



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jim Pearman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers Bruce Bassett, Mike Cero, Mike Grady, Dan Grausz and Mayor Jim Pearman were present. Councilmember Steve Litzow and Deputy Mayor El Jahncke were absent.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Tent City Oral Report

Police Chief Ed Holmes presented a Tent City oral report. He covered calls for service, made clarifications regarding daily police walkthroughs and general made some general comments about Tent City.

APPEARANCES:

Robert Thorpe, 5800 East Mercer Way, complimented the City Council on the work they have been doing. He is glad to see that the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection is on the work plan. He also spoke in support of Tent City.

Scott Milburn, 7480 81st Place SE, he thanked the Council for deciding to review the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection and to have a public input process for the intersection. He asked that the committee be diverse in its make-up, and the members be users of the intersection. He asked the City to better inform citizens of large issues that effect so many.

Sue Stewart, 3205 84th Avenue SE, expressed strong desire to work with developers of the Shorewood expansion project to develop trail heads into upper Luther Burbank Park as she believes it is a critical link from the Town Center to Luther Burbank Park. She asked that the City use funds from the last two years of levy funding for Luther Burbank Park signage and garbage/recycling receptacles.

Marc Berejka, 8125 SE 79th Street, thinks that the City Council and staff should give guidance to the public review committee for the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection especially regarding what the variables to be reviewed are and which are not.

Bonnie Wojciehowski, 7835 SE 63rd Place, supports the public involvement charter to address the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection and the proposed "road diet". She stated that she would like to serve on the committee, if needed.

Jim Richards, 7818 SE 76th Street, supports the public involvement charter to address the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection as he is very concerned for pedestrian safety. He spoke of a pedestrian accident, where the vehicle striking the pedestrian was not cited because the officer said he didn't do anything wrong.

Lonnie Rosenwald, 4558 91st Avenue SE, supports the public process for reviewing the intersection. She asked that the issue is highly publicized and she suggested low cost steps for safer biking on the Island.

Edwin Mirsky, 4640 Island Crest Way, supports the public process for reviewing the intersection to reduce speeds.

Fran Driskol, 7248 SE 27th Street, stated that her background was with working with and for the homeless. She is shocked to discover that the Tent City residents don't have information about 12-step program meetings or churches to attend. She feels it's important to address these other issues versus simply providing the residents with meals.

Jane Judd, 2511 71st Avenue SE, she asked the Council to put themselves in her shoes and she would put herself in their shoes to make her point that the Council should create an ordinance to protect the citizens against Tent City.

Alvin Day, Tent City Resident, thanked the Council for its support of Tent City.

Mary Stoll, 4355 Island Crest Way, spoke on the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection issue. She supports the proposed "road diet". She appreciates the Council involvement and concern for this intersection.

Doug House, 4744 Forest Avenue, believes that the proposals he has seen for the Island Crest Way/Merrimount intersection will not solve any of the existing problems. He thinks they do not take into consideration bikers or pedestrians who are crossing the road.

Tara Johnson, 2438 72nd Avenue SE, asked the Council what the Tent City "post-mortem" process look like and who will have input into that process. She also asked how the City defines success.

Steve Oakes, 2423 71st Avenue SE, has not heard any answers to the simple questions that have he been asked regarding Tent City. He believes the Council's intent doesn't seem to match it's actions. He hopes the Council is sincere in conducting a "post-mortem" process for Tent City. He encouraged the Council to answer his previously asked questions.

City Manager Conrad asked City Attorney Katie Knight to contact Mr. Oaks and explain some of the legal answers to his questions.

Trina Freatman, 2278 71st Avenue SE, has conflicting feelings regarding Tent City. She feels the neighborhood surrounding Tent City has become "grand central station". She is concerned that the church has not set up a meeting to meet with the neighborhood.

MINUTES:

- (1) It was moved by Councilmember Grady; seconded by Councilmember Bassett to:
Approve the Study Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2008 as written.
Motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Cero asked staff to verify that there was consensus from the Council the following statement from the Special Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2008 (page 2, third bullet):

- "Section 3 of the revised resolution should be a statement that reflects the policy of the Council that tolls must not be imposed on travel to and from Mercer Island on I-90, the only means of public access to and from the Island."

He believes that the words "to and from" were not part of the statement. Staff will review the recordings and bring back the Special Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2008 with any necessary revisions at the October 6, 2008 meeting for approval.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Grausz moved AB 4354: Temporary Court Clerk Authorization to the first item of Regular Business.

- (2) Payables: \$1,099,147.27 Payroll: \$587,880.97

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Cero to:
Approve the Consent Calendar and the recommendations contained therein.
Motion passed 5-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

(3) AB 4354 Temporary Court Clerk Authorization

Councilmember Grausz asked questions about how the City will share the costs of an additional position with the City of Newcastle. Finance Director Corder responded that the Mercer Island Municipal Court retains the revenue from City of Newcastle generated fines.

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Grady to:

Appropriate \$20,000 of the available 2007 General Fund surplus to fund a full-time temporary Court Clerk for the remainder of 2008.

