



## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES STUDY SESSION & REGULAR MEETING JUNE 16, 2014**

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### **STUDY SESSION**

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Study Session to order at 6:02 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Tana Senn (arrived 6:09 pm), Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present.

#### **AB 4982 Sound Transit and King County Metro Briefing Regarding R8A, East Link, Commuter Parking, and Bus Intercept Study**

Ron Lewis, East Link Executive Project Director, Don Billen, East Link Deputy Project Director, and Marty Minkoff, King County Metro Service Planning Supervisor presented an overview of the project, gave an update on the construction schedule, discussed the transit integration study findings, and spoke about the upcoming community outreach components and activities. They also discussed I-90 transit operations and access, and spoke about regional connections and the Mercer Island station.

They noted the 4 different scenarios which came out of the study results, mentioning that scenarios 2 and 3 would best meet bus stop and layover needs, that all intersections meet City or WSDOT operations standards, and discussed the potential environmental impacts. They stated that next steps include transit rider outreach, a Mercer Island Open House in July, continued development of mobility mitigation, and identifying alternatives for future development.

Council asked for a further explanation of the pros and cons of Scenario 1, why Metro doesn't have layover facilities off Island, expressed concern about the concentration of buses during peak commute times, asked for clarification on the challenges with the staging areas, asked what messaging will be provided regarding parking capacity, and stated concern that a scenario is chosen before the parking issues are addressed.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:05 pm.

### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 7:12 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.

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

#### **Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA) Awards Recognition**

Jessi Bon, past president of WRPA, recognized Mercer Island for its great work in Parks & Recreation. Business & Operations Superintendent Jana Raasch received the President's Award. Parks Superintendent Jason Kintner & Recreation Superintendent Diane Mortenson accepted the Parks and Facilities Spotlight Award for Cultural Competency for the Luther Burbank playground improvement project on behalf of the Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Department in partnership with the Mercer Island Preschool Association. She also noted that Council and staff are making great decisions and are doing a phenomenal job.

## **"Day of Play" Playful City U.S.A. Proclamation**

Mayor Bassett read a proclamation declaring September 20, 2014 as a "Day of Play" in the City of Mercer Island and urged all citizens to support efforts to bring awareness of play and outdoor environment through play spaces and playgrounds in their communities and neighborhoods.

## **Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation**

Mayor Bassett read a proclamation declaring the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month and encouraged all citizens to participate and support the many recreation activities, programs, and facilities by public and private agencies.

## **APPEARANCES**

Steven Gerard Sidlovsky, 352 Thrall St, Cincinnati, OH, spoke about embracing a new citizen overlay zone concept, which offers the realizations of life & peace.

Bruce Nurse, 1815 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue, spoke in regards to Sound Transit and the R8A configuration. He noted that R8A was intended to facilitate HOV, in particular to get buses back to Seattle or from Seattle to the suburbs, and was intended to operate in a 10-lane configuration. He believes this intent and purpose has not been fulfilled. He questioned whether Sound Transit will have enough money to finish East Link in 2023. He suggested that Council demand that Sound Transit finish R8A.

Jim Stanton, 7812 SE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, is concerned about the lack of priority given to safety on East and West Mercer Way and encouraged the City to direct TIP money to improving the shoulders on these roads. He mentioned that any work over the next 5 years to improve the safety of the Mercers is completely dependent on Council's decision tonight as to whether or not to approve a transportation district. He stated that he would be happy to pay \$20 a year to improve safety and hopes that Council will give this issue priority when they look at the TIP.

Joy Matsura, 7264 West Mercer Way, asked Council to vote against adding a \$20 tax to car registration fees. She noted that people on fixed incomes find it very hard to live on Mercer Island. She is concerned that one use of this tax is for bike paths and stated that Mercer Island car owners should not be taxed to cater to bicyclists. Instead of using money to add bike lanes to SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street, she would like to see TIP money used to restore the left turn lane from SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street to southbound 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.

Clark Koopman, 7109 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, spoke about road safety. He asked the Council what it would take to get blinking lights installed at 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and SE 71<sup>st</sup> Street, why there are not blinking lights at intersections, and if he could raise the money to buy the blinking lights.

Paulette Bufano, 8420 SE 47<sup>th</sup> Place, is the new chair of the Mercer Island Arts Council. She presented a letter of endorsement to find a space for art classes that are being displaced by the day care at the Community Center. One of the Arts Council's goals is to inspire, stimulate, and promote community wide education of the arts. She stated that the community should preserve the classes, especially the ones that pay for themselves. She asked that Council please consider one of the 3 proposals to keep Mercer Island a thriving art community.

Richard Tate, 3312 81<sup>st</sup> Place SE, spoke in opposition to an increased motor vehicle excise tax. He stated that priority should be given to making sure there is no tolling on I-90.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Bertlin requested removal of AB 4981: 2014 Arterial and Residential Street Overlays Bid Award from the Consent Calendar. Mayor Bassett moved it to the first item of Regular Business.

**Payables: \$373,935.39 (05/29/14) & \$203,295.24 (06/05/14)**

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

**Payroll: \$715,784.52 (06/13/14)**

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

**AB 4970 Summer Celebration Fireworks Permit**

**Recommendation:** Approve the Public Fireworks Display for July 12, 2014, sponsored by Summer Celebration!

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Senn 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 4981 2014 Arterial and Residential Street Overlays Bid Award**

Councilmember Bertlin noted that 37 people have signed a petition with concerns regarding the enhancement of the crosswalk at 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and SE 71<sup>st</sup> Street. She asked staff to describe what work is planned and what some of the enhancements might be.

Street Engineer Clint Morris noted that potential improvements include trimming vegetation, making signs more visible, re-stripping the lanes to push traffic away from the sidewalk which will give more buffer space between the sidewalk and the roadway. The City will also look at making enhancements to the pavement markings for the crosswalk itself during repaving work.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

**Award Schedules 'A', 'A1', 'B', 'C', and 'D' of the 2014 Arterial and Residential Street Overlays project to Lakeridge Paving Company in the amount of \$599,895. Set the total project budget to \$710,286 and direct the City Manager to execute the construction contract.**

Passed 7-0

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

**AB 4975 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adoption**

City Engineer Patrick Yamashita presented the 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for adoption. He provided background, discussed Council's direction to staff, reviewed proposed changes, and noted why the City should improve SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street at 86th Avenue SE (project C.3). He mentioned that if Council chooses not to adopt a SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street roadway project, the funds could be reallocated.

The Council asked questions of staff regarding specific projects including improvements on SE 40th Street (project C.3), the West Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders (project D.7), and the 84th Avenue Path (project D.5).

It was moved by Grausz; seconded by Bertlin to:

**Adopt the 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program as reflected in Exhibit 1, with the following changes: (1) move project C.3 [SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor (East of ICW)] to 2018 and (2) move project D.7 [West Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders (7400-8000 Block)] to 2015.**

It was moved by Cero; seconded by Brahm to:

**Amend the previous motion as follows:**

**Change Exhibit 1 to Exhibit 2 (no TBD).**

Motion to Amend Failed 2-5

FOR: 2 (Brahm, Cero)

AGAINST: 5 (Bassett, Bertlin, Grausz, Senn, Wong)

Amended Motion Passed 5-2



## **AB 4980 Preview of Proposed 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

Finance Director Chip Corder presented the proposed 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program. He and Deputy Finance Director Francie Lake spoke about CIP revenues, and reviewed projects by category and funding status. A few select projects were discussed in more detail including the swim beach repairs and renovations at Groveland Park, Island Crest Park Improvements, Luther Burbank Major Improvements, a Solar Car Port for Police Patrol Vehicles, and the Thrift Shop addition. Staff answered questions from the Council regarding specific projects proposed for 2015 and 2016.

Director Corder asked for Council direction on the projected 2015-2020 ending fund balances, the surplus REET or General Fund Revenues in 2014-2016, the available Capital Reserve Fund balance and the Beautification Fund balance. He discussed the 3 ways that the 2017-2020 Capital Improvement Fund can be balanced.

Council provided the following direction to staff:

- **Capital Reinvestment Projects**
  - **South Mercer Playfields Park Improvements:** Keep netting over bleachers.
  - **MICEC Master Plan:** Tighten up the scope and reduce the estimated \$49K cost in 2015.
  - **Swim Beach Repairs & Renovations (Groveland Beach):** Solicit public input on this project. The Council would like to see the following 3 options: 1) replacing like for like; 2) scaled back option; and 3) phased approach in which major repairs would be made with the replacement pushed out 5 years in the hopes of securing grant funding.
  - **Island Crest Park Improvements:** Break the 2015 planned improvements into 2 projects: 1) synthetic turf installation; and 2) light pole and fixture replacement. Make sure fee is set to fund the replacement of the synthetic turf. Staff needs to revisit what MISD should pay for field use. Look into less expensive option for replacing suspension bridge in 2017.
  - **Luther Burbank Major Improvements:** Remove water feature (\$364K in 2019) from six year CIP.
  - **Fuel Clean-Up:** Following third party review of soil remediation work being performed by Golder & Associates, the project costs will be updated, if needed.
  - **Disaster Recovery:** Add funding for a study to find an appropriate location for the EOC on the Island.
- **Capital Facility Projects**
  - **Solar Car Port:** Remove solar panels from the project, reducing the project to a standard car port for Police.
  - **Thrift Shop Addition:** Prepare revised financial forecast based on scaled back project and updated revenue forecast to see if increased revenues could cover the estimated debt service.
- **Balancing the CIP Fund**
  - Develop a balanced six year plan for the CIP Fund, identifying the projects that staff would recommend cutting or postponing in 2015-2020.
- **Stormwater Utility Rates**
  - The 2015-2016 rate increase can be greater than 1.2% but not as high as 5.5%, which is what staff was originally proposing. Only critical projects should be proposed in the six year CIP.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Councilmember Absences**

Councilmember Bertlin will be absent July 7 and July 21.  
Councilmember Senn will be absent August 18.

### **Planning Schedule**

City Manager Treat scheduled an Executive Session for July 7 to discuss a collective bargaining contract. He also noted that the Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA) presentation would be added to the July 21 meeting. Deputy Mayor Grausz noted that the agenda bill for the MICA presentation should include information about the Northwest Native Garden issue.

**Board Appointments**

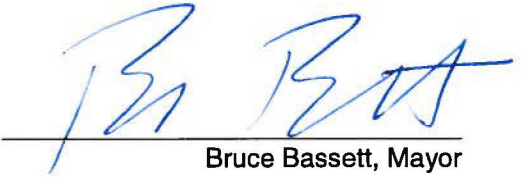
There were no appointments.

**Councilmember Reports**

There were no reports.

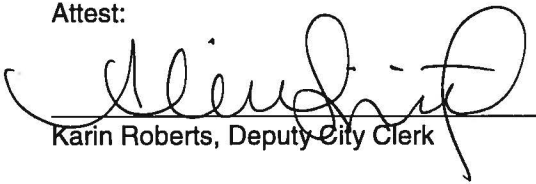
**ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:38 pm.



Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:



Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk