



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MARCH 31, 2014

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Mayor Bruce Bassett were present. Deputy Mayor Grausz was absent.

## APPEARANCES

Linda Chaves, Mercer Island resident, thanked the Council for declining to adopt the recommendation on the Coval Long Plat. She expressed concern that there has been a long delay in bringing the findings of fact and conclusions of law back to the Council. She noted that there are rumors that there may have been some private, closed-door negotiations between representatives of the City and the sponsors of the Coval plat. She asked for confirmation that staff and council are not engaging in any behind-the-scenes negotiations to change its decision.

Richard Aramburu, attorney for the neighbors of the Coval property, spoke about the Coval Long Plat. He noted that there are some concerns about the legality of the Council's decision. He presented a letter from his law partner stating that the City's decision is on the right track and that there are no legal deficiencies or limitations.

Ira Appelman, 4436 Ferncroft Road, spoke about the email he sent to the Council and the KCLS Board recounting the history of the Mercer Island library annexation into the King County Library System. He stated that the Council and the KCLS Board together are responsible to make sure Islanders are satisfied with any Mercer Island Library capital improvements and for the continuation of library services during construction.

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

**Adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014 as written.**

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Grausz)

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Brahm commended the Arts Council for their work. She noted the number of volunteer hours that have been completed by the board members and staff liaison Amber Britton.

**Payables: \$143,212.24 (03/13/14) & \$623,707.13 (03/20/14)**

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

**Payroll: \$692,155.92 (03/21/14)**

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

**AB 4939 Resolution Authorizing Investment of City of Mercer Island Monies in the Local Government Investment Pool**

**Recommendation:** Pass Resolution No. 1480 authorizing investment of City of Mercer Island monies in the Local Government Investment Pool.

**AB 4941 Authorization for Solarize Mercer Island Grant Agreement with WA Dept. of Commerce**

**Recommendation:** Authorize the City Manager to sign the Interagency Agreement with Washington Department of Commerce, and accept and appropriate the grant of \$10,000 under the State Energy Program.

**AB 4936 Arts Council 2013 Annual Report and 2014 Work Plan**

**Recommendation:** Receive Arts Council 2013 Annual Report and approve the Arts Council 2014 Work Plan.

It was moved by Bertlin; seconded by Brahm to:

**Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.**

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Grausz)

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**AB 4937 False Alarm Code Amendments (1st Reading)**

Assistant City Attorney Christina Schuck presented code amendments regarding the proper operation and maintenance, penalty schedule, and appeal for fire and police false alarms. She noted that the existing code requires registration of alarm systems and provides for penalties for false alarms, but that changes are needed to clarify definitions and set forth an improved false alarm enforcement procedure, updated penalty schedule and appeal process.

The Council discussed the proposed schedule of fines, the 62 and older exemption, how many false alarms are repeats, the merits of alarm users registering with the City, how many alarm users are not registered with the City, the recovery rate of fines, how the false alarm information is collected, if increasing the fines would change behavior, and looking at increasing the fees and fines to cover actual costs.

The Council directed staff to review the fee and fine schedule for possible increases, research any possible exemptions for alarm registration data under the Public Records Act, change the exemption for false alarms from age based to low-income (similar to utility billing exemptions), modify the provision about operating instructions being at every alarm site, and provide data about how many false alarms are repeats.

It was moved by Brahm; seconded by Wong to:

**Set Ordinance No. 14C-04 for second reading at the City Council's April 21, 2014 meeting.**

Passed 6-0

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

ABSENT: 1 (Grausz)

**AB 4940 4th Quarter 2013 Financial Status Report & Budget Adjustments**

Finance Director Chip Corder presented the financial status report for the 4th quarter of 2013. He provided a summary budget-to-actual comparison of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund, Utility Funds, all other funds, the Capital Improvement Program, and an ordinance to amend the 2013-2014 budget with budget adjustments from 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.

Staff will bring back information to the Council about the proposed scope increase to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE Water System Improvements project, which would extend the water main 225 linear feet from 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE to SE 41<sup>st</sup> St to create a looped system.

It was moved by Senn; seconded by Bertlin to:

**Suspend the City Council Rules of Procedure 5.2 requiring a second reading for an ordinance.**

Passed 5-1

FOR: 5 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Senn, Wong)  
AGAINST: 1 (Cero)  
ABSENT: 1 (Grausz)

It was moved by Senn; seconded by Brahm to:  
**Adopt Ordinance No. 14-05, amending the 2013-2014 Budget.**  
Passed 6-0  
FOR: 6 (Bassett, Bertlin, Brahm, Cero, Senn, Wong)  
ABSENT: 1 (Grausz)

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Councilmember Absences

Deputy Mayor Grausz' absence was excused.  
Councilmember Brahm will be absent April 21.

### Planning Schedule

City Manager Treat spoke about changes to the planning schedule and that there will be a few long meetings due to time sensitive issues.  
Mayor Bassett noted that there will be a joint meeting with the MISD board on April 17 to discuss the following topics: P zone, Mary Wayte pool interlocal agreement extension, youth risk prevention program, bond project status update, and update on North Mercer campus tenants.  
City Attorney Knight noted that staff is bringing back the Coval Long Plat findings of fact and conclusions of law. Councilmember Senn asked to add the state legislative session update to a meeting agenda.  
Councilmember Bertlin asked to add a fire station construction project update to a meeting agenda.  
Councilmember Brahm asked who will respond to the concerns brought forth by neighbors of the Coval property. City Attorney Knight responded that the findings of fact and conclusions of law will be presented on April 21 and that the attorney for the neighbors has submitted a public records request for communications.

### Board Appointments

There were no appointments.

### Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wong spoke about the recent Town Center Visioning Committee meeting. He also noted that he has been contacted by business owners in Town Center about how to promote local businesses.  
Councilmember Senn spoke about the Town Center Merchants Association meeting, who are working to promote the "Shop Local" campaign. She also spoke about the recent Sustainability Sub-Committee meeting and the Solarize campaign. She noted that the Parks and Recreation guide is now online only and will not be mailed to households. She encouraged citizens to vote on April 22 regarding the King County Transportation District.  
Councilmember Bertlin noted that there was good participation from the community at the recent KCLS board meeting. She noted that the parties are working well together and the established priorities are being discussed.  
Councilmember Brahm spoke about the effort to find a new home for Country Village day care. She encouraged citizens to apply for board and commission positions.  
Councilmember Cero encouraged citizens to vote on April 22.

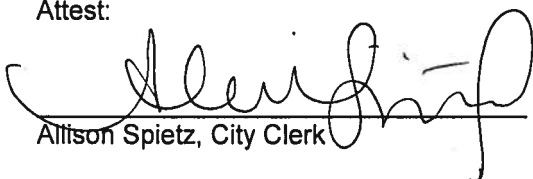
## ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.



Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

  
Allison Spietz, City Clerk