Motion passed 5-0.

(4) AB 4356 2007-08 Budget Amending Ordinance (2nd Reading & Adoption)

Finance Director Chip Corder presented a revised version of Ordinance No. 08-09 to amend the 2007-08 Budget that removed the \$541,000 budget adjustment related to the Island Crest Way/Merrimount Improvement Project as presented at the September 2, 2008 meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Grausz; seconded by Councilmember Cero to:

Adopt Ordinance No. 08-09, amending the 2007-2008 Budget.

Motion passed 5-0.

(5) AB 4345 Communities That Care

Youth and Family Services Director Cindy Goodwin presented an update on year one of the Mercer Island Communities That Care project to reduce underage drinking and drug use. The update included a list of accomplishments, including:

- Expanded coalition and recruited key community leaders
- Increased community / youth awareness of harm
- Decreased favorable attitudes of youth toward alcohol/drug use
- Improve family management skills and awareness
- Increase youth sense of community connection
- Coalition sustainability

Director Goodwin also detailed the Communities that Care goals for year two, including:

- Continue to grow the coalition with heightened awareness of the Mercer Island culture
- Continue to raise the community awareness of harm using a medical model/community health paradigm via a social norms marketing campaign – contract with social marketing expert
- Partner with Police and MISD to increase public awareness of laws, school codes and related consequences
- Decrease availability of alcohol to youth on Mercer Island (at house parties, from older peers)
- Partner with regional drug-free community grantees to advocate for change in the regional/state level social norms impacting underage drinking and drug use
- Implement a community-wide drug-free youth recognition program

Councilmember Grausz requested the Council add the subject of exploring additional penalties and/or consequences to adults who provide alcohol to minors either within their homes or limousines to the 2009 Council Planning Session agenda.

(6) AB 4357 Island Crest Way Reconfiguration Public Process

Assistant City Engineer Anne Tonella-Howe introduced Joe Giacobazzi of KBG who outlined the proposed public process for the Island Crest Way Reconfiguration project. Mr. Giacobazzi answered questions posed by the Council.

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Cero to:
Approve the Public Involvement Charter and Schedule (as presented in Exhibit 1 to AB 4357) for the Island Crest Way project and direct staff to enter into an agreement with KPG, Inc. to provide engineering assistance to support this public process.

It was moved by Mayor Pearman; seconded by Councilmember Grausz to:
To amend the charter to add 2 Councilmembers to the participation panel of 15 citizens (they will not guide, drive or chair the panel and will act as Council liaisons).
Motion to amend passed 5-0.

It was moved by Mayor Pearman; seconded by Councilmember Grady to:
To amend the charter to add a fourth bullet to item #3 to read:
• **“Remain consistent with sustainability language in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, specifically regarding start and stop issues.”**
Motion to amend passed 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Grady; seconded by Councilmember Cero to:
To amend the charter to change the second bullet under item #3 to read:
• **“Maintain or improve travel times on and across the corridor (volumes and posted speed limits).”**
Motion to amend passed 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Grausz; seconded by Councilmember Bassett to:
To amend the charter to delete “While the decision was clear,” from the beginning of the second paragraph, delete item #1, amend the first sentence of item #2 to read, “Implementation of the decision will be reconsidered after a thorough public involvement process is completed.”
Motion to amend passed 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Cero; seconded by Councilmember Grausz to:
To amend the charter to add a fifth bullet to item #3:
• **“Analysis of Island Crest Way will include evaluation of northbound and southbound peak time periods.”**
Motion to amend passed 4-1. (Councilmember Bassett opposed).

Main motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Bassett; seconded by Councilmember Grady to:
Appropriate \$65,000 from the Street Fund for this project.
Motion passed 5-0.

(7) AB 4352 Shorewood Heights Long Plat Preliminary Approval

Principal Planner George Steirer reviewed the Shorewood Heights Long Plat process and proposal with the Council.

It was moved by Councilmember Cero; seconded by Councilmember Bassett to:
Approve the Shorewood Heights Preliminary Long Plat subject to the recommended conditions of approval by the Planning Commission, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law (as presented in Exhibit 2 of AB 4355) on behalf of the City Council.
Motion passed 4-1 (Councilmember Grady opposed).

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Absences:

Deputy Mayor Jahncke and Councilmember Litzow’s absences were excused.

Planning Schedule:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan Update Briefing scheduled for October 6, 2008 should be for 60 minutes instead of 30 minutes.

Councilmember Bassett asked when the follow-up report on Tent City will occur. City Manger Conrad responded that the Council should discuss the process at the Planning Session in early 2009.

Board Appointments:

There were no appointments.

Councilmember Reports:

Councilmember Cero spoke about the Suburban Cities Association meeting. He stated that SCA is drafting a letter to Executive Sims at King County regarding no unfunded mandates.

Mayor Pearman complimented Councilmember Bassett and his wife on their work with the Farmer's Market.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:06 pm

Jim Pearman, Mayor

Attest:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk