



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 4, 2014

STUDY SESSION

Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz called the Study Session to order at 6:00 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, and Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz were present. Mayor Bruce Bassett was absent.

AB 4991 Transportation Benefit District Briefing

Finance Director Chip Corder presented information to the Council regarding transportation benefit districts (TBD). He provided background on the need for transportation funding to address a forecasted deficit in the Street Fund. He noted that creating a TBD was one of the three options presented to Council at the February 2014 study session on Transportation Funding. He also noted that once the TBD is created, revenue would start to be collected 6 months after the fee ordinance is adopted.

Assistant City Attorney Christina Schuck spoke about the purpose of a TBD, to acquire, construct, improve, provide or fund "transportation improvements" within the district. She also explained the required specifications and criteria for the transportation improvements.

Deputy Finance Director Francie Lake reviewed the revenue options of a TBD, what revenue would be generated with a \$20 annual vehicle fee, and when the revenue could be collected depending on when the fee ordinance is adopted. She further explained the process for establishing a TBD, how it would be governed and what actions the TBD Board needs to take to authorize the Board to collect revenue.

Following questions of staff and discussion by the Council, the majority of the Council directed staff to move forward with establishing a TBD in Mercer Island, which would focus on the City's six-year Transportation Improvement Plan. The Council would like to have the TBD Board pass a fee ordinance by the end of October 2014 to begin collecting fees in May 2015.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:07 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 (arrived 7:58 pm) were present.

APPEARANCES

Alice Poinier, 7450 86th Ave SE, read an excerpt from a recent email update from Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz. She would like the City Council to put a measure on the ballot to de-annex from KCLS so the voters can decide whether to be part of KCLS. She asked why the Council has not aggressively pursued this option, considering the widespread objection to closure of the Mercer Island library for unwanted and wasteful renovations.

Dixie Stanton, 3723 90th Ave SE, read an excerpt from a recent email update from Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz. She stated that Mercer Islanders are taxed \$6 million by KCLS and only get back \$3 million. She suggested that the City should pay off the Mercer Island share of the KCLS bond and contract with a library management service to run a City library, so that Mercer Island would have a library that meets its own needs.

Bob Still, 4011 93rd Ave SE, read an excerpt from a recent email update from Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz. He stated that the Concerned Citizens applaud Grausz' commitment, but fail to see how KCLS will change the plans as they have already been submitted for permit approval. He noted that since KCLS does not want to retain the book drop and two meeting rooms instead of one, he urged the Council to put a measure on the November ballot to de-annex from KCLS. He asked the Council to represent the citizens of Mercer Island and let the voters decide.

Dick Winslow, 3761 77th Ave SE, thinks the Council's hearts are in the right place, not wanting KCLS to spend dollars to renovate the library, but the KCLS Board and management are determined to do the major remodel. He asked the Council to let the citizens vote to de-annex from KCLS. He noted that if the Council puts forth the ballot measure for the November ballot, it will allow the community three months to see what citizens might think.

Eric Swenson, 8541 East Mercer Way, stated that the Concerned Citizens committee have spoken with facts and data relating to proposed changes to the library and have exhausted options to stop the remodel project. He noted that KCLS is moving ahead with the remodel plans. He is aware of the upcoming Mercer Island Library Board meeting on 8/14. He spoke of the petitions regarding the temporary location of the library during the remodel and creating a City library. He asked the Council to but a measure on the November ballot to withdraw from KCLS and respond to the Concerned Citizens committee's opinions.

Gray Robinson, 6026 East Mercer Way, noted that he, on behalf of the Concerned Citizens committee, submitted a petition to the City with 173 signatures to submit to the voters the question of whether the City shall establish a city library. He noted that the tax assessor's office validated 115 signing taxpayers, and the next step will be the validation of signatures. He asked the Council to support the Concerned Citizens committee in moving forward and reclaim the library by putting this measure on the November ballot or by putting a KCLS withdrawal measure on the November ballot.

Carol Hancock, 7714 North Mercer Way, spoke about the Sound Transit bus integration decision. She stated that the idea of choosing a plan as presented by Sound Transit that removes her home and her neighbor's home is unwise and wrong. She asked the Council to continue to explore other options, specifically the option to use Sunset Highway, and put to rest the option to condemn her home.

Councilmember Cero asked when the Council would receive an update on the petition for a library ballot measure. City Attorney Katie Knight responded that the City had just received an email from the King County Department of Assessments stating that they were able to verify 115 property owners on the petitions. She further noted that there is an issue with the statute used for the petition (RCW 27.12.030) as the City is already in another taxing district for a library that would have the same boundaries as the proposed library. She stated that the City is contacting the Attorney General's office for legal guidance, as it is ambiguous as to what the City should do.

MINUTES

Study Session & Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2014

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Wong to:

Adopt the Study Session & Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2014 as written.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bassett)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Payables: \$939,699.34 (07/17/14) & \$508,471.76 (07/22/14)

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

Payroll: \$837,039.45 (07/25/14)

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 Senn to:

Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

ABSENT: 1 (Bassett)

REGULAR BUSINESS

AB 4996 Fire Station 92 Project Update

Maintenance Director Glenn Boettcher and Project Manager Amy DeDominicus presented an update on the Fire Station 92 Project. They spoke about the project timeline and budget. They noted that because the City rejected joists in the apparatus bay, the contractor believes the project will still be substantially completed by early November, but the final project completion is pushed out three weeks.

The Council reviewed the project timeline, which shows a comparison of the projected timeline with the actual timeline. They also reviewed the uncompleted tasks and how the contractor will be responsible for completing them within the established timeline.

Director Boettcher and Project Manager DeDominicus spoke about meeting weekly with the contractor to stay on schedule and head off potential problems. They noted that there is a special inspector on site doing inspections.

Councilmembers asked questions regarding contract provisions for damages, the undergrounding of power to the new building, the definition of substantial completion, and how much money is left in the contingency. The Council asked for another project update at the September 2 meeting.

AB 4995 Proposed Sound Transit Bus Integration and Parking Solutions Status Report

Deputy Mayor Grausz stated that the Council would not be making any decisions tonight; the presentation is for the Council to learn about the proposal and options. He also noted that the Council would not be moving forward with the bus integration options unless solving parking issues is part of the proposal.

City Manager Noel Treat presented an informational update on the bus integration proposal by Sound Transit and related parking discussions. He noted that the City has been in on-going discussions with Sound Transit regarding parking on Mercer Island. He stated that Sound Transit has proposed using Mercer Island for light rail/bus integration by having I-90 bus routes exchange passengers with East Link on Mercer Island instead of going all the way to Seattle.

He reviewed the results of the study that Sound Transit initiated to review the bus integration proposal including the four proposed scenarios and issues of concern. He reiterated that the Council has not agreed to bus integration or selected a preferred alternative. He also noted that the Council has taken the position that Mercer Island only dedicated parking must be part of the package if bus integration is to be considered.

City Manager Treat stated that the City has advocated for ownership of the existing MI Park and Ride, but Sound Transit has maintained the position that it is a regional parking facility. He noted that the City is looking at other parking options for Mercer Island only dedicated parking, including adding parking at the Community Center.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Absences

Councilmember Cero will be absent September 15.

Planning Schedule

City Manager Treat noted that the September 2 meeting is heavy and he would try to spread it out, but that the budget hearings begin in October so the meetings are already full.

Councilmember Cero asked to reschedule the TBD ordinance and I-594 scheduled for September 15, as he would be absent. I-594 was moved to September 2 and the TBD ordinance was moved to October (staff to determine the dates).

Councilmember Senn noted that the time estimated by staff on the Planning Schedule for each agenda item is usually lower than the actual time the items take during the meeting. She would either like the times listed to be more accurate or have the Council hold themselves to the times listed.

Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wong noted that National Night Out is on August 5 from 5-7pm at the Sculpture Park in the Town Center.

Councilmember Senn encouraged citizens to come to the Town Center for the National Night Out community event.

Councilmember Bertlin spoke about the public meeting at Groveland Park regarding the Swim Beach Repair Project on August 7 from 6-7:30 pm.

Deputy Mayor Grausz spoke about attending the Shakespeare in the Park performance of The Two Gentlemen of Verona last night. He encouraged people to go and see it as it was an exceptional performance.

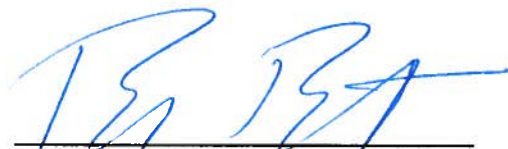
Councilmember Brahm spoke about the Arts Council programs of Shakespeare in the Park and Mostly Music in the Park.

Councilmember Cero would like to discuss whether this year's format for National Night Out is promoting neighborhood awareness, as it seems focused on the Town Center. He also spoke about a briefing with Sound Transit regarding East Link and R8A.

Mayor Bassett also spoke about National Night Out and encouraged people to come to the City's gathering in the Town Center, unless they have something in their neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.


Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:


Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk