter to include the term thousands, not hundreds, of people that have expressed that they do not like the library remodel plans. He does not think that Mercer Island should accept the proposed changes just because they have worked at other libraries. He is for upgrades to the library, but feels that changes in furniture and decor is not a good use of money. He does not think that terms such as destruction or ruination are toxic, but that they are descriptive and are a fair opinion of the facts of the matter.

Cornelia Schneider, 8541 East Mercer Way, thanked the Concerned Citizens for the Mercer Island Library group as she does not believe they have been given enough recognition for the work they have done in scrutinizing the library remodel plans. She noted that the group has been ridiculed and misrepresented, and that they have sacrificed time and money to get a message across to those that were not well informed. She is proud that they have demonstrated such activism on Mercer Islander's behalf.

Bob Still, 4011 93rd Ave SE, spoke about the items that were approved in the 2004 Library Capital Improvement Bond. He noted that in 2013 KCLS added almost 3 million dollars more to the \$730,000 bond with no citizen approval necessary claiming that the changes will make the Mercer Island Library a library of the future. He stated that maximizing the use of the library's existing unique features to match its patrons' desires and needs will take coordination of city government and island citizenry.

Bart Dawson, 8812 SE 77th Place, believes that what Council is trying to do in the letter is to make sure that the proposed renovation is fully explained to islanders. He spoke about spending a lot of time and effort trying to constructively provide better designs for the library. He noted that KCLS's architect has not been allowed to speak to the public about design issues and that, to improve the design process, they need to be able to talk with people who have design ideas.

Gary Robinson, 6026 East Mercer Way, described a post KCLS Mercer Island Library world. He noted that a Mercer Island owned library would have its own dedicated librarians, would have the latitude to tailor it to Mercer Island needs such as setting the hours, would lower the current tax burden on citizens for library services by 50-65%, could have its own programs, would have latitude to order books and periodicals, could decide who would provide needed services, and could decide what the future of the library means for Mercer Island. He stated that Mercer Island could operate the library at a similar level of service for less than 50% of what Mercer Island presently pays.

Janice Cohen, 4655 90th Ave SE, thinks the library is a sacred space and spoke in favor of putting in sprinklers. She would like KCLS to provide the three things that were voted for in the 2004 bond issue: more books and materials, an automated receipt system, and necessary upgrades to the building. She does not want KCLS to change the interior layout, the design, or the look and feel of the library.

Tami Szerlip, 7804 SE 40th St, thanked the Council for writing the letter but would like to see stronger language. She thinks it has been a flawed process which has created a huge issue of trust. She begged the Council to speak to KCLS so they will consider the ideas put forth.

Jerry Gropp, architect, is glad that the Council is going to send the proposed letter to KCLS. He stated that Mercer Island is a different and unique place, he thinks the quality of life should be guarded, and that to make changes just for changes sake is not the way to go.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, believes it is perfectly appropriate for Council to be concerned with the Mercer Island Library. He noted that the trend with KCLS seems to be to get rid of librarians altogether replacing them with paraprofessionals. He stated that the City Council should take the strongest action possible to protect the library and the community in case the letter doesn't work.

Cy Baumgartner, quoted a line from Middlemarch by George Eliot, "What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other?"

MINUTES

Special (Emergency) Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2014

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

Adopt the Special (Emergency) Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2014 as written.

Passed 7-0

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

Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2014

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

Adopt the Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2014 as written.

Passed 7-0

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

Special Joint Meeting with MISD Board Minutes of October 16, 2014

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

Adopt the Special Joint Meeting with MISD Board Minutes of October 16, 2014 as written.

It was moved by Senn; seconded by Cero to: Amend SEE EMAIL add cero

Passed 7-0

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$636,690.29 (10/23/14) & \$357,535.14 (10/30/14)

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

Payroll: \$746,372.91 (10/17/14)

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

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 7-0

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 5020 Mercer Island Library Renovations Next Steps

City Clerk Ali Spietz reviewed the revised letter to the KCLS Board of Trustees, which incorporated Councilmembers Senn and Cero's suggested edits from the Study Session discussion. The Council discussed the proposed changes.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Senn to:

Send a letter as drafted and amended from the City Council to the KCLS Board of Trustees requesting that the Mercer Island Library Remodel project be put on hold and the bodies work together on a comprehensive public outreach effort regarding the project.

Passed 7-0

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

AB 5016 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget Review: Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Finance Director Chip Corder presented the agenda for the review of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:42 pm.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, spoke about how the community center expenses and revenues will appear in the budget. He noted that old community center (a converted old elementary school) was costing \$50,000 a year to maintain. He said that others said that the new community center as designed would cost a lot and would be a big sinkhole, but staff and Council said that was not true. He stated that the issue at the time was if it was going to be a community center or an event center. He thinks that it should be called out in the budget that the community center is losing money.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:45 pm.

Finance Director Chip Corder provided information regarding the following:

- 2015-2020 REET forecast
- Fund balance trends
- Summary of Council and staff changes to the CIP
- 2015-2020 partially funded projects
- Unfunded projects not in the 2015-2020 CIP
- CIP budget policy issues and changes
 - Capital Reserve Fund (\$352K balance)
 - Fire apparatus replacement in 2015
 - Street Fund deficit (2018-2020)
 - Unfund SE 40th Street Corridor (East of ICW) project (\$759K in 2018) to balance 2018-2020
 - Capital Improvement Fund deficit (2017-2020)
 - Potentially use \$352K balance in Capital Reserve Fund in 2015 to balance 2017-2020
 - MICEC sinking fund needs \$100K cash infusion in 2016 (2015 General Fund surplus)
- 2015-2016 projects review by fund: Street, Capital Improvement, Technology & Equipment, Water, Sewer, & Storm Water

The Council discussed the proposed reduction in the Open Space Vegetation Management for 2015-2016 at length. Staff will return on November 17 with options for alternate cuts and delays to reducing the Open Space Vegetation Management.

The Council also discussed proposed water system projects and the need for an increase in water revenues to address the water advisory action plan items.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

There were no absences.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Treat noted that the November 17 meeting will start early due to the TBD Board Meeting and that an Executive Session regarding the fire station may be scheduled also.

City Attorney Knight noted that the purchase and sale agreement for a portion of Clarke Beach is signed and that the City is moving forward with the sale.

Councilmember Cero spoke about the timeline for receiving the water contamination report from Confluence.

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Cero asked when the City will get a response from the Attorney General's office regarding de-annexing from the library system. City Attorney Knight stated that the timeframe to receive a formal opinion could be up to six months. Councilmember Cero also spoke about the Eastside Transportation Program legislative session proposal.

Councilmember Brahm spoke about the MIVAL Holiday Show noting the reception on November 13. She also attended the MIYFS Advisory Board meeting on October 28 and the Sound Cities and AWC's dinner on October 22, and noted that they are starting a strong cities initiative to galvanize cities and towns to have a stronger influence in Olympia. She also asked everyone to continue to support the Dine Local campaign.

Councilmember Bertlin spoke about the City being at the silver medal level in the Let's Move program, which is a number ten rank nationally.

Councilmember Senn attended the Open Space Conservancy Trust meeting with past and current trustees to look at a ten-year plan for Pioneer Park. She also spoke about people requesting more information on PSE's process in responding to power outages in terms of prioritization and timing.

Councilmember Wong spoke about dining out on October 29 for the Mercer Island Rotary Club's dine out day. He also noted the success of the trick-or-treating program in the Town Center.

Mayor Bassett attended the SCA Transportation Summit and thanked Council for signing up for SCA's Boards and Committees.

Councilmember Brahm was impressed by the Comp Plan Open House, but was disappointed that no one attended.

Deputy Mayor Grausz noted that a consultant has been selected for the Town Center project, a firm from New York named Seth Harry & Associates.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:56 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk