

GMHB EXHIBIT 27

2022-06-07 City Council Transcript

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 6:00 PM | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | AGENDA APPROVAL

2:54

okay good evening and welcome to the june 7 2022 city council regular hybrid meeting i'm mayor salim neese tonight's

3:01

hybrid city council meeting is being brought to you in person and by zoom we're also broadcasting live on mitv

3:06

channel 21 and on the city's youtube channel welcome to all and thank you for joining us tonight

3:12

but before this meeting the city council was in executive session from 5 pm to 5 55 p.m during executive session we

3:19

discussed with legal counsel pursuant to rcw 42.30.110

3:25

brand one closed brand paren i close bran litigation or other potential litigation

3:31

to which the city is or is likely to become a party council members please have your microphones turned on for the roll call

3:38

city clerk andrea larson please call the roll thank you mr mayor council member andrew

3:44

here council member jacobson here council member reynolds here

3:50

council member weiker here council member weinberg here

3:56

deputy mayor rosenbaum here and mayor neese here thank you mr mayor thank you

4:02

next we have the pledge of allegiance council if you will please join me

4:25

very good thank you uh we now move to approval of tonight's agenda if there are no questions may i have a motion to

4:32

approve the agenda second okay moved by council member anderle seconded by deputy mayor

4:37

rosenbaum city clerk please call the roll

4:43

thank you mr mayor council member jacobson aye deputy mayor rosenbaum

4:49

hi council member andrew aye councilmember weinberg aye council

4:55

member weiker aye council member reynolds aye and marines

5:01

aye thank you mr mayor next up we have the city managers report welcome city manager jesse bob

5:18

all right let's try that again good evening mr mayor members of the council i will take just a moment here

5:27

i'm doing everything in exactly reverse order that i'm supposed to be thanks for your patience

5:34

come on right uh it is tuesday june 7th hard to

CITY MANAGER REPORT

5:41

believe we are almost at half of the year uh happy june

5:46

not quite happy summer yet hopefully mother nature will start improving

5:52

okay quick look ahead to our upcoming public meetings city council a reminder

5:57

your next meeting is june 21st upcoming board and commission meetings the utility board
june 14th and the

6:04

planning commission's special meeting on june 29th

6:10

all right diving right into city service updates and council i do have a number of updates for
you this evening

6:15

i wanted to start with um a quick update on the pedestrian safety

6:21

project that started in town center this is a project that's located on 76

6:27

between southeast 24th and southeast 27th it's adjacent to algoya

6:33

you may recall this project was identified as a priority two years ago and was added to our
transportation

6:40

improvement project list in 2020 we designed it in 2021 and we just began

6:46

construction a couple weeks ago you may recall that the city the project

6:51

was brought to our attention by the residents of al joya who desired a safe mid-block crossing

6:58

for easier access to businesses and services on the other side of the road certainly a number of their residents

7:05

don't have full mobil mobility and so this is an important access point for them

7:12

i also just wanted to remind you that most of our city blocks are about 300 feet long

7:17

this particular stretch of roadway is 600 feet long with no crosswalk

7:22

and the project includes installation of a rapid flashing beacon signal

7:28

center median ada curb ramps and new crosswalker markings

7:34

one of the issues that came up we've had a few emails on this the last couple of days is the tree removal we did look at all

7:41

possible locations and configurations it's a it's a tricky area because we're

7:46

bound to the north by an intersection to the south by a roadway curve that

7:53

complicates site distance and then we have driveways in the mix as well the space required to put in this type of

8:00

crossing requires remember we've got visibility so we need

8:05

signage for pedestrians we have the ada compliant curd ramp

8:11

it did require the removal of three trees one of the trees was already slated for removal it was the one on the east side

8:18

it was buckling the sidewalk panels and it was also impacting a water service line

8:24

council and to the community i apologize that uh we didn't notify you specifically about the tree removal

8:31

i know there's been some concerns it uh is in the plan to replace uh at least

8:36

that many trees in the town center as part of this project and the staff are working to identify the suitable a

8:42

suitable site and the location so that's an update on that project also continuing the project theme we

8:51

replaced we installed a new guard rail on the 9300 block of mercerwood drive

8:56

this was a traffic safety re project in response to 70 several vehicles missing that

9:03

bend over the years so my thanks to the city staff team and the engineering teams for getting that project done and also

9:10

for the commute to the community for working with us on this project and alerting us to this concern

9:17

mercerdale playground update wheel um almost but not quite

9:23

this has been probably one of the most frustrating projects for me ever in the

9:29

playground realm we are still trying to get that top kind of layer of rubber down and i'll

9:34

tell you council uh one of the complications it's definitely the weather we need a solid three days of

9:40

really dry weather so that that that playground surfacing will cure as you know this has been one of the

9:46

wettest springs in recent history we have a particular design

9:51

that's going down for that top coat of river servicing it's a train track um

9:56

that is kind of what's driving needing those full three days i know jason kittner was on the phone

10:03

with the project team this week and if we just can't catch a break we may go forward without that

10:09

train track design so uh to the community i'm sorry um this is not

10:15

this is not where we wanted to be on june 7th we had hoped to be announcing the opening of the playground but we're working on it and trying to

10:22

find that window to finish it we will certainly have one heck of a party when we cut the ribbon on that playground

10:28

thank you everyone for your patience uh in the theme of projects that did get

10:33

done uh we finally were able to replace the floor at the in the mercer room at the community center you can see a photo

10:40

there the new flooring was installed over memorial day weekend my thanks to jamie page our support

10:47

services manager she committed a lot of time to getting this project done and gave up her weekend

10:52

a new fresh look in the room we've also made some av upgrades

10:57

to the mercer room because surprise surprise many of the meetings coming in need things like hybrid

11:03

capacity so we're working on all of that

11:08

parks maintenance council i think i shared this with you but we are busy busy busy that first picture that popped

11:14

up was the new sun shade that we put on the pergola at mercedes park we've had a lot of requests for more shade at

11:21

that facility so we're giving that treatment a try we have the new hanging baskets up at

11:27

luther burbank you can see the photo there the aubrey davis park picnic shelter is almost done

11:33

i will be cleaning up the site and we're waiting on the new picnic tables but they should be here very soon

11:39

i've got a couple issues electrical problem out at groveland so we're working on that uh the restrooms at clark beach are

11:46

temporary clothes temporarily closed due to a plumbing issue so we're working on that

11:52

with all the rain everything is growing like mad your patience is appreciated as we keep

11:59

trying to keep up with mowing weeding and all of that in both streets and parks so thanks to our maintenance team

12:06

we know you're working hard and doing a great job a couple project updates the town center

12:13

parking study is underway our consultants will be doing some data collection this month they're

12:20

specifically looking at occupancy and turnover for parking stalls both on street and off street

12:26

and council they'll be coming back to you on July 19 to share their initial findings and then to talk about next

12:33

steps for this project including the community engagement plan so more to come we're excited to see

12:39

that data and have that foundation for the the project work ahead

12:46

also uh the climate action plan we have a community workshop on June 16th city

12:52

council we did a check in with you a couple meetings ago on the climate action plan

12:58

since that time we're we are starting to pivot we are going to hold this public meeting and then we will begin work on a

13:05

statistically valid survey to introduce potential goals and actions

13:11

to our community so more coming we do have a let's talk page on the climate action plan and the link is there

13:19

all right a variety of community programming and event updates

13:25

first off pulsepoint is now live in King County this is a free mobile app that alerts

13:31

users to cardiac arrest nearby so that they can begin cpr before the first responders arrive

13:38

it acts like an amber alert for sudden cardiac arrest victims it also identifies aed locations when

13:46

you have an emergency so we'll be continuing to promote this app across our communications channels but if you

13:52

or someone you know are interested in becoming a pulse point citizen responder i have the website deputy chief doug

13:59

mcdonald for all of his work on this and the collaboration with the king county fire chiefs association

14:08

thrift shop hey we had a really incredible memorial day sale really busy

14:13

i don't have the data in front of you but i wanted to give a shout out father's day is coming up sunday june 19th we'll have a whole slew of sales

14:22

we're also introducing some discounts military discount on tuesdays senior 60

14:28

and over discount on wednesday i'm also told council that with our staffing levels starting to improve

14:36

finally and even our volunteer hours improving that we are looking to expand our retail hours very soon so

14:44

more news on that coming my thanks to the thrift shop staff and the volunteers for hanging in there we know it's been a

14:49

challenging year with a low resource level so thank you and come out on father's day and shop the

14:56

sale mental health first aid the youth and family services healthy youth

15:03

initiative and we'll be hearing from tammy in just a little bit on this is partnering with the school district

15:09

to provide a youth mental health first aid for adults who support youth

15:14

this is a really great program june 23rd from 9am to 3 30 pm via zoom it's a long one but great

15:22

valuable information the registration deadline is actually today is june 7th so it looks like it's today

15:29

you can register at the link below just a reminder uh city council and

15:36

community members who may be watching our restoration events are back we had to cut a number of our

15:42

open space and park restoration volunteer programs during the pandemic but they are we are hosting a workshop

15:49

at luther burbank park so come out and join us we've got the information published on our website and we will

15:55

continue to promote these opportunities across our various communications channels

16:01

juneteenth event we're really happy to be collaborating with the mercer island high school black student union

16:07

they are coordinating a black culture fair at mercerdale park on june 19th from 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock they're

16:13

looking for community volunteers to help design and host tables that cover a range of themes

16:19

hosting a table means you sign up for a topic help prepare a table presentation

16:24

and you may or may not choose to attend the event but they are looking for collaborative collaborators

16:30

to help make this happen we've got information on our page there and again we'll be pushing this out

16:36

across social media and again we're really happy to be partnering on this event so thank you for that

16:42

opportunity a community conversation series we've had two recent events one was may 25th

16:50

where we offered our first hybrid program we had about 50 people in attendance it was an intergenerational

16:56

roundtable among asian american mercer islanders covered a wide variety of topics from

17:02

creating connections with recent immigrants navigating stereotypes to parenting to

17:08

self-esteem it was a really good program i think some of you were there in person so

17:13

thank you for that also we had an event this past sunday at the strom jewish community center we

17:19

had about 30 people there for an oral history interview workshop i dropped in for just a bit in the

17:25

afternoon with a couple of my kiddos our thanks to one mi do the work mi

17:30

the jewish community center the mercer island historical society and the washington state jewish historical

17:35

society for making that program happen and of course a shout out to mercer islander robin lee for leading this

17:41

workshop and for our partners to helping us organize

17:47

city council we will be uh touching base with you i think it's in one of the meetings in july on the community

17:53

conversation series and just providing um a recap of where we are

17:58

at that point so more to come on that summer celebration hey

18:04

we are on our way with sponsors but we still need a few more we've generated about 24

18:10

thousand dollars in sponsorships for summer celebration we're just about 13 000 away from our minimum goal

18:17

so if any of you would like to do some outreach or if you're watching tonight i would like to get involved please

18:22

contact katie herzog her name is there on the screen also thank you thank you thank you to the sponsors that have

18:29

already committed windermere recology john l scott the kimball agency the mercer apartments and the mercer island

18:35

community fund it's stacking up to be a pretty fun day july night

18:40

same as format as previously it's just one day now mercerdale park during the daytime and then luther burbank park for

18:47

fireworks in the evening all right some good news some shout outs here

18:53

the police department school resource officer program received a community partnership award

19:00

from the washington association of school administrators on may 20th

19:05

superintendent klosky nominated the sro program due to its long-term standing support of the school district and

19:11

mercero island students we have been partnering on this program for the past 25 years

19:17

and i believe chief holmes was our first school resource officer so there he is

19:23

in the picture with superintendent klosky thank you to officer lum chief holmes in

19:28

the department and certainly to uh superintendent klosky for the nomination we appreciate it

19:36

a high school band food card drive wow they knocked it out of the ballpark may

19:41

14th the high school band held their annual food drive to support the youth and family services food pantry they raised

19:48

over seven thousand dollars for people experiencing food insecurity on the island thank you oh my goodness thank

19:55

you and they were also performing so it was extra fun we appreciate your partnership and all

20:00

that you do for the families on mercero island

20:06

and finally thank you greg levitson who retired in may after serving the city for 41 years

20:15

grace started in 1981 as an auxiliary firefighter and continued to serve in

20:20

that capacity for the next 15 years in 1996 he transitioned to a marine

20:26

patrol technician and in 2017 he became the marine support officer

20:32

he was received so many words and recognitions too many to list and was also the support employee of the

20:40

year five times and the 2018 marine law enforcement

20:45

officer of the year for the state of washington in 2018.

20:50

greg we will greatly miss you and we wish you well on your well-deserved retirement

20:58

and just a reminder the city facilities will be closed on monday june 20th and observant observation of juneteenth

21:07

and that concludes my presentation very good thank you

APPEARANCES

21:14

our next item of businesses is appearances this is an opportunity for anyone to speak to the city council on any item

21:20

city clerk andrea larson is there anybody here for public princes

21:25

thank you mr mayor we did have one person sign up to speak tonight is that person here in the audience

21:35

yes they're in there on zoom and zoo okay

21:40

tonight's agenda will include in-person public appearances and remote public appearances via zoom individuals wishing

21:46

to address the council may do so in person or by zoom or telephone provided they registered with the city clerk by 4

21:51

pm today when it's your turn to speak you'll be called by name remarks must be addressed to the council as a whole and

21:57

not to individual counsel or staff members please speak audibly and state your name and city of residence for the

22:02

record there'll be a timer on the screen you'll have three minutes to speak when your time has ended i will thank you for

22:07

your comments and move to the next speaker or item of business please promote the first

22:12

thank you mr mayor our first speaker will be meg lippert

22:31

good evening council members can you hear me welcome yes thank you thank you

22:36

my name is meg lippert mercer island thank you for your service to our community we appreciate all that you do

22:42

for us i have one question for everyone in this room everyone in our parks department and

22:48

every citizen of mercer island and this is my question why are we paving our parks

22:57

cutting down trees to add more impervious surfaces to our green space is exactly the reverse of the way to

23:03

protect and preserve our parks islanders value parkland you've seen us

23:09

fight for it but parkland threaded by pathways as wide as two-lane roads is neither

23:17

inviting nor beautiful in addition i question the mindset that

23:22

calls colored concrete art and uses funding that is earmarked for

23:28

the arts for pouring the colored concrete i am further concerned because the parks

23:34

commission adopted a no net impervious surface policy

23:39

and this plan increases impervious surfaces by adding two foot gravel shoulders and

23:46

greatly expanding the area in front of the bathroom in addition there is no specific

23:52

regulatory measure like a roundabout to slow bike speeds

23:57

this proposed plan will exhaust the 350 000 budget for this project without accomplishing the main goal which is

24:04

slowing bike speeds so in the end the city will have wasted this funding and will have to spend its

24:10

own money to install around the back finally

24:15

there is way too much park clutter in this plan like signs and the colored concrete

24:22

this is a park not an amusement park thank you

24:28

thank you

24:37

your time doesn't start until you get to the mic there

24:43

fair thank you ready um

24:49

i've been telling everybody that this is the best council that i've seen in probably the last 22 years on mercer

24:55

island and i generally have three reasons for it but i'm adding a fourth tonight one is the city council operates more

25:02

efficiently just looking at the meeting structure to the collegiality

25:07

all of you are really accessible to the community and that is a big difference than the past

25:14

and then uh uh sorry hold on james you can't approach the

25:20

dice sorry my son's here james anyways the fourth one i wanted to add was you're

25:27

the best dress counsel that i've seen and i mean that sincerely since i got engaged in 2012 i mean you

25:34

have better posture you're upright you're attentive ties collared shirts it's great

25:40

i'm here just to uh point out that again when save our suburbs started there were four

25:46

fundamental values that were started it was to protect luther burbank park from the development there town center

25:53

density transportation the bus turnaround and part of it was the town center revitalization which included protecting

26:00

the trees and i appreciate um city manager's apology tonight for um because

26:05

i wondered if the council even knew if the trees were going to be cut down i remember when the first request came in

26:11

for the crosswalk because i was still on the council and it rolled into the tip and stuff like that

26:17

details matter details matter and

26:22

you know it is what it is we lost 23 4 or 25 foot trees

26:28

i was just down there eating at vivian's bistro it was so nice to see trees coming coming in and now they're gone

26:34

and you can't replace them and what we saw in north mercer way when they cut down those trees is they replaced them

26:40

with like four foot dwarf trees that are still dwarfs and weren't watered and weren't maintained my ask is that we see a plan in the next

26:47

30 days because i got an email back from the city i was one of the people that wrote in that said they don't have a plan yet well if you're going to cut

26:54

something down have a plan before you cut it down that you can tell the community about because my phone's been lighting up all day because i posted on

27:00

nextdoor because i didn't even know that they were coming down today come to the city and then i'm driving by

27:06

at 5 30 this morning i'm like what the heck they've already started cutting in right here

27:11

so do better on the outreach the communication details matter and i'd ask that the city follow the

27:18

same rules that citizens do for every tree you cut down plant six

27:24

and don't make them the dwarf trees and they i understand the species and stuff like that but you can't tell me that the

27:30

dwarf trees are any better than the ones that i planted in my yard that i had to buy that were 25 feet tall to

27:36

block the mega house next to me and yeah it cut instead of spending 49 a tree or

27:41

spending like 1600 but get it done i mean greenery matters

27:46

and i know you believe that oh yeah sorry thank you okay

27:52

anybody else there are no more speakers tonight mr mayor all right the next time of our agenda is the consent agenda which

CONSENT AGENDA

27:58

contains ab6086 may 2022 payroll certification

28:03

certification of claims of may 13 20 20 20

28:09

and 27. may 13th may 20th and may 27th let me start that one over certification

28:15

of claims for may 13 20 and 27 of 2022 ab6097 cooperative agreement with the

28:22

mercenary on youth and family services foundation ab6093 parks impact fee rate update

28:29

ordinance number 22c07 second reading ab6094 development code amendment ztr

28:37

21-006 land use review types ordinance number

28:42

22c05 second reading ab6089 amendment to the housing and

28:47

economic development work group charters an appointment of council members to the economic development and housing work groups

28:54

ab6081 public display of firework permit issuance may have a motion to approve the consent

29:00

agenda is presented so moved second okay moved by councilmember reynolds seconded by the

29:08

councilmember wyker biker city court please call the roll

29:13

that was second by council member weiker yes thank you mr mayor councilmember weinberg

29:20

aye councilmember reynolds aye council member andrew aye councilmember

29:26

jacobson all right council member weiker hi mayor niece aye and deputy mayor

29:33

rosenbaum aye thank you mr mayor okay motion passes we now move to the first item of regular business which is

AB 6083: 2022 Board & Commission Annual Appointments (Resolution No. 1626)

29:40

ab6083 which is the 2022 board and commission annual appointments resolution number

29:45

1626 and i believe we have a couple ways of

29:52

doing this so i have a script that is uh the next 10 pages long which would account for about an hour of voting

29:59

or we have an alternate proposal from the deputy mayor and myself who have

30:04

made a recommendation which i have sent to the council the council received it about 24 hours ago

30:10

and i hope everybody's had a chance to review it which takes three steps to accomplish

30:15

but it's certainly less than the 13 or so for the other pathway here

30:21

the first is may i ask for a motion to move to suspend the city council rules and procedures related to the

30:27

appointment of board and commission members okay moved by deputy mayor rosenbaum

30:34

seconded by council member uh jacobson jacobson

30:40

uh any questions any discussion said clerk please call the roll

30:47

thank you mr mayor member jacobson aye council member weinberg

30:54

all right mayor niece aye deputy mary rosenbaum aye

31:01

council member reicher aye council member andrew aye and council member reynolds aye

31:08

thank you mr mayor very good so that receives this two-third majority um

31:13

the next is may i have a motion to appoint the following applicants to

31:19

these board and commission seats arts council position number four

31:24

jonathan harrington design commission position seven christopher patino

31:30

open space truss position two carol lynn burseth

31:36

open straight open space truss position four thomas hildebrand park and recreation commission position

31:43

three jody mccarthy park and recreation commission position four roy westberg

31:50

planning commission position one michael curry planning commission position six adam

31:55

raghav planning commission position seven kate accuse utility board position six

32:02

meredith lair utility board position seven will quantz

32:08

it's not moved second okay moved by deputy mayor rosenbaum seconded by wendy weiker

32:16

city clerk please call the roll thank you mr mayor councilman reynolds

32:23

aye councilmember jacobson council member miker hi

32:29

mayor niece aye council member andrew aye

32:34

deputy mayor rosenbaum aye and councilmember weinberg all right thank you mr mayor very good so that

32:41

motion passes i understand you need a few minutes to prepare the resolution so we will be in recess for five minutes

32:47

let me check with the chief of administration she might have gotten it while we were going through that okay

32:53

the resolution has been completed i sent you a link andrea thank you great so may i have a motion to approve

33:00

resolution number 1626 appointing members to fill vacancies on the arts council design commission open space

33:06

conservancy trust parks and recreation commission planning commission and utility board

33:12

second moved by councilmember jacobson second by councilmember reynolds city clerk

33:17

please call the roll thank you mr mayor

33:23

deputy mayor rosenbaum aye council member andrew aye

33:30

council member weiger aye mayor niece aye councilmember reynolds aye

33:36

councilmember weinberg aye and council member jacobson aye

33:41

thank you mr mayor very good let me skip 13 pages ahead here well done council

AB 6096: Healthy Youth Initiative Update

33:50

14 pages our next item of regular business is ab6096 healthy youth initiative update

33:58

welcome chief of administration ali speaks nyfs administrator tambi cork

34:09

thank you council and good evening for the record tammy cork yfs administrator i'm here this evening to give you a

34:16

brief update on the yfs healthy youth initiative which is the prevention

34:21

component of the yfs service portfolio we're currently funded by two federal grants and this work was first initiated

34:28

in 2005. it continued as a community care coalition for about 10 years with

34:35

different federal funding and then in 2019 we began this newest round of work with the two prevention grants that

34:41

we've spoken with you about previously i'm going to share my screen here for just a second

34:48

um okay can you all see my screen sure can

34:54

great all right so the healthy youth initiative complements and leverages the

35:01

intervention treatment and recovery efforts of our mental health and social work clinicians
it's focused on creating

35:08

systemic change to prevent youth substance use and mental health challenges before they
begin

35:15

i'm going to start today by highlighting a few of the programs we've initiated over the past
year or adapted over the

35:21

past year and then talk about some exciting projects that we're looking forward to over the
next 12 months

35:28

having received this funding just months before the pandemic required a significant pivot in
our strategic plan

35:34

for the funds we focused on leveraging our regional partnerships and expertise and drilling

35:39

down on what we can do now that will be effective both today and in the long term

35:46

with that in mind many of our prevention efforts have shifted these past few years to focus
more on what we would

35:53

call individual or relational elements of the socioecological model

35:58

this model is a framework that allows us to consider the different contexts in which risk and protective factors exist

36:05

and how those contexts might interact with each other given some of the realities of the pandemic of the past two years we found

36:11

that shifting our focus more away from the societal and community level efforts and towards the

36:18

relational and individual level efforts allow us to continue some progress during this very unique time

36:30

uh on the screen you'll see some of the different key programs that i listed in the agenda bill but i really want to

36:35

focus on the three programs listed across the top which were for parents

36:41

parenting has always been very difficult and especially so within the context of a global public health crisis so it was

36:48

important to yfs that we initiate program and give additional attention to the specific element of the community

36:54

to bolster them to the extent possible when we think about our evidence-based programming for parents we looked at

37:01

programs that were both evidence-based and showed to have results with relation to youth substance

37:07

use prevention and mental health promotion which is the parameters of our grants but also by really

37:13

looking for programs that focus on developmental transitions of children we have noticed over the course of this

37:19

pandemic as the human service agency on the island that it was really those transitions

37:25

that were we were seeing considerable stress in our youth population and child population

37:32

so beginning in the upper left we have our incredible years program we were first able to pivot this program

37:38

into a virtual setting at the very beginning of the panda epidemic in partnership with the national agency that created this

37:46

program we've continued to run this this program three or four times a year since

37:51

um and very excited to say that over the past six months we were able to

37:56

work with this national agency and a local mandarin speaking facilitator to

38:02

transition uh the entire program into the mandarin language so all of the materials were translated and then we

38:08

hosted the first mandarin language incredible years program for mandarin

38:13

speaking parents of children ages two to six on mercer islands

38:18

these program materials and facilitation guides are now available publicly to any community or

38:26

individual that is looking to create this kind of programming effort within

38:32

the mandarin speaking community where they live through the incredible years office

38:38

moving along for parents transitioning their children into high school we worked with local agency peps

38:45

which stands for the program for early parent support which is known regionally with for their work working with

38:50

families of newborns but they have been pivoting over the past year to pilot some new programs

38:57

focused on adolescents and teens recognizing that similar to the struggles that some families had in that

39:04

transition to having a newborn child the transition to adolescence and teenage years is similarly difficult to

39:11

work through we were one of their first pilot communities and we were excited to continue that partnership into the future

39:18

and then finally for our families transitioning into middle school we launched guiding good choices for the first time in this community this is a

39:24

well-known national program that we have hoped to bring to mercer island for some time and we're finally

39:31

successful in that effort just this spring all of these programs focus on parental

39:37

support and skill building to both to bolster those relational protective factors

39:42

that can exist within a family below those parent programs i've listed the individual focus programs including

39:49

mental health first aid the check in with yourself feedback tool that was created by the university of

39:55

washington that's for young adults we're now working with them to transition that to a high school age population as well

40:02

which should be ready for launch in the next cohort of high school radio students to create messaging campaigns

40:08

that center student voices and finally we completed our pilot program with the university of

40:13

washington for their be real program for young adults and are now working with them to also

40:19

transition that program to the high school age demographic

40:24

ideally we will be launching that in the fall maybe this spring for mercer island high school seniors

40:31

so it's been an exciting year and i am really proud of the ingenuity creativity tenacity of the yfs prevention team

40:40

michelle ritter derek franklin chris harnish and harry brown have continued to work in really effective ways and an

40:47

incredibly unique period in history so as we move forward into whatever this

40:53

new phase of the pandemic is um there's an opportunity now to read

41:00

to to continue and reinvest in some of the historical work we've done in

41:05

kind of the community and societal level change that was at the outer levels of the ecological model

41:13

so as we continue to to move in that direction we also intend to maintain these current efforts continue adapting

41:21

the programs that we've initiated over the past two years um so that we don't lose any of that

41:26

foundation but also just to reinitiate the work so that we're at the community level so we're working across the entire

41:32

ecological model you may recall that prior to the pandemic

41:39

yfs engaged in a number of social norms and social marketing media campaigns

41:45

that were known as the most of us campaigns we did this for about 10 years prior to

41:51

the pandemic and it's a prevention strategy that's a proven environmental or population level behavioral change

41:59

agents as we began planning to ramp back up this component of our

42:05

haya programming we were introduced to the portland-based media company

42:10

limerence who had been working with prevention coalitions across the nation and specifically working with a few

42:16

affluent communities across the nation um on their prevention efforts their

42:22

work was great and as an added bonus they work with a prevention specialist and trainer

42:28

as their lead consultant for their public health campaigns which ensures that everything they do is based in

42:33

prevention science which is critical to youth family services

42:38

prior to creating any media which is that kind of community or societal level prevention effort limerent works within

42:45

the community to complete a comprehensive assessment of what are the areas of concern and when you look at

42:50

the local conditions that are leading to the risk behaviors within that specific community

42:56

so this was a bit of a review um for us we look at our data a lot we are lucky to have an incredible amount of

43:01

quantitative data but we did a reassessment of all of our data leading up to um pre-pandemic 2018 which was the

43:08

most recent data we had at the time to remind ourselves of what some of our

43:15

risk factors are and to uh to hone in on what some of them

43:20

which are the factors that could be most influenced by a media or um

43:25

social marketing campaign and then from there we were able to work with the team to come on site for three

43:31

days to mercer island to do a series of focus groups and individual interviews to get to the qualitative data the key

43:38

findings report that is included in the agenda bill is the product of that assessment and it'll be used by limerent for the

43:44

creation of a messaging strategy for a series of campaigns over 22 and 23.

43:51

once we have access to 2021 healthy survey data and we have a parent survey key findings report coming out soon as

43:58

well we will be integrating that into the document and i will update all of you when we are able to do that but i i

44:04

don't want to focus too much on the numbers because we've seen them before they're not new

44:09

but rather on the findings related to the site visits and the local conditions that limerent really honed in for mercer

44:15

island what yfs is really trying to reevaluate this is with this assessment is why are

44:21

these risk factors happening here and what are the short-term term objectives related to what we're seeing that can be

44:27

influenced by this type of prevention strategy so this is not a comprehensive assessment per se but rather an

44:33

assessment with relation to the behavioral change that we might be able to see with media and marketing campaigns

44:40

the short term um objectives that they noted the pressure pressure to perform

44:46

and the youth behaviors associated with the low perception of harm are tight the

44:51

types of behaviors that can be influenced by media based on prevention science so with that in mind uh the most

44:57

compelling piece in my opinion of this report is the recommendations

45:03

um most of which comes back to that pressure to succeed and perform this was not a surprising outcome of the process

45:10

but it was really striking to hear the limerent team process their three days on mercer island and the conversations that they

45:17

had with students parents and professionals especially since they do this with prevention groups across the nation

45:24

and there were two key nuggets that i took away from our debrief with them that i want to be sure to share because

45:29

they have really stuck with me one is that particularly when we look at alcohol use and binge drinking rates it

45:36

was clarified and reinforced that for many of our students the drinking culture on

45:41

the island is not necessarily centered around social gatherings or maybe that stereotypical party culture

45:47

but it's also an unhealthy coping mechanism for stress uh the consultants just kept commenting

45:54

excuse me that our kids are like high-level mid-career professionals they're working their 80 hour weeks and

45:59

instead of focusing on their well-being through some healthy coping strategies they're using quick breaks to blow off

46:05

steam in really unhealthy ways that's unique to mercer island a second nugget that i took away and

46:12

this is something that we've noticed in the data for years but was again kind of clarified and reinforced

46:18

and that is that there's a culture on the island that really marks the age of permissibility to utilize alcohol at

46:24

around 16. this was notable because it was able to be named by both parents and youth on

46:31

the island and professionals and it was specific to alcohol when we were talking about marijuana or other drugs parent

46:37

disapproval and family management with regards to consequences were much more known and very different from the approach to

46:44

alcohol it's also really important to to note as

46:50

we as we come out of this process with limerent is that they recognize significant strengths within the community and those

46:57

came out loud and clear across their site visit and across our data

47:02

assessment the foundation of prevention really requires community resident

47:07

readiness to engage and support the work and the mercedes community has shown consistently over time that youth

47:14

wellness is a priority for stakeholders stakeholders readily invest and the community as a whole is willing to rally

47:22

and engage around this topic this assessment is just a first step with limerent we're going to be spending

47:28

the rest of 2022 working with them to further define our messaging strategies and plan

47:34

and hopefully have a first round of messaging and some assets ready to go towards the start

47:40

of the new year and with that i will stop sharing my

47:46

screen if i can figure out how to do so and um i will take any questions you

47:53

might have thank you for that presentation counsel any questions

48:00

that be mayor yeah not so much a question uh tammy just want to thank you for this presentation also uh i think the rest of

48:06

the council was cc'd on it we had an exchange around uh vaping that um

48:11

i understand the last data we have is four years old so i'm looking forward to seeing some of the new um data when it's available

48:18

because obviously that i think it's becoming more and more prevalent um yeah i also you know i think this

48:23

work is so important especially um you know as we emerge out of the pandemic i think that the impact on

48:28

families is is is being recognized more and more and will continue to be um

48:34

you know obviously i didn't want to pull this off consent but i think that the mou with the

48:40

uh the yfs foundation is significant um for the well-being of the community

48:46

going forward so i just wanted to call those two things out and uh tammy thanks for your work uh leading up leading up

48:52

that team thank you very good councilman jacobson

48:58

uh i'd like to thank you and for your report number one and number two for

49:04

what uh mi yfs does uh across the community i think it's

49:09

incredibly important work and particularly today's focus is i think

49:14

important because absent a balanced start

49:21

things don't get better for kids as they pass out of their teenage years oftentimes

49:26

my i have a twofold question to whom will the limerent if i'm not saying it correctly

49:33

recommendations be communicated and what means of communication

49:38

is going to be used

49:44

so we will likely focus most of the uh the media campaign strategy with

49:50

limerent on youth um historically we've done this through a lot of paper media

49:56

in the schools poster signboards um uh this it's a unique mercer island thing

50:02

but that is that is effective it is it's a small enough uh island that you can really uh get some good um

50:10

uh you can get some good uh noticeability of

50:16

paper posters within the school system we also need to explore with them to what extent we engage on media with um

50:23

different smartphone applications and um website platforms that's a little

50:29

bit trickier to do but that will be part of the conversation we have with them but for right now i think

50:34

we will primarily be focusing on youth youth behaviors with this specific team um and uh and

50:42

kind of a poster-ish campaign is what i think will happen out of this

50:54

and other current kinds of organizations and the reason i asked that question is that

50:59

uh along long past the stage of parenting teenagers or

51:05

three teenagers parents have a lot to do and out of sight's out of mind

51:11

and i know that some of our some of those organizations

51:18

whether they mothers for a safe mercer island a number of those women are all over

51:25

these kinds of issues and i would commend taking a look at it activating

51:32

that kind of a network if that's feasible absolutely we we know that the parent

51:39

community is one of our greatest assets here on the island they're highly engaged um highly uh knowledgeable about

51:46

youth well-being and developmental milestones and we work

51:52

often yfs and hyi with for example parent edge which is the the education

51:58

component of the ptas and the coalition is really intended to be a group of community members that are invested in

52:04

well-being that guide the work and and are the primary change agents of prevention efforts by yfs we have some

52:12

of the staffing but it it has to be a community effort to be effective professionals can't come in and change

52:18

their culture it has to come from the people who live here and so absolutely uh ptas and and all the other

52:25

groups mipa et cetera are our key stakeholders in this

52:30

work deputy uh sorry councilman weiker um i'm just gonna give a shout out to the pta dads as well given father's day

52:38

is coming up there a lot of parents who are dads doing great work too um tammy thank you so much i've followed

52:43

your career and your work for years and i just want to give you a chance while you have the spotlight to highlight some of the great work our counselors are

52:49

doing in our schools to support peer-to-peer anti-bullying and see something say something and

52:55

i know we're doing a lot of great work at the elementary middle school and high school so i just want to give you a minute to maybe give the highlights of

53:01

each of those demographics because what we do in elementary school we know leads to middle school and and this community

53:06

is unique and special having all the kids feed from the elementary schools into one middle school and one high school so so that continuity of care

53:12

across kindergarten to high school graduation is just awesome so i want to give you a minute to just brag a little

53:18

bit more ah thank you i love to brag about our school-based staff they're fantastic and

53:24

and you're right having a clinically trained professionals embedded in every single school allows

53:31

us to do this work in a way that is not possible in most communities so when we look at a evidence-based program for

53:37

example second step which is being used at both the middle school and the elementary schools we have advocates

53:44

within the school system to work with our school partners to determine how to best

53:51

implement those types of programs so that they're practical and effective and then we also have our school-based

53:58

counselors to intervene when the prevention strategies weren't there in time or distress happened anyways and

54:04

able to engage in that treatment and intervention model you know with elementary schools we have our

54:10

counselors doing mindfulness kelso's choice all of these uh pro-social

54:15

skill-building activities with young kids so that they can learn how to get along with other young kids which is

54:21

especially hard after two years of isolation when many of them are home and they miss some of those opportunities to develop

54:28

those skills i have to call out our partners at the elementary schools and that those teachers are fantastic those

54:33

administrators are fantastic and we are part of a great team that's trying to rally around these

54:39

littles who are kind of struggling right now to uh come out of the pandemic reality um that

54:46

was really the only reality they know for some of the littles when we move into the middle school we

54:51

are so lucky to have harry brown who is a suicide prevention expert in the region working with his colleagues at the

54:57

school to implement sources of strength to implement

55:02

suicide prevention efforts to implement some cognitive based therapy programming

55:10

within certain populations of the schools and to really drive that agenda around evidence-based interventions

55:17

and prevention efforts to also work with this population of students that are really struggling

55:23

coming out of the pandemic many of them missed some really big developmental um

55:28

shifts because they were home as they kind of went from a tween to a teen or a kid to a cheat

55:35

tween um and and it's been hard it's been really hard in the schools and then of course we have uh chris harnich and

55:42

kayla visser at the high school working with the teams there to work on national helpers and getting into the health

55:48

classes to give some harm reduction working with the safe club there

55:53

to have some youth prevention efforts and then also helping us with those radio station campaigns just doing really really great work

56:00

all of the students on the island are doing as well as can be and many of them are struggling it's really we're seeing

56:07

um i think i've said this before multiple times coming out of this pandemic uh nationally regionally and

56:12

locally we are facing a youth mental health crisis and it's we're very lucky to have the

56:18

professionals that we do doing the work that we that they do in the schools

56:24

excellent thank you i can say as a parent as a six-year-old who's at island park and

56:30

just hearing that those words from you and the emotion that kind of came to the top and the the

56:36

recognition that they are struggling we know that's true we know that's true as parents as

56:41

you know leaders in the community as teachers and there's support within the schools and

56:46

you know that we have every intention of giving yfs the tools that they need to help through this it

56:52

is a once in a generation or maybe even less frequent than that event and

56:57

you know you've got our back as parents and we've got your back is the social safety net that that is going

57:03

to get us through this so thank you for that thank you to the staff for all that work all right any final questions any

57:09

comments before we go on thank you for that report we really appreciate it thank you everyone

AB 6098: AWC Business Meeting Voting Delegates

57:18

okay council our next item of regular business is ab6098 awc business meeting

57:24

voting delegates council will need to select voting delegates to attend the awc business meeting in june we can

57:30

appoint up to three voting delegates and i understand we have one volunteer and councilmember weiker who's already

57:36

going to be there which will make it super convenient to vote is anybody else planning on attending and

57:42

care to vote no so may i have a motion to appoint

57:47

councilmember wickers the voting delegate at the awc business meeting in june so moved second okay moved by councilman

57:54

reynolds seconded seconded by councilmember jacobson city clerk please call the roll

58:02

thank you mr mayor council member andrew hi

58:07

councilmember weiger hi mayor niece hi

58:13

councilmember jacobson all right councilmember weinberg aye deputy mayor rosenbaum
aye

58:20

councilmember reynolds aye and councilmember jacobson

58:25

oh i said jacobson i just put my ex you did i just put my ex in the wrong spot i put my

58:31

ex in the wrong spot thank you mr mayor thank you all right our next item of regular
business is

AB 6090: Introduction to Parks Levy Renewal and Discuss Alternatives

58:37

ab6090 introduction to the park levy renewal and discuss alternatives welcome city

58:44

manager jesse bond

58:49

thank you mr mayor uh happy to be back again this evening um i am supported tonight by a
whole

58:56

host of uh staff members and also our outside legal counsel

59:02

so just to let you know deanna gregory is here she is outside bond council if we have
technical questions about

59:09

ballot measures i'll be looking to her i think you've all met robbie by now our management analyst who

59:16

came on board to help with this project and a couple other projects merrill is here jason kittner elaine

59:21

summergren i will be tapping them all for support as questions come up

59:27

so let's go ahead and get started

59:34

wrong powerpoint and there we go just quickly before we begin do you how

59:40

do you want counsel to handle questions on this because i know you have quite a bit of materials many of

59:46

maybe potential accounts of questions would be answered in the deck sure i i think what i'll do if you don't

59:53

mind the the presentation has some natural breaks so i think i'll just stop and ask for questions at that point if

59:59

that works for all of you that works perfectly all right and mr mayor you can also just you know wave your hand if you

1:00:05

see a question coming up all right once again i'm doing everything backwards again let's try that again okay

1:00:17

one more time there you go okay

1:00:22

uh city council i will acknowledge this is a beast of a slide deck i had good

1:00:29

intentions of getting it into the packet and out too early but

1:00:34

we've had some challenges the last couple weeks with staffing so thank you for your patience what i will do and i'll i'll kind of

1:00:41

flag merrill and andrea to make sure that after tonight we we publish lists into the packet in case

1:00:48

anyone would like to look at it i will tell you i'm not planning to go over all the material on the slides it's really

1:00:54

there for reference and in case anybody has any questions so we are talking tonight about the

1:00:59

perks maintenance and operations levy renewal whoops there we go

1:01:06

uh just looking ahead and these will kind of be the natural breaks in the presentation

1:01:12

want to give us a foundation for where this all started talk about parks levy implementation

1:01:17

what the timeline looks like really probably spend the bulk of our discussion tonight on the components of

1:01:22

the levee renewal and and your recommendation we've got a couple of options to talk about and then we'll conclude with

1:01:29

logistics and next steps um just to cut to the chase and where

1:01:35

we're headed the staff recommendation is for the city councils of full which is a full year ahead of the expiration

1:01:41

of the current parks levy should you take that recommendation and should

1:01:47

the levy pass this november city council would be taking action to end our current levy one year early

1:01:55

so that's the punch line uh we've got three components so we'll get two at the end again i just want to

1:02:02

give you a little look ahead we have a base levy uh proposed that basically continues doing

1:02:08

what we're doing with the current levy we've given you two options to consider one of the options proposes additional

1:02:15

funding for ongoing playground replacements and there's a range funding 25 percent to 100 of the playground

1:02:22

replacement costs over the life of the levy another option for your consideration is increasing the annual funding for

1:02:28

pioneer park which funds restoration projects identified in the pioneer park forest

1:02:33

management plan similar to the other option we've given you a range to consider

1:02:39

so we'll get to those items in just a minute but let's talk about how we got here where did the parks levy start

1:02:46

looking way back council i don't think any of you were on the council at this time but you may recall

1:02:52

that king county approached us about transferring ownership and operation of luther burbank park to the city and the

1:02:58

transfer of that property was finalized in 2022 that prompted a 2003

1:03:06

uh six-year parks levy which was approved to fund the operations and maintenance

1:03:11

of luther burbank park it was a 450 000 levy and it passed with 55 voter

1:03:18

approval uh fast forward and uh some work was done on the luther

1:03:24

burbank park master plan a plan that we still rely on at luther burbank park that master plan was adopted in 2006.

1:03:33

around the same time the city council formed a citizen stakeholder committee

1:03:38

and they were asked to prepare a recommendation on a parks levy ballot measure essentially renew replace what

1:03:45

are we going to do once the 2003 parks levy ends that stakeholder committee recommended

1:03:51

that the replacement levy should be expanded to not only fund luther burbank park

1:03:56

but also to address system-wide parks maintenance needs and that is how we got to our current

1:04:02

parks levy uh which passed in 2008

1:04:07

was a 15-year parks levy and again it included the scope was both luther burbank park

1:04:13

operations and capital and support for all city parks open spaces and recreation facilities
54 voter approval

1:04:22

and it took effect january 1st 2009 so in this presentation i actually refer to

1:04:27

it as the 2009 levy important to note and you'll see why in just a minute

1:04:32

although the parks levy passed there was a companion capital bond measure that did not pass

1:04:37

it did not reach the 60 required approval so the 2009 levy um

1:04:45

and i want to explain this because i think at some point someone will ask you know you know what happened um so the

1:04:50

ballot language was general we know that it included luther burbank and all of our other parks and recreation

1:04:56

facilities and that table on the right there it shows basically how the parks levy funds

1:05:01

were to be allocated it included that middle row where it says capital projects o m

1:05:08

that was a hundred and twenty eight thousand dollars in operating and maintenance funding that was intended to

1:05:14

be applied to that bond measure had it passed which it did not

1:05:19

so what the council did when they enacted the levy is they switched some things around and i just wanted to take

1:05:25

a minute to explain that so they took that 128 thousand dollars out but they put in funding for what we now

1:05:32

call luther burbank small capital projects so they took out 128 o m they put in 110

1:05:38

000 in capital funding and that gets us to uh the basis for that 2009 parks levy

1:05:45

uh which was 882 thousand dollars so that was that was the final levy amount

1:05:50

and that's how they got there there was one other change that i just wanted to bring up because as you look

1:05:55

at the levee history you can see uh some of the labels change early on

1:06:01

uh initially the parks levy categories included something called school-related parks and recreation activities and at

1:06:08

some point based on our research it just changed to be called perk maintenance o m

1:06:14

this doesn't really matter it doesn't it didn't change anything it was really probably just for

1:06:19

budgeting and it was probably more accurately reflecting how those funds were being used

1:06:24

again i'm just sharing this um in case anyone looks back and is trying to reconcile uh the history like we

1:06:30

recently did the parks operations and maintenance funds collected via the parks levy so again this is the onm part

1:06:37

of the levy are part of the general fund of the city's budget

1:06:44

so where were we then and where are we now this table shows the 2009 uh levy

1:06:50

and the allocations compared to where we are now in 2022. again this is year 14

1:06:56

of a 15-year levy we're at about 13 and a half years in we've taken the one percent increase in

1:07:04

all but to use over the life of the levy so you'll see the the changes there one thing i want to

1:07:11

point out though is over the life of the levy the one percent increase was applied primarily

1:07:17

to the operations and maintenance components of the levy uh why was that done well

1:07:23

simply put operations and maintenance are the costs are increasing certainly more than one percent a year uh so that was

1:07:30

how the levy uh funds were applied annually so you can see

1:07:35

the three capital components which are the luther burbank uh small capital projects pioneer park forest management

1:07:42

and open space vegetation management have those funding light items have been held flat

1:07:48

since 2009. all right so stated another way and the

1:07:55

number that i want to call out i've already mentioned we have both operations and maintenance built into our levy and capital

1:08:02

the operations and maintenance in 2022 the amount going to operations and maintenance is 728

1:08:09

dollars in some change so i want to just make sure i tie this back to our current budget

1:08:17

this is your general fund expenditures for parks maintenance and operations

1:08:23

in 2022 our o m budget is 2.34 million

1:08:28

uh we've got it broken out by categories there park maintenance is almost 900 000

1:08:33

aubry davis park a little over 500 luther burbank close to 400

1:08:38

athletic fields 300 all of the other park maintenance school fields at 200

1:08:44

000 and then trails maintenance just under a hundred thousand

1:08:49

so where am i headed with this the parks levy provides 728 000 towards operations and

1:08:56

maintenance which is 30 31 of the funding for mercer island parks

1:09:01

annually so i wanted to make sure you had that data point as we talk about where we're

1:09:07

headed certainly other ways we fund parks operations and maintenance through the general fund is similar to other general

1:09:14

fund programs property tax sales tax b and o tax we also collect user fees for things

1:09:20

like field rentals and once we get our picnic shelter open that applies as well

1:09:28

okay that would be the first break mr mayor if anyone has any questions otherwise i'll keep going

1:09:34

councilmember reynolds two closely related questions if you'll humor me

1:09:40

um the first one is the the reclassification or renaming of where

1:09:45

the money goes is that legit are we allowed to do that

1:09:51

yeah that from that when it was called school operations to park maintenance and operations uh those i should have

1:09:58

said this a little more clearly uh the ballot language is written very

1:10:04

generally and so the council then at some point decided that those are the categories of funding that was a

1:10:10

budgetary exercise so certainly you have the flexibility to change that

1:10:15

and you were within um the guidelines of what was approved as as the levy okay

1:10:21

and the related question is if memory serves the the one percent

1:10:27

counsematic increase or councilmanic whatever the term is uh we did not approve it in 2021

1:10:33

but we did in 2020. is that correct i'll have to see if robbie has those

1:10:38

exact dates i do not have those in front of me do you recall yes the council did not take the one

1:10:45

percent increase in 2009 and 2010 um but i

1:10:51

from what i saw we had taken it and 2021 yeah

1:10:56

yeah and we'll we will double check that kushner's is just tangential no it it's germane i think

1:11:03

is is this is this one percent separate from the one percent

1:11:08

automatic increase in the property tax levy that we talk about it's at the same one percent or we talk about two different things lawns coming in our deputy director

1:11:16

lawan tuttle deputy finance director excuse me uh your deputy finance director luann tuttle the one percent is the legislator

1:11:23

or the the general requirement is the same one percent that you can take on your general property tax

1:11:29

and specific to 2021 i believe it was we didn't take the

1:11:34

full one percent we took less than one percent based on the rate of inflation point so i think it

1:11:40

was six points yeah yeah okay i just didn't remember making a conscious decision to allocate

1:11:46

part of it to to allocate it non-proportionally was that decision made in the budget process

1:11:51

because you said olive went into the o m line i think historically over the life of

1:11:56

this levee lid lift that was how it was consistently treated um so just year over year it was continued

1:12:03

and that would be part of the property tax ordinance that is adopted each year okay thank you

1:12:11

not seeing any others so carry on all right

1:12:18

council these next slides are the ones that we really don't have time to go through in

1:12:23

detail but i'm at least going to give you the high flyover because i think it's important at this moment in time at

1:12:29

almost 14 years to look back and really first of all be appreciative of our community members for supporting

1:12:36

this levy and supporting what i call 14 years of reinvestment in the parks and recreation system

1:12:42

that happened in the last 14 years and as i flip through these slides i'll encourage you to think about

1:12:48

you know the look ahead is is basically the same thing continuing operation and maintenance funding and also really

1:12:55

important capital project funding all right

1:13:02

there we go um so firstly firstly that's not even a word [Laughter]

1:13:07

first off uh luther burbank park so i've already mentioned luther burbank park receives both o m funding almost 400 000

1:13:15

annually and a little over a hundred thousand dollars towards capital in the park

1:13:21

as a reminder luther burbank is 73 acres we have a couple facilities including

1:13:27

the admin building uh the boiler building even the massive

1:13:32

pergola just shy of a mile of shoreline and waterfront a little over four miles of

1:13:37

trails and our parks levy funds nearly a hundred percent of operations and maintenance at luther burbank park at

1:13:44

current levels of service and that includes the buildings on the o m side it's everything you can

1:13:50

think of landscaping planter beds lawn tree litter pickup

1:13:55

maintenance of all the facilities the playgrounds the courts the off leash dog area the swim beach

1:14:01

you guys know luther burbank park it's a massive facility and certainly i would be remiss if i

1:14:07

didn't mention the trails and open space areas picking it lots and more

1:14:13

uh on the capital side and i i think you'll be pretty impressed to see the number of projects that we have

1:14:18

completed either fully funded or partially funded through the luther burbank small capital projects levy

1:14:24

component ranging from parks to trails to facilities

1:14:29

for example floating docks all of the playground parts toys and repairs are funded through this resource

1:14:37

we clean the milfoil out of the swim beach a new new park entrance side tennis enter sign tennis court repairs

1:14:45

um also and if you look if you look at that picture in the right hand corner that's a dock piling and

1:14:52

that is one of the many repairs we've made to those docks over the years we're looking forward to the dock

1:14:59

replacement project being completed in 23-24 so hopefully those types of minor

1:15:04

capital projects will go away but also playground replacements new picnic

1:15:11

tables um taking care of off leash area off leash

1:15:16

dog area needs lots of trail project work at luther is funded by this resource the ada walkway

1:15:23

improvements new fencing a couple of new trails asphalt patching

1:15:29

and the facilities wow we have some beautiful buildings but they're old and they need a lot of attention

1:15:35

the boiler building has benefited from these resources for you know a wide

1:15:40

variety of projects certainly keeping up the pergola that's shown in that upper picture there

1:15:47

we have two restrooms we have a caretaker's house and the list goes on

1:15:53

also habitat projects uh some things that you know you don't see tree replantings uh

1:15:58

the 84th avenue hillside uh planting project is one that comes to mind uh in the in the other category the handsome

1:16:05

bollards we've used capital resources to help repair and restore that art piece

1:16:11

we have a more major project certainly underway with the dock work coming up and and even a lot of things you don't

1:16:17

see the parking lot work the utilities work drainage and a whole range of other

1:16:23

projects so so that you know what seems like a small amount of money we have really leveraged to do some really

1:16:30

important work at luther burbank including these planning projects one of the ones i will call out is some

1:16:36

of the early work we did planning for the replacement of the docks the work we did on planning for the

1:16:43

boiler building upgrades so very very important resource to us on the capital side of the house

1:16:50

the levy includes money for parks operations and maintenance kind of generally

1:16:55

funds a whole bunch of work we do in the park system just a reminder when i subtract out

1:17:00

pioneer park and luther burbank park that means we're stewarding over 200 acres of park land

1:17:06

and again we use these levee funds to support a range of o m landscaping lawn care maintenance trees

1:17:13

28 miles of walking paths and trails 14 playgrounds and again that number i netted out

1:17:20

the four playground facilities we count at luther and we also use those funds to support

1:17:26

athletic fields across the island uh pioneer park forest management uh we

1:17:31

have seventy seven thousand dollars uh coming from the levee each year for pioneer park we'll be talking more about

1:17:37

this later uh but important to call out this is 122 acres of forested open space which makes

1:17:44

up 43 percent of the open space in our city our work is guided by a forest

1:17:50

management plan that was adopted in 2023 2003 and updated in 2009

1:17:56

focuses on a range of things canopy render regeneration uh invasive tree removal

1:18:02

and more so 77 000 annually going there

1:18:07

um we have done a lot of work with this little bit of

1:18:12

resource over the last 14 years really a couple things i want to call out and if you have more questions about

1:18:18

this elaine can jump on mitigation of holly and other weedy tree infestations in our forest understory we

1:18:26

planted over 15 000 native trees and shrubs and nearly 75 acres of pioneer

1:18:31

park and angstrom and these new trees are really important component of the forest management plan

1:18:36

to replace aging canopy and you know ensure that we have proper forest succession for the next generations i

1:18:44

will say also for the purposes of tonight's discussion i often shorten pioneer park and inkstrom and just call

1:18:50

it pioneer park and you'll see in the slide deck we've done that in a number of places as well

1:18:56

all right and finally the levy provides 65 000 a year to other open space and vegetation

1:19:03

management so separate from pioneer park we have another 164 acres of open space

1:19:09

that we are stewarding throughout mercer island uh these open space areas are guided by the

1:19:16

open space vegetation plan that was adopted in 2004 and updated in 2014

1:19:21

similar to pioneer park we're doing a wide variety of restoration work across

1:19:27

the open space system any questions on the look back before we

1:19:34

go into the look forward i'm not seeing any councilman royker i

1:19:40

just want to say thank you for all that awesome work that is an incredible sales pitch

1:19:47

well i will say thank you although i can't take credit for most of that i think it's important though to remember that

1:19:53

the community has supported that work and really the point in including that tonight was say thank you to our

1:19:59

taxpayers for that 14 years of investment i think that's really important

1:20:04

all right so why renew the parks levy uh certainly i've given you the numbers um in in terms of

1:20:11

how important that 31 percent of the park's operation and maintenance budget is and you've also taken a look at the

1:20:18

capital investment snapshot i wanted to just take a few snippets obviously not go

1:20:25

through the whole uh whole recent surveys but we did do two recent surveys in 2020 we did a prose

1:20:32

plan surveys statistically valid um you know 99 of the respondents felt

1:20:37

public parks and recreation opportunities are essential to quality of life on mercer island uh that doesn't

1:20:43

surprise me living here myself 94 felt that

1:20:49

they are very somewhat satisfied with the value they received from mercer island parks and recreation and i

1:20:54

think what's interesting remember this number for the next slide 68 percent in 2020 we're visiting a park at least once

1:21:00

a week 68 percent council you remember that we re-ran the statistically valid survey for the pros

1:21:06

plan we asked a few different 2021 that number jumped to 75 percent of residents

1:21:12

visiting a parks and rec facility at least once a week i totally believe it's because we have

1:21:17

an awesome park system but it's also because we have had a pandemic and that was one of the only ways for us to get respite

1:21:25

we did ask our park users if they were using our facilities more

1:21:30

during the since the pandemic and about half of them said yes so

1:21:37

we have a lot of support we know how important our resources are obviously zooming out from that data you

1:21:44

know it's really important to continue to preserve and protect our parks trails open space

1:21:49

and wreck facilities for our future generations i think the capital funding reinvestments we've spent a lot of time

1:21:55

talking about parks infrastructure where it is some of it's at the end of its useful life and the importance of

1:22:02

replacing it or repairing it again for those future generations safety is a top priority it was a strong

1:22:09

theme in the pro's plan and it's something that we're focusing on in all of our projects and i have to say as a

1:22:15

mom of young kiddos and your former parks and rec director this is our place to have fun get

1:22:21

outside escape and enjoy so there's my pitch for uh the parks and rec system

1:22:28

uh let's i'm assuming you don't have any questions so let's let's jump to some of the um the how about the levy

1:22:35

implementation before we talk about you know the what and the components as i mentioned at the outset we are

1:22:41

recommending a november 8 2022 election for the parks levee renewal a full year

1:22:48

early to meet that deadline council you will have to take action on a ballot measure

1:22:54

ordinance by your last meeting in july so presumably if we receive that

1:23:00

direction tonight or at the second june meeting we will prepare for a first reading

1:23:05

of a ballot major major ordinance on july 5th and the second reading on july

1:23:10

19th i will note that the actual deadline for submission of ballot materials is august

1:23:17

2nd so why now why go early uh first of all i will tell you that

1:23:23

we just you know put a considerable amount of time into your prose plan which really helped inform our levy

1:23:29

recommendation and we are ready to go now

1:23:34

i think it's important also to think about what if the levy renewal doesn't pass in

1:23:40

november then we still have a year remaining of the current levy and we would have an opportunity to go back

1:23:46

perhaps repackage the proposal and place it on a 2023

1:23:52

ballot and what we've included there is the 2023 election dates they all have

1:23:57

asterisks on them because they haven't been confirmed yet by the washington secretary of state but we think they're

1:24:03

probably pretty darn close it's also worth considering in 2023 we

1:24:08

believe that the school district and king county will both have ballot measures in 2023 at some point

1:24:16

probably not our best strategy to be competing with those measures so so that also certainly informed our

1:24:22

recommendation also for your awareness we did just recently learned that king

1:24:28

county may be considering a potential levy to increase funding for the conservation futures program

1:24:36

and if the king county council approves that it will go on the november 2022

1:24:41

ballot i'm not sharing you know i don't have an opinion on this i'm just sharing with all of you for

1:24:46

awareness and we'll certainly track uh the king county council's okay so i think i've already covered this but i

1:24:52

just want to restate it again state law requires a voted levy to be enacted within 12 months of the election

1:25:00

so that means if we go to a november ballot we have 12 months

1:25:05

to implement the levy our recommendation is should the ballot measure go in november and should it

1:25:12

pass that we enact the new levy and basically sunset or end our current levy one year

1:25:18

early we would do that all as part of the biennial budget process there's not a mechanism through the

1:25:26

ballot to automatically end that levy early so the council would have to take action to

1:25:31

do that we have talked to staff about you know hey that might feel a little squishy to some community members so you

1:25:38

have some options we can pass a resolution in july stating that your intent would be you know to end uh the

1:25:44

current levy early if if the new one passes so we can consider that if if that's

1:25:49

something you'd like okay what i have next is

1:25:56

kind of the layout of the parks levy renewal recommendation uh before i go there are there any

1:26:02

questions about going to the november ballot a year early anything

1:26:10

reynolds uh talk to me about the the one year early thing

1:26:17

would it instead be an option to have the levy now for levy starting a year from now

1:26:24

uh it would uh yes yes and no

1:26:30

we have to enact it within 12 months right so it has to be in play somewhere from

1:26:36

november 8th 2022 to november 8 2023 we felt that it was cleaner to start the

1:26:43

new one january 1 and the old one december 31st

1:26:48

you also would have the option to enact the new one and keep the old one

1:26:53

for another year um and deanna gregory's popped on her screen so she can explain the actual she

1:27:00

can provide the actual technical uh answer to that question thank you uh this is deanna gregory a

1:27:07

partner pacifica law group we serve as bond council as was mentioned earlier um property tax changes occur typically on

1:27:14

january 1st so if there is a levy um about a voter approved levee lid lift it

1:27:21

would take effect as of january first and so as uh

1:27:26

as was mentioned essentially you would sunset if you will the um current levee lid lift as of the

1:27:34

end of this year and then start the new levee for the replacement levy as of next year

1:27:41

indiana is it possible to start the new levy middle of

1:27:46

2023 that's that's not possible i mean no not with us not with the property tax there's a lot more um sales taxes for

1:27:53

example um can change at various periods during the year but a property tax uh starts um because you

1:28:01

set your property tax rate for the year as part of your end of the year process

1:28:06

and based on the assessed valuation and so that would kick in as of january

1:28:12

1st

1:28:17

another quick follow-up question which may be from miss gregory as well i need a refresher on something

1:28:23

as i recall the rules about supplanting vary depending on the type of levy that you have

1:28:29

with the structure we're proposing are we are we subject to the supplanting you have a very good memory um the

1:28:35

supplanting rules do not apply to the one year the one time bump levy lid left

1:28:41

if you will for jurisdictions in king county um only to the multi-year um up

1:28:47

to six year multiple bumped levee lid lifts the second flavor or the second type of levee lid lift

1:28:53

so for the type that's in front of you tonight is uh it is not impacted by supplanting okay thank you

1:29:02

shall i continue you shall thank you

1:29:09

okay uh close that guy

1:29:14

so as i've already mentioned we have uh three things to talk about tonight in terms of what goes into the levy the

1:29:19

base parks levy renewal recommendation and two options one regarding playground replacements and one

1:29:25

regarding potentially increasing funding for pioneer park all right so the 2022 parks levy renewal

1:29:32

the base levy this is what it looks like current parks levy

1:29:38

uh proposed to end in 2022. as i've already mentioned we're at 980 012.

1:29:47

the proposed parks levy renewal if approved anticipated to start january 1 2023

1:29:53

we did apply a one percent increase across the board so the parks levy rate would be 989 923

1:30:02

again it would take effect january 1 and we are proposing a 15-year term consistent with the prior parks levy

1:30:12

this is the only site i have on the base parks levy so if there's any questions on this i'll take them now otherwise i'll

1:30:19

move to the options let me ask can you can you so the 15-year term is problematic

1:30:25

because it gets you from a non-election year renewal to an election year renewal is there a way to do a 16-year because of

1:30:32

that so that you have the same cadence you know this is

1:30:37

this is our least political thing on the island everybody loves the parks and there's no reason to set the next

1:30:42

council up for an election year renewal of that if we can avoid it right deanna

1:30:48

may i ask for your help answering that question so the question is can we do a 16-year parks levy renewal

1:30:56

and the answer is yes you can set the time period for as basically as long as

1:31:02

you'd like okay any other questions

1:31:07

um jesse like further into the presentation we'll be talking about um dollars per

1:31:14

thousand of assessed valuation yes or um it's not it's not included those but

1:31:20

uh robbie is here with um i i think he's here with a calculator in the background on excel

1:31:26

um so we can prepare that okay and if he's not he's going to

1:31:31

prepare it right now he's working on it yeah um and and that would

1:31:37

i'd be curious as to that for the base levy and and the two add-ons or kind of the add-on proposals all right robby i

1:31:43

just put you on the spot if i call on you in a bit did you have that calculator ready to go

1:31:49

yes i have it for the base levy we do not have it for the options are

1:31:54

right we don't have a specific one for that yet we we can plug in some numbers if we need to but yes we'll get we can

1:31:59

uh come back to that council member annual okay and sorry jesse for not thinking of this in advance to give you

1:32:05

time to get it but um is it correct that the fire station south end levy expires this

1:32:12

year and we'll have the answer to that question

1:32:18

if i can get off me yes the fire station would lift expires at the end of 2022.

1:32:24

okay and so in the background would you mind checking um how much that impacts

1:32:29

um the tax bill uh for on a you know per thousand dollar assessed value

1:32:36

yes and council i i should have mentioned too um i think you know we've been running um pretty short staffed in

1:32:43

finance so if tonight we're not able to answer all your questions we're happy to come back and either we can follow up in

1:32:49

between the next meeting or we can come back on june 21st with a follow-up presentation as well

1:32:55

all right shall i continue with the options oh it looks like we have another question yeah uh

1:33:01

uh appreciating uh the number of variables out there on which to calculate i think some of the levees

1:33:08

that have bit the dust in the past have been less than candid about cost per

1:33:13

thousand in the school district one that went down in flames in 2010 or 2011 is a

1:33:19

good example of that and i think it behooves us uh to be sure that whatever we say

1:33:26

tonight is certainly not the final word on it and uh because

1:33:32

that will send some people to the barricades right away if they think that my golly you know my my tax rate's going to

1:33:39

go up by this amount or something else and i think uh council member uh andrew's point about

1:33:46

the credits coming back uh so the net tax what the net tax bill looks like is a

1:33:52

very good one so that will be a selling point for us yeah so important to get it right rather

1:33:58

than get it early absolutely uh and we may we may uh come back and make sure we have those numbers right

1:34:05

and so that leads kind of the next part of the presentation getting to those numbers uh council does require some feedback

1:34:11

from you on i think first whether or not we want to consider adding

1:34:17

a couple components to the levee or not and so i will jump into that part of the levee

1:34:25

oh dear that's not what i wanted

1:34:30

sorry alfredo oh oh i lost the whole thing

1:34:41

bear with me i'm not sure how i did that

1:34:47

and while you're doing that council if you have the agenda packet on page eight and nine are gonna be

1:34:52

the the various scenarios uh maybe it'd be convenient to have that handy so we

1:34:57

can keep the screen share or turn the screen share off so yeah

1:35:02

see us all right i do need to uh jump ahead here

1:35:14

i told you it was a pretty impressive slide deck it doesn't help when i close it prematurely

1:35:20

council if anybody needs to take a quick break now's a good time to uh cycle in and out we'll just keep going with this

1:35:27

okay uh the options then

1:35:35

so you will uh recall earlier this year we adopted the 2022 parks recreation and

1:35:41

open space plan that plan identified about 40 million dollars in parks open space trails and

1:35:48

recreation facility capital project needs we estimated about a 24 million

1:35:54

capital project funding gap over that six year period so as we contemplated you know options

1:36:01

uh to bring to you for consideration we were relying uh one on that uh that six

1:36:06

year capital plan and also other known capital funding needs

1:36:13

um and before i get into the playground discussion i want to tell you that the levy presents an interesting option

1:36:20

it presents both opportunities for capital funding and challenges

1:36:25

because it's it runs for such a long time horizon we really need to identify um

1:36:31

capital types of projects that are recurring which is how the levy has been used

1:36:37

previously funding like big one-time projects is a lot more complicated because there's

1:36:43

borrowing and mechanics behind the scenes which we we will explain if you're interested

1:36:50

but otherwise i will say we we really looked uh for options that represented ongoing

1:36:56

capital needs and playground replacement is certainly one of them you've heard me say a number of times

1:37:02

our play equipment has an average life of about 20 years give or take

1:37:07

all mercer island playgrounds except for mercedes park will need to be replaced

1:37:13

over the next 15 years every single one of them except for mercedes park that's a total of 17 playground replacements by

1:37:20

the way we we kind of count the structures based on how many structures are at a park so

1:37:26

island crest for example actually has three or four playground structures all in different replacement cycles

1:37:32

so again 17 playground replacements over the 15-year period

1:37:37

uh you might recall i'm sure councilmember jacobson did this was uh presented to the parks commission

1:37:42

a couple times when we were working on the pros plan uh this is just a chart of all of our

1:37:48

playgrounds when they were installed and how many years out we are from replacement certainly as the numbers

1:37:54

change from green to red it's alerting you that it's coming up for replacement

1:38:00

so given that um just from the six-year parks capital

1:38:06

program and that's again the timeline is 2023 to 2028 we have five playgrounds

1:38:11

that will be replaced uh dean's park we have multiple structures aubry davis park lid b secret park road

1:38:19

park and first hill park all to be replaced in the next six years that cost over that six year period is

1:38:26

estimated at about 2.4 million i will mention in the park cip we included a

1:38:31

three percent annual inflation factor and that is accounted for in those numbers

1:38:37

as well except for mercerdale as i already noted uh the total cost estimated cost of those playgrounds

1:38:45

is about 4.7 million so all total the next 14 years is 7 million dollars in playground

1:38:51

replacement costs estimated largely based on a like for like

1:38:58

replacement um so i would anticipate you know we'll make decisions like for

1:39:03

example we did at mercerdale park if there's an opportunity to do an ada upgrade that would certainly be factored

1:39:09

in so what we put together for you is a couple of scenarios

1:39:15

i do feel that if we're going to add something to the levy playground replacements make sense because again

1:39:21

they're happening actively happening over the life of the levy uh we've given you a dial to consider

1:39:26

turning anywhere from zero to 100 percent of funding for the playground replacements

1:39:32

the way we built this recommendation is those are the 2023 levy amounts so that

1:39:39

is the amount you would be levying based on the percentage of funding you would potentially consider

1:39:45

and then we assumed a one percent increase over the life of the levy which basically brings the total revenue

1:39:53

investment if you took the hundred percent funding that number ultimately matches the seven

1:39:58

million dollars that we've identified and estimated replacement costs a couple questions you asked me before i

1:40:05

um turn it over to you our playgrounds competitive for grants

1:40:12

not really they're not fantastic competitors only because there are so many of them and we're in a huge pool

1:40:19

that being said if we do another ada playground replacement which i would actually anticipate at aubrey davis park

1:40:26

lid b we think that that is a potential for grant funding and we would certainly

1:40:31

even though i just said they won't all be competitive we would certainly continue to pursue grant funding for playgrounds at every

1:40:39

step of the way we also found a great value in partnering with our community and the

1:40:44

rotary mipa on mercerdale and we would look to engage in those types of partnerships

1:40:50

going forward as well i think yep that's my last

1:40:56

so mr mayor i can stop there we can talk about playground replacements or i can keep going and we can talk about the

1:41:01

pioneer park option what would be your pleasure well let me first ask if there's questions on that playground replacement

1:41:08

um i had a quick question and then i'll go to you customer wiker

1:41:13

i thought i had heard you say something different in terms of the rate so is the 25

1:41:19

annual funding i mean that if we approve that amount every four years you would have collected enough to replace one

1:41:26

playground and at the 50 rate every two years you could replace one playground is that the right way to look at those

1:41:32

percentages um we took the total cost so 25

1:41:38

would give us would fund 25 percent of the playground replacements over the life of the levy i think the challenge

1:41:44

with playgrounds is they they all they're they all cost the the cost estimates for each one ranges

1:41:52

wildly um so bursterdale park was a 900 000 playground uh the playground at first hill park uh

1:41:59

without my cip in front of me is probably less than 300 000. um so that 25

1:42:06

represents 25 of the estimated cost for all of the playground replacements does that make

1:42:12

sense it does so you know you could uh it just depends on the playground your

1:42:18

cadence of playground replacement might be a little bit different depending on the scale of the one you're trying to do

1:42:24

right so if we let's take a look at this slightly differently um if we don't have a playground replacement that year and the

1:42:30

levy dollars are coming in uh and and this becomes a component of the levy then those dollars kind of go

1:42:36

into that playground reserve right they're they're dedicated for this specific capital work and pooled then

1:42:43

over time to your point gotcha councilman waker thank you for that so speaking of

1:42:48

cadence um resources supply chains labor challenges design community input like

1:42:54

that's a lot of parks projects in a few short years of the life of the levy talk to me about how you imagine managing

1:43:01

actually i wasn't planning to talk about uh this tonight but it's a good question i think you know we're struggling with

1:43:07

staffing levels it's a very competitive job market the construction economy remains hot and

1:43:13

the demand for experts and engineers and architects is high so one of the things that we'll be doing

1:43:20

in really just probably the next four to six weeks as we are going to release requests for proposals

1:43:26

um i'm going to think of a better term but for right now what i call it is a mega rfp

1:43:32

we are going to go out and try to identify one of the bigger landscape architect firms or frankly any firm that

1:43:38

wants to come and partner with us and pick up a whole suite of our projects because not only do we have

1:43:43

these projects we have the groveland and clark joint master plan that's on deck

1:43:49

we have a mercedes park master plan we have in 2024 we're supposed to go out and look at

1:43:55

site alternatives for a spray park we have the annex building behind the

1:44:01

community center that needs to be studied and i'm not even talking about all the construction projects that are on deck

1:44:07

so we need to we i'm not sure that we're ever going to get the staffing levels to where they

1:44:12

need to be so we're looking at again this kind of expanded rfp

1:44:17

to bring on a firm uh commit them they commit to us we commit to them for

1:44:23

you know many years of project support and that will augment the staff that we

1:44:28

currently have okay customer rentals i just want to

1:44:34

follow up on the mayor's question confirm my understanding on something i i believe you were saying we had 17

1:44:39

playgrounds that need replacement over this horizon so if we were to go for the 100 option

1:44:45

we're approving funding that would pay for all 17 of those to be replaced over the 15-year period

1:44:50

so round numbers that's one a year which means that uh to the mayor's point if we do to the 25 option we're

1:44:57

basically saying yeah one every four years approximately yeah recognizing that the timing needs are lumpy and the

1:45:03

costs are lumpy but it works out just about that right yeah okay thank you the supply chain issues as you know uh in

1:45:10

all lines of business are whack-a-mole right now um so we're we're adapting as we go but it may

1:45:16

actually make sense to do multiple playground replacements at once just to you know and to start thinking about getting our our equipment orders in you

1:45:23

know a year out we've certainly learned a lot painfully from the mercedes park playground

1:45:28

replacement experience i talked to the mayor last week and uh it's important that with a levy if this

1:45:35

is added that we deliver and so those are things that uh you know the mayor and i spoke about if we're going to put

1:45:40

this in the levy we've got to make sure thank you councilmember weiker that we have the resources and and the structure

1:45:46

to deliver and so jason kitner and i are certainly actively engaged in that conversation

1:45:52

great uh and so i would say just to comment on the council is to give a little grace and let jesse have

1:45:58

some room to be successful which would mean not placing you know more than one playground replacement per year the full

1:46:04

rate of 17. i understand there are maybe a possible playground or two that wouldn't necessarily get replaced

1:46:12

maybe some areas are over equipped so i guess you could look at the 100 as

1:46:18

all the ones that need to be replaced and would be replaced as being replaced over the life of the levy

1:46:23

but in terms of council do you want to move to the conversation about pioneer park before we talk about what let's do that

1:46:30

then and uh share the four thoughts on forest management and those levels

1:46:38

so this is a little bit different the the pioneer park whoops would help it be if i'm on the right side council

1:46:45

thank you for your grace um pioneer park option is just a little bit different if

1:46:52

you look at our park cip we did not include um additional funding for pioneer park

1:46:59

in that in that cip but there's a no need out there and what i will share is when we were

1:47:05

working on the pros plan the open space conservancy trust said to me two or three times

1:47:11

you know jesse the pioneer park forest management plan is not being funded adequately

1:47:18

and i acknowledge that but also at the time was looking at a cip that already had a

1:47:24

20 million dollar gap um so

1:47:29

this is an opportunity what i committed to for the trust is look as we have opportunities to consider capital

1:47:35

funding particularly for pioneer park which is a very unique asset we will we will look at all of our

1:47:42

options going forward and so this is really one of the first opportunities to talk to you about

1:47:47

uh funding pioneer park i've already mentioned pioneer park and eggs from open space 122 acres uh and it comprised

1:47:55

is 43 of our open space on mercer island uh we're guided our work is guided by a

1:48:00

very very good forest management plan that was last updated in 2009

1:48:05

and it if you haven't looked at the plan i encourage you to crack it open um it's a good plan and we really

1:48:13

it's it's relevant i think that's important to say right it's not a plan that sits on a shelf it's a plan that we're actively working in this and it

1:48:20

guides the trust work and our staff work so that being said uh

1:48:26

the plan identifies a whole range of tasks elaine summergren is here tonight if you have questions for her

1:48:32

it's invasive tree species removal and management removing ivy

1:48:38

lots and lots of tree planting which is all about forest succession in the long run

1:48:44

and a tree planting and maintenance phase two uh which is about resiliency to make

1:48:50

sure the forest stands um throughout the park to ensure diversity in the age of the

1:48:56

forest stands throughout the park excuse me so

1:49:01

the math um we recently assessed all of the work in the

1:49:07

forest management plan we established that the estimated annual

1:49:12

capital investment that's needed to fully fund the forest management plan

1:49:17

is 660 000 over a 15-year horizon so we were working on a 15-year horizon when we put

1:49:24

this together your annual budget your biennial budget i should say allocates about 190 000

1:49:31

annually in capital funding for pioneer park that that money funds the forest management plan

1:49:37

77 000 of that budget allocation comes from your current parks levy

1:49:42

the rest comes from other sources of capital funding so the gap the funding gap for the forest management plan is

1:49:48

about 468 000 annually so similar to the playgrounds we said

1:49:56

all right let's let's put together a suite of options um i think if the open space conservancy

1:50:02

trust was here tonight they would be advocating for full funding um but they would also say anything

1:50:10

anything is is better so remember of the seventy seven thousand dollars in the levy we have held that amount flat since

1:50:17

2009. so on the low end of the potential recommendation here is just catch us up

1:50:23

right catch the funding up in pioneer park to where it would have been if we had factored in inflation

1:50:29

we've got a range of other options there's a lot of detail that backs up these numbers um the next level is

1:50:34

funding 50 of the forest management projects not including that second phase of tree

1:50:40

planting um level three is funding a hundred percent of the forest management plan projects

1:50:47

again not including that second phase of tree planting and you're probably understanding now that second phase of

1:50:52

tree planting is is really a high ticket item uh so fully funding all of the

1:50:57

forest management plan projects and that second phase of tree planting gets us to 468.

1:51:03

now a moment ago we were talking about getting the numbers right i will tell you we discovered a discrepancy today

1:51:10

with the playground numbers we basically set a 20 20 to 2023 rate

1:51:16

and assumed a 1 inflation factor over a 15-year levy uh we we didn't do the same thing for

1:51:23

pioneer park and so we'll need to correct that uh the next time we come back 468 is just the total cost divided

1:51:30

by 15 years so there's no inflationary factor figured in here

1:51:35

i i do think we would want if both of these go forward that there's consistency in how those numbers are treated so that's something that we can

1:51:41

do the next time we come back to you um this is uh council you received an

1:51:49

email i think i i will share this slide and then i'll stop screen sharing uh council member weinberg asked a

1:51:56

really good question over the weekend and i wanted to make sure to come back to that so i mentioned the funding gap in the

1:52:02

parks cip and it's you know a little over 20 million dollars uh if you

1:52:09

uh move forward with a base levy and fully fund the playground replacement at the 100 level

1:52:15

it addresses the funding gap by about 4 million the pioneer park alternative

1:52:21

does not address at least the way we've laid it out now does not address that capital funding

1:52:26

gap because we are moving both both sides of the ledger right we're increasing the

1:52:32

expenditures and increasing the revenue i hope that makes sense it was a little hard to explain an email but i wanted to

1:52:39

make sure i mentioned it this evening all right maybe we can go to some questions first of which i have one uh

1:52:46

for elaine you know since i've been on the council there's been challenges within pioneer park in the

1:52:52

forestry restoration work some have been droughts some have been labor costs

1:52:58

some have been funding you know does it make sense for a council to 100

1:53:05

percent fund the program that has had and i guess would expect to have those kind of challenges moving forward where

1:53:11

there's kind of a reaction to those that ground game that dictates what makes the most sense to do

1:53:18

in any given year

1:53:25

did we uh is elaine having a zoom connection good evening council jason kennedy of

1:53:30

operations

1:53:35

so she'll be back with us shortly uh well we don't have to answer that question at this particular moment but

1:53:42

uh any of us that have been on the council for some time know that uh you know there were periods of times

1:53:48

where staff or staff contractors were out trying to water trees that had been planted and there

1:53:53

were times where labor rates got to the point where it was really cost prohibitive to be doing planting at

1:54:00

that particular moment you know i'm sure that there are other challenges that

1:54:05

could be said but on the other hand there was always a recognition that there's a base level of work that if you stop doing it you start

1:54:12

losing ground and the work that you've already paid for is somewhat for naught because the invasives can get traction

1:54:19

and take back over so are there any other questions while we wait go ahead councilmember andrew yeah

1:54:24

thanks um i just don't remember it from the way this is diagrammed it looks like i know the answer but um the second

1:54:31

phase of tree planting there's that second phase extends the full 15 years of the levy that they're i mean or does

1:54:38

it ever end i believe i can answer that if you can

1:54:45

hear me i apologize yeah we can hear elaine summergreen deputy director of public works

1:54:51

can you all hear me yup yup all right great so i will jump back in my apologies um so the question was about

1:54:58

the second phase of tree planting um so the idea behind the second phase

1:55:04

of tree planting is that there is a gap between the first phase of tree planting which has been ongoing for several years

1:55:10

now and is progressing well um and then the next stand of trees that gets

1:55:15

planted and the idea being that there's actually a difference in age between the different stands of trees um so that we

1:55:23

get a diversity um this is for a lot you know type of pressure on the forest so

1:55:28

just generally increasing diversity is helpful so to answer your question very directly

1:55:34

we would be looking at this doing this second tree planting much later so this would be probably towards the end of

1:55:40

that 15-year period so not an annual item maybe a once in

1:55:46

the levy item okay thank you

1:55:54

other questions mr bear did you want to go back and ask elaine the question you posed a moment

1:55:59

ago yeah so uh elaine the question was around kind of the history of vegetation management

1:56:06

forest management within pioneer parks and ingram could you talk a bit about some of the challenges that happened

1:56:11

kind of year over year things like droughts things like labor costs that

1:56:17

that staff reacted to and their recommendations to council to kind of recalibrate

1:56:22

forestry services during those those periods yeah absolutely thanks for the question

1:56:28

that's a really good one i think it recognizes also the um

1:56:34

just an enormous amount of change both in the field of restoration but just how much changes you know over the course of

1:56:40

a long-scale vegetation management plan this was originally written in 2008 in

1:56:46

great detail and started to be implemented in 2009 and was originally

1:56:52

seen as essentially a 25-year vegetation management plan with very discreet benchmarks in it

1:56:59

um we've certainly had our share of challenges over that year over those years i think one of them that you

1:57:05

alluded to was restoration cost so when this plan was written

1:57:11

the restoration you know ecology field so then there was very little

1:57:16

competition within the field for those limited contractors because many cities actually weren't doing the work

1:57:23

what this means is that in the interim as many other cities have come on board with really prioritizing this work

1:57:30

within their work plans and their budgets is that those costs have really gone up there's

1:57:36

a lot of competition for those limited resources so we've seen we've seen that and that's

1:57:42

certainly been a challenge and how we prioritize work in addition you know you called out

1:57:49

drought other climate issues that we've been looking at we've had several years of drought

1:57:55

and this has affected the survivorship of some of our early plantings i think

1:58:01

what this actually ends up highlighting is that you know any 25-year plan has to

1:58:06

have adaptive management as a very key part of it right so what is staff learning year over year as

1:58:14

we deal with these challenges do we change our methodology slightly to ensure greater

1:58:21

survivorship we do uh i think a great example of that with our tree planting

1:58:26

is that we've decided it's really important to have one year of inaugural watering and that we've seen that really

1:58:33

affect the survivorship of trees and so you know we've imp what you're look what you're looking at

1:58:40

tonight is is the version of that vegetation management plan

1:58:46

that incorporates a lot of those lessons learned over the years and really how we would

1:58:53

make sure that this plan is being implemented as efficiently as possible

1:58:59

very good thank you councilman weiker elaine great to see you

1:59:05

worked from stormwater projects from king county's current parks levy can you talk a little bit about how

1:59:11

um preserving some money for pioneer park gives you flexibility to use those funds for the other open spaces we have

1:59:18

um give us that kind of holistic approach and you do so much and i really appreciate that and i i know you could

1:59:23

spend the money if we could get it to you absolutely thank you so much for the question

1:59:28

i i think that's a really good point um i think being able to really focus our resources where

1:59:35

it's the best use of them is um is i i think that's inherent to all

1:59:40

of the work we do especially in parks when i think about those limited funding

1:59:47

uh sources that may be available to us grants conservation corps

1:59:52

you know jurisdiction grants things like that it's those tend to be really successful as

1:59:58

projects that are very standalone very discreet tasks and i think

2:00:04

not piecemealing those together into a larger budget to make sure that we're actually getting this forward progress

2:00:12

on this very large body of work is so important and then we can take those discrete funding sources and

2:00:19

actually put them towards these very targeted and high value projects i think

2:00:24

what you know a couple of those that come to mind are projects that we do both in wetlands like in luther burbank

2:00:30

park or along shorelines those tend to also score very high in

2:00:36

in grant applications but also you can leverage a lot of volunteer match in those areas so

2:00:44

it's nice to be able to pull those apart and really um know that we have the funding that's

2:00:50

very solid for pioneer park and and open space vegetation management you know planting trees and pulling

2:00:56

weeds sounds very maintenance oriented but in fact it's a capital program and it's eligible for reit funding

2:01:03

uh can you just kind of clear that up and confirm it from council that reid has been used in years

2:01:08

past to fund these programs yes and i don't know jesse if if you

2:01:14

want to jump in on this but for as long as i've been with the city and i know before that

2:01:21

the open space vegetation management program both in pioneer park and angstrom but also in the rest of the

2:01:27

open spaces has been primarily funded by reit too so

2:01:32

that's been true for um you know at least 18 years to my knowledge

2:01:39

jesse i don't know if you want to add on to that no you got it right we treat that as a

2:01:45

capital uh reinvestment our open space and our work in pioneer park in angstrom

2:01:52

just another quick one so something that might help the council deliberate uh how to find balance between playgrounds

2:01:57

and forest not that there needs to be but one way to do it might be to ask what

2:02:04

has your experience been with the funding of playground replacements what's the cadence the cycle been like

2:02:09

on that compared to what you see in in pioneer park where you said there's a base level of 77 000 that's spent every

2:02:16

year and then it lifts from there you know maybe you could just juxtapose those two to get a sense of where the

2:02:22

real more need might be so i'm not sure i'm i'm totally getting

2:02:29

the gist of the question but there's jason so you had a playground replacement in mercerdale this year the last one i

2:02:34

remember before that was the mipa playground at the south end yup you know the one that was before that i'm not

2:02:41

aware of but it gives you an idea that there's a number of years between the playground

2:02:47

replacements since i've been on the council yeah well jason while you're talking i'm going to bring up that slide that shows

2:02:54

the playgrounds yeah so i think i think one of the important things to think about the playgrounds is we've

2:02:59

been prioritizing placements in the six-year cip so as we look ahead

2:03:05

to the replacement schedule they're prioritized and funded within that six years and because of the dollar and

2:03:12

costs associated to them they shift a little bit here and there between the years and so

2:03:18

they've been funded predominantly out of sort of a pay-as-you-go model through the park cip versus

2:03:25

uh in comparison where you you know you have sort of some ongoing annual funding or biannual funding for

2:03:31

uh the pioneer park work so it's been pretty playground specific based off of when the replacement year

2:03:37

is scheduled and the dollars available within those cip dollars for those people um

2:03:43

we talked a lot about this during the prose plan as you can see 2011 12 12 12 13 13 14 2012
we had a

2:03:54

whole bunch of playground replacements happen at the same time and so we are

2:03:59

preparing you know for a pretty significant run of playground replacements here

2:04:06

pretty soon um some of these well i shouldn't say cities they will be all be on the same
cycle that's that's what i meant to say

2:04:13

um one of the things we talked about is trying to smooth that out um take the next 15 years

2:04:19

and try to get uh maybe to something that looks more like one a year versus

2:04:24

doing so many at once because that's i wasn't here back then but i'm sure that was a pretty
big lift

2:04:32

okay thank you for that all right so council do you have answers to all of

2:04:38

your questions to the point where you can deliberate what would you like in your land

2:04:43

looks like it so how do you want to approach this do you want to go down the line and get a
sense of what people want to see in it you wanted to start taking

2:04:50

a series of thumbs up thumbs down on different scenarios do we have any

2:04:56

any numbers that anybody's willing to share about um

2:05:02

what the what component of the tax bill this this constitutes

2:05:08

you're looking for a dollar per thousand of assessed value which

2:05:13

somebody can calculate on the fly but without any assurance that they'll be correct

2:05:23

because this isn't we're not deciding tonight we're just giving guidance to staff on what we would like them to come back at the june 21st meeting

2:05:32

but i mean it's the difference between hamburger and filet mignon i mean i you can't give guidance unless you know

2:05:37

what it's going to cost and i understand you wanted the net of the fire station levee versus desk i was

2:05:45

also interested in that yes yes um but if there's not and people want to talk about it from a policy standpoint

2:05:51

i'm obviously not going to stand in the way well we want to help you arrive at a decision too so

2:05:57

uh mr mayor at the risk of uh doing things on the fly i do robbie do you want to

2:06:03

screen share your cost per thousand for the base levy uh

2:06:10

uh yes i can do that i'll pull up that uh you know jesse do you want me to pull up that sheet the

2:06:16

justin gave us or just my excel pack of the envelope you're excel

2:06:22

cool let's do that you need to put them in the hot seat i know well i know i know we were working on it behind the scenes if if we can always come back too

2:06:29

but um yeah can folks see an excel sheet in front of you maybe you could perfect it

2:06:35

up a little bit with that yeah we can do that again my name is uh robbie cunningham adams your management analyst

2:06:40

um okay so you to calculate property taxes you have

2:06:45

your total property tax revenue you're seeking to achieve that equals your total assessed value in the island times

2:06:51

your rate you've got your for an individual owner get a tax bill for your property owner

2:06:56

is the assessed value of the property times the rate so in the base levy that's 989

2:07:02

923 this is the estimated anticipated so

2:07:08

that's that's an assumption total assessed value january 1st of 2023 of all assessed value in mercer island

2:07:15

um so doing that math uh the base you know for the base

2:07:21

rate for the levy it would be five and a half cents per thousand dollars assessed

2:07:26

value um and so doing some math for the personal homeowner you know roughly you know

2:07:33

assessed values there's quite a range on the island but the median is around 2.3

2:07:38

million um and so that would be monthly and this is comparing to there's

2:07:45

no park levy to there is a park levy that would be a ten dollars a month uh

2:07:51

for for a property owner now there already exists the existing parks levy and so the actual felt difference

2:07:57

between you know today and if we voted on a parks levee would obviously be smaller

2:08:02

than 10 a month but this is uh this is the back of the envelope what the impact of the base levy would

2:08:08

be so i can i can put a different number of the total revenue we need from the levy and get a rough estimate but it's

2:08:15

pretty back of the envelope does that help yeah that's great it does but let's just explain this a little further so the 989

2:08:21

923 is is the base levy which has a one percent already applied to it 2023

2:08:29

uh increase and that's that's a straight run rate of the existing levy which left off at what

2:08:36

amount in 2022.

2:08:41

it's in the agenda packet i just don't have it it's like it's 980 122. yep

2:08:47

so um i just want to question the ten dollars and 85 cents

2:08:53

is is that the delta between the 980 122 and the 989 922 no no we we didn't have

2:08:59

that number calc we don't we don't know today's levy rate so because really yeah that should be it

2:09:05

should be almost zero yeah yeah it's going to be close to a wash at the base levee so

2:09:11

so council memory and all the base levy would be unfelt by hardly by basically

2:09:16

everybody right and that's what what are we talking about as an as a dollar amount i mean what are what

2:09:22

are citizens happy paying now that's what i was just looking for and and you know i can kind of do in my

2:09:28

head without putting on the record um what the add-ons will be because

2:09:34

the add-ons just about double the levy all of them the full funding yeah that's correct

2:09:41

um should i have robbie stop screen sharing then or do you want to keep this up for a minute uh personally i'm happy with

2:09:48

him taking it down anybody else needs to look at it for longer so the 130 19 is that that's just the

2:09:54

1085 times 12 yes that's the annual rate okay this is divided by 12.

2:10:02

so council for the the next meeting whether it's june 21st or july for fifth we will take your input from this

2:10:09

evening and build out um a more comprehensive analysis but thank

2:10:15

you robbie for your quick spreadsheet

2:10:21

so not being awesome with spreadsheets and not caring so much about the details on this particular level coming out of a

2:10:27

pandemic knowing parks are a top priority for our community knowing playground safety equipment is a top priority i'm prepared

2:10:34

to support both proposals at the full hundred percent with the base levy i think two million

2:10:41

dollars a year to come up with is not a heavy lift for this community for this purpose with the

2:10:46

details and the specificity that's been outlined for the last hour and a half so i'm

2:10:52

i'm supportive of 100 on both plus the base especially since the fire department levy's going away

2:10:59

and we saw from the survey that's a top priority okay very good start

2:11:06

i would like to be 100 supportive i just am nervous about asking

2:11:12

for more money even if it's a small amount in an inflationary environment um

2:11:18

with the you know still a lot of uncertainty that people are facing financially and so i mean maybe it's

2:11:24

it's easy to sell you know it's it's a lot more park for your buck

2:11:30

and you um you're going to see a little bit of a downtick because the fire station falls

2:11:36

off so i mean in principle i would like to fund everything but it's just whether it's responsible to ask for that money

2:11:43

and i'm still thinking about that okay you could be 100 confident at 50 if

2:11:49

that's if that helps at all

2:11:54

not to put just by anyone else jake i'm

2:12:00

much more uh motivated under level i guess leaving the second

2:12:06

phase since that's going to be later anyway off the thing now

2:12:11

in consideration in fact we're going to this would require increasing levy rate

2:12:18

i'm less enthusiastic about the playground replacements not because they probably don't need to be done and i

2:12:24

think it's prudent to be building up the war chest to do these things i would

2:12:30

i would i'd be more willing to do something about the 50 level with some effort by staff

2:12:39

to replan or

2:12:46

reschedule things along the lines of jesse suggested here so that we did one a year

2:12:51

or something of something along those lines and two because it may be that we can push the

2:12:58

life out a little bit more of some of these things not ideal but

2:13:04

i also think that we have to be responsible about what we ask the taxpayers for because

2:13:12

they all a difference between is 110 000 between 75 and 100 and about

2:13:20

another hundred and ten thousand well it just goes up 110 000 so i'd be

2:13:26

i'm would be more cautious on that side and hope that we could do a little bit bit of uh

2:13:33

rescheduling or reanalyzing our replacement costs to put them on a more regular schedule or so you're asking

2:13:40

you're at 75 on forest management what's your percent on the playground i said 50 at the moment but i like to also see

2:13:46

what these numbers push out in the way of the levee gotcha because the the other thing that

2:13:52

uh is you know the assessed valuation of all of our homes has gone through the roof

2:13:59

so the amount that somebody is paying is considerably more than it was

2:14:05

two or three or four years ago when your assessed valuation was half of what it is now for some things

2:14:12

not within the mercer island collected levees because we're rate based but within the county where you spread

2:14:17

things across a broader area where our assessed value may have exceeded the rate of increase of something like new

2:14:24

castle or renton yeah then that would be the case kcls would be an example

2:14:29

uh but in this scenario i don't think this is gonna have that uh unintended

2:14:34

consequence customer reynolds did you sure i'll jump in and perhaps surprise

2:14:41

no one with my response here but i uh i view the parks and the open spaces in

2:14:46

the forest land as part of what makes mercer island the wonderful place to live that it is and i think we have an

2:14:51

opportunity here to to create a fun to make those things last

2:14:57

for another 15 years and and beyond and so i'm fully in support of the the full

2:15:02

meal deal to put both these programs forward the as i see it the the maintenance and

2:15:08

operations point is essentially a wash with the existing levee and the other one is largely or significantly going to

2:15:14

be offset by the the fire department numbers i'll be curious to see those but even if that offset were not there i

2:15:19

would still be fully supportive and of doing going all the way 100 on both okay

2:15:31

but i'm uh supportive of the uh the the works of having both the options in

2:15:36

there i uh like uh uh council member uh andrew i would like to see all the numbers uh to see how much uh

2:15:43

the uh cessation of the uh or the ending the sun setting of the uh

2:15:49

fire fire station levy helps us out here okay

2:15:58

well and i would just say i just took a look at my own tax bill

2:16:03

online and you know we're personally paying over 500 in for

2:16:08

the king county library system and i would venture to guess i don't know the usage but

2:16:14

um the people move here for the parks and people use the parks and people use the

2:16:20

playgrounds probably on a higher per capita basis than the library not that the library doesn't have value but you

2:16:25

know if i had to try to sell somebody to say look you know your tax bill's going down by 75 because

2:16:31

the fire station went away but we want and we want to bop it up by 100 so it's a net 25

2:16:38

i think that would be a pretty easy sell to the community would be my bet try to

2:16:44

push something out there that we so you can't sell two percentages you were 100 and 900 100 but we shouldn't make a

2:16:50

final decision until we have the final numbers

2:16:56

and councils you're continuing your deliberation i probably should have said this at some point you know i am looking for

2:17:02

some direction on what to come back with and we do have that additional touch point uh
june 21st so

2:17:09

you know a couple ranges um follow up on the fire station levy and some other

2:17:14

items as well i'm not hearing anybody say

2:17:20

don't do anything with the playgrounds and pioneer park i'm

2:17:26

hearing everybody say at least fifty percent yeah i mean i'll go next david will get

2:17:33

to you next i i'm a 55 my math is correct the 50 there is 130 which gets you to

2:17:40

200 roughly and 50 of the playgrounds is roughly 200

2:17:45

you know i know there are other sources of funding we have you know impact fees i assume
that you can use an impact fee to build an

2:17:52

accessible playground when accessibility is something that is we're trying to add to the
diversity of the park system

2:17:59

that's correct so we have read dollars we've had community funding help out

2:18:05

with some of the playgrounds i don't know that our capacity is much higher than 50
equipment replacement

2:18:12

and certainly i don't want to do it all too quickly because this is an industry that changes over time and there is some benefit to getting the

2:18:18

latest and greatest when it comes to playgrounds and i have small kids so i know this we chase the

2:18:25

kids all over different playgrounds in the island because they offer different things if they all were replaced at the

2:18:30

same time and looked equally the same it would be far less attractive to a parent with small kids which is

2:18:36

the user group that you know obviously we're trying to appeal to

2:18:42

so to you deputy mayor yeah i'm

2:18:48

i think in a similar boat as you are mr marriage i'll go 75 and 75.

2:18:54

just to uh let's make this even a little more complex um

2:18:59

you know i think you know we've always had a lot of conversations around this i think that

2:19:04

the obviously i have little kids so playgrounds are near and dear to my heart but i also think from

2:19:10

an active government perspective and showing people what they're getting for their dollars i think playgrounds are a highly visible

2:19:16

um opportunity um to to show people what what their levees are paying for

2:19:22

um and i think i think you know i think there's our thought process from the acres per person

2:19:28

to trying to keep above 90 um approval rating and i think you know

2:19:34

if you see some of these playgrounds go down you're going to be seeing a pretty significant drop in that

2:19:39

um if we are diluting the amount of playgrounds that we have on the island so

2:19:45

um i'm all for playgrounds obviously i understand that there's there are cost differences involved i'm looking forward

2:19:50

to getting a little more into uh what that will look like for the different options i mean

2:19:55

i guess just like a question i have is are we able to kind of get

2:20:01

given that we're sort of all over the place on these are we sort of able to get what what that would look like by

2:20:06

a thousand dollar assessment for different options or what yeah uh i was hoping to not have to prepare

2:20:12

42 different scenarios so if we could get to um you know two or three it sounds like 50

2:20:18

deputy mayor complicated things by going 75 uh and it sounds like there's some folks that want to look at the

2:20:24

fully funding both options if we have a hundred and we have 100 115 50 you can do the math yeah

2:20:30

i'll bring my ti-83 to the next meeting yeah actually it seems like if we just have 100 we can do the math on all the

2:20:36

others right i can divide by two or multiply by three that's a good point that's a good point exactly and one you

2:20:41

know one thing i want to go back uh it's it's not just about uh numbers it's also about projects and so with your

2:20:47

direction tonight for example at a 50 50 scenario uh i will go back and sit with the staff team and figure out

2:20:54

um you know what that looks like i think it's important to have we can't sell 50 playgrounds right we we

2:20:59

need to be more thoughtful um to mr meyer's point about you know what would this buy us uh so

2:21:05

that would give us some direction we can we can revisit that same with pioneer park you know what are the exact deliverables

2:21:11

at that 50 level as opposed to the 100 level and be a little more specific about that

2:21:18

yeah i agree i'm here i i i think uh the deputy mayor the

2:21:23

mayor makes a very good point in terms of visibility uh leading to saleability

2:21:29

that's what i interpreted you saying yeah it's a better way of saying it and i think the you know

2:21:34

i i think pioneer park is harder to sell from that perspective you know do they plant

2:21:41

25 000 elm trees or this year or something you don't notice any of that you notice that if the iv all takes over

2:21:48

but it's like any asset that you have maintained i think it's once you get

2:21:54

behind you play hell catching up with it you have because you have not only the ketchup part of it but

2:22:00

you got the increment of work that you planned you would hope to be able to do

2:22:05

and that may be made more difficult if you aren't caught up and i i'm not

2:22:11

arguing against uh 75 percent for the parks because i i think your points well taken

2:22:17

but i uh i do feel strongly about getting back on on track

2:22:23

i the analogy and it's probably a bad one is the you notice the condition of the highways we we have appropriated

2:22:31

less money for highway maintenance in the state each year by about 50 then

2:22:36

then we have to do that the new work that's created and when you see the rebar showing on on

2:22:43

you know these bridges and everything we're going to be replacing those bridges huge cost now that's they're not all

2:22:50

relevant similarities but that uh i having talked to elaine before and some

2:22:57

other people about that the falling behind the further behind that i think was dangerous

2:23:04

let me just frame this up um a slightly different way i know a couple of you asked um before this meeting about funding the

2:23:11

luther burbank dock project you know jesse why isn't that on the list and it's not on the list because it's it's a

2:23:17

project that's happening in 2324 and it's a big project but i think about this a different way

2:23:22

by funding by putting capital dollars to other things it it frees up resources in

2:23:28

your parks cip to then be able to fund the luther burbank dock right so it's

2:23:33

all of these funds are compiled in your park cip and it it helps right all of the other

2:23:40

projects so it's another way to look at it um that's not like her yeah so i'm i'm

2:23:47

thinking about sailability jake thank you for that but i'm also thinking about our climate action plan and sustainability and

2:23:53

forest canopy and all of that so i really want us to keep pioneer park up on the list because that open space and

2:23:59

that natural residence and visitors to to get to and enjoy and making sure that that forest is healthy

2:24:05

for years to come and playing catch-up i think is a critical piece especially if it plays into our sustainability and

2:24:11

climate action plans and accessibility plans so i don't want to lose that just because we don't have kids running around

2:24:16

climbing on slides and swings i think that the forest and the open space is really really critical to our climate action

2:24:23

goals and climate change mitigation work yeah they are i i just want to make sure the

2:24:28

council stays aware of funding and opportunities for all of these things currently historically and moving

2:24:34

forward pse is talking right now about paying for carbon sequestration and using our

2:24:40

open spaces for that you know there's going to be funding opportunities that will come out of having the forest that can help pay for

2:24:46

the forest so just as we look at impact fees and we say growth should pay for growth we can actually look at

2:24:52

sustainability and say sustainability can pay for sustainability we have volunteers you know with i don't

2:24:59

know what the volunteer hour account was last year probably off because the pandemic but we were as high as something like 30 000 volunteer hours a

2:25:06

year you know no is going to to replace a playground but a volunteer will go into

2:25:12

pioneer park and help remove invasives so i don't want to create disincentives for what we've got going that's working

2:25:19

well what's coming down the pike that may be a huge benefit to pioneer park

2:25:24

and some of the creative things that the community is doing but again a levy that fails is not a levy at

2:25:30

all and so maybe when we come back june 21 we can have some funding scenarios that look at

2:25:36

you know what is the right calibrated funding uh given other mechanical means that we have for for the revenue side

2:25:44

uh that also honors what it is that you're talking about trying to make sure that

2:25:49

the force is there for the future generations at a quality that is higher than what it is now and the playgrounds

2:25:55

are equitably and reasonably replaced on a cycle that makes sense for what we can do and what

2:26:01

kids in the island need and age of equipment are do you need more direction than that when we've collected here tonight i've

2:26:08

got some notes and so if we need to talk later about

2:26:13

what people reflected we can look at the record we can look at the notes yeah

2:26:19

it seems like one thing we haven't talked about or maybe it's implied and misunderstood it um let's say for the sake of argument we do

2:26:25

uh put something forward for the full operations and maintenance and then 75 on each of the other two

2:26:32

do we envision that going on the ballot in the form of one measure or three separate ones or one and or two separate

2:26:38

ones how would it be packaged or is that so then we discuss next time yeah that's a great question actually a couple of you raised that prior to the meeting uh

2:26:45

you know the scenarios could you run two levies and i i think the answer my answer is not without a great amount of confusion

2:26:52

uh if you want the technical answer i'll have deanna pop on and explain why that becomes problematic to run two levees at

2:26:59

the same time let's do it yeah i'd be happy to just kind of weigh in with some considerations here um i i

2:27:07

do think it would potentially lead to voter confusion one of the

2:27:12

one of the um is wonky a correct term to use uh nuances and and requirements of

2:27:18

the levee liblif statutes is that you have to put into your ballot measure

2:27:23

what the maximum levy rate would be with the additional levee lid lift

2:27:30

included and so if you have competing measures or alternate measures

2:27:37

or i guess or multiple options with you know various packages the maximum levy rate depending on how

2:27:44

the scenarios work the maximum levy rate would have to capture all of the various scenarios if um you

2:27:52

know if folks choose options one two and three ballot measures one two and three would

2:27:58

have to capture that maximum dollar amount for one two and three so even though they might be approving different

2:28:05

projects the dollar amount that's listed has to contemplate that all of them all

2:28:10

three in this hypothetical will be approved alternatively a um

2:28:17

options before the voters where you basically choose one or the other may also get confusing

2:28:23

um so i wouldn't recommend it what we would typically see is

2:28:29

um various projects approved in the ballot measure

2:28:34

with discretion at the council level at the city level to

2:28:39

decide which projects are approved and when it's it's that maximum levy rate that

2:28:44

would i think would really potentially cause some voter confusion and just some overall confusion and folks are reading

2:28:51

and you only have so many words unfortunately to explain to voters what you're intending by the

2:28:56

belt proposition you really have 75 it's a concise description not to exceed

2:29:02

75 words and that 75 words runs out really quickly

2:29:09

we all know that well i also think you know the city council we get paid

2:29:14

all this princely money to make decisions in the best interests of mercer island

2:29:19

and i have every confidence that's what drives everybody sitting in the styles and uh

2:29:25

uh i think we'll come to something and i think we'll probably all and say

2:29:30

this is the best thing and we want you to vote for it and you know not having a

2:29:36

uh unanimous vote of us doesn't really help but i i i don't see that happening but

2:29:43

i'm i'm happy to make a decision and you know i may compromise

2:29:48

i may have to buy dave's 75 argument and and and i'm willing to fade those those

2:29:55

things in consideration what my six colleagues have to say but i think we need to make a decision and

2:30:01

be enthusiastically recommending it to the electorate okay mr mayor may i share one more screen

2:30:08

before we conclude one more slide before we maybe not maybe i shouldn't do anything

2:30:14

it's just a tricky question may i share one more slide before we conclude and it's not this one um

2:30:21

i just wanted to remind you this isn't for us to handle tonight but looking ahead

2:30:26

um there's a moment where we will also be need to begin if this uh ballot measure

2:30:33

goes forward in november which i'm sounding like we're we're on that path

2:30:38

that the council will need um well it is recommended that we help establish pro and con

2:30:44

committees to repair prepare the respective statements and the rebuttals for the election guidebook

2:30:50

so i'm just alerting you to that step uh down the road a bit

2:30:55

uh we would then one with your direction probably after the june 21st meeting i would imagine we would go out and

2:31:01

recruit similar to how we handle board and commission recruitments and then you would need to appoint pro

2:31:07

and con committees at a meeting in july it's a pretty tight turn once um

2:31:13

assuming you uh give us direction july 19th through a second reading of the ballot major

2:31:18

ordinance the pro and con committees have to submit their statements to king county by august 9th and rebuttals are

2:31:25

then due august 11th so i'm putting it out to the universe that this step will

2:31:31

be on the horizon and i will stop there

2:31:40

i presume that we're planning on including the uh exemption of low-income uh folks uh as part of the ballot

2:31:47

measure yes i um apologize i admitted that in the agenda bill but it and we did prepare a draft ordinance just kind

2:31:53

of the framework and that exemption is in that ordinance

2:32:00

okay so in terms of recommended action you don't need anything further from the discussion that you had tonight i will

2:32:06

work with the staff we'll put together a couple different scenarios based on your discussion this evening okay and we will make sure we get

2:32:12

accurate answers to the probing fire station levy assessed value

2:32:19

excellent question which i think is wise you probably got to faster than we we could

2:32:25

okay anybody want to break before we move on

2:32:30

no takers okay then we will

AB 6092: Transportation Impact Fee Rate Update (Second Reading Ord. No. 22C-06)

2:32:35

move to our next item of regular business thank you staff that uh supported that agenda bill very nice job

2:32:41

our next item of regular business is ab6092 transportation impact fee update second reading ordinance number 22c06

2:32:49

welcome interim cpt director jeff thomas deputy ncpd director allison van gorp

2:32:55

thank you mayor good evening council um just a quick sound check here can everyone hear me okay before we get

2:33:01

started excellent thank you um i'd also like to introduce i believe

2:33:06

kendra breeland our uh consultant from farron piers is here to support us tonight in the event uh

2:33:13

questions come up that require her expertise um this is the second reading of the ordinance and three weeks ago

2:33:21

the council completed first reading i had some work to do to follow up with

2:33:27

some responses from the discussion that evening and a couple questions that have come up since then

2:33:32

so allison is going to walk you through a short slide deck that will um summarize um

2:33:38

your contents of the agenda bill that's in your packet and then we can continue the

2:33:45

discussion from there with second reading so with allison i'll turn it over to you at this point
thank you

2:33:50

thanks jeff um this is alison van gork your deputy cpd director um hopefully

2:33:56

you're seeing my screen share does that look okay sure does

2:34:01

all right i'm just going to jump into my presentation i've got about 10 slides and um

2:34:06

hopefully can get through those and then we can take questions let's see

2:34:12

if i can get it to advance there we go

2:34:17

all right so i wanted to just give a little more background on kind of the mechanics and the
legal framework for

2:34:23

impact fees tonight um talk a little bit about the current exemptions that we

2:34:28

have in the merchant island city code two impact fees um and talk about the revenue that
we

2:34:34

have brought in since impact fees were adopted and and took effect back in 2016.

2:34:40

um then i'll briefly go over some a couple of updates in the rate study that

2:34:45

have taken place in their interim since our last discussion and then we'll have time for
questions

2:34:50

and tonight we're asking you to approve the rate study and adopt

2:34:56

the code amendment that would allow the rate study to be included as part of our annual fee

2:35:02

schedule update at the end of the year all right so this is a summary slide

2:35:09

repeating information from last time but i just want to you know make sure we're all on the same page and kind of set the stage

2:35:15

so impact fees are one-time charges that are assessed on new development they help pay for new or expanded public

2:35:22

facilities that serve new development so these are new capacity

2:35:27

that's intended to serve the the new residents or the new customers and businesses

2:35:34

the projects must be included in capital facilities plans and impact fees can only cover a proportionate share of the

2:35:41

project cost and they can't be used to correct existing deficiencies in the transportation system and they must be

2:35:48

expended within 10 years okay so to build on that i also wanted

2:35:53

to talk about a few things that most of these came up as questions last time so i want to circle back and try to provide

2:35:59

some more information impact fees in mercer island apply both to residential single-family

2:36:05

multi-family and commercial development this is because the state statutes

2:36:12

that enable us to charge impact fees require that we have a

2:36:18

established procedure and criteria for how the impact fees are applied and that

2:36:23

it's not arbitrary and based on the legal opinions that we've we've had from our city attorney and in speaking with

2:36:30

kendra sharon pierce it the consensus was that it would likely be considered arbitrary

2:36:36

if we were to levy impact fees say only on residential development for example

2:36:42

because both residential and commercial development affect the transportation system in similar ways like if you add

2:36:50

new dwelling units or you add new businesses they both generate new trips in a similar way

2:36:57

the second point on this slide is that impact fees are not transferable so they're assessed based on new

2:37:03

development so when a new housing unit is developed or a new business opens

2:37:09

the fee is assessed as a part of that development permit the building permit for example um and it applies to that

2:37:16

location and that site and so they can't be moved to a different location say if the

2:37:23

business were to relocate or if a homeowner were to move and build a new house

2:37:28

they need to stay with the location where they were initially paid along with the building

2:37:34

permit third point here is that impact fees are

2:37:39

tied to new impacts so like i was just saying if a new home is constructed

2:37:47

that would result in an impact fee if a home is demolished and then rebuilt that

2:37:52

would not result in an impact fee because it's not a net new home it's not an increase in the impact

2:37:59

of the transportation system it's merely replacing a house that was already there

2:38:05

likewise with commercial development um you know if there's a new

2:38:10

building created that would be subject to impact fees but also if there's a change in use in an existing space say

2:38:17

you have an office and it's converted to a restaurant we would look at the difference in

2:38:24

impact to the transportation system between those two uses and the impact fee would be charged based on that delta

2:38:31

between the two uses um and finally impact fees do not expire

2:38:36

so last meeting we talked about a 12-month rule like if a

2:38:42

space in a commercial building sat vacant for 12 months or longer then they would

2:38:47

need to pay an impact fee that was actually incorrect after going back and reviewing the state

2:38:53

statutes and our city code we found that while there are 12-month clauses and

2:38:58

several related pieces of our code a couple of which i'll talk about later on

2:39:04

in my presentation there's not a 12-month rule related to a change in use for

2:39:11

impact fees so when an impact fee is paid for a space

2:39:19

you know that credit remains with that space no matter how long it might be vacant in

2:39:24

the future so if one business paid an impact fee they closed down maybe the space was vacant for a year

2:39:31

and a half a new business came in again we would apply the

2:39:36

delta rule so we'd look at the change in use and the difference between the two

2:39:42

types of businesses the previous business and the new business and look at if there's any delta in the trips

2:39:48

that are generated by those uses and then the impact fee would be charged accordingly

2:39:56

that exempt certain types of buildings from transportation impact fees

2:40:02

so affordable housing is the first one and their affordable housing units that meet certain affordability levels are

2:40:10

exempt from 80 of the transportation impact fee um rebuilding after something like a

2:40:16

fire or flood or catastrophe can also be exempt if they

2:40:22

apply if they submit a complete building permit within 12 months of that event

2:40:28

similarly if you're remodeling or replacing a legally established building that would also be exempt if the permit

2:40:35

is submitted within 12 months of demolition so you can't tear down a building and let the lot sit vacant for years and years

2:40:43

and then expect to receive a credit for what was there before but if you're tearing down the building and working to

2:40:50

replace the building in a timely manner within 12 months then you do get credit

2:40:55

um condominium conversions so this is when apartment units are converted to condominium ownership as long as no new

2:41:03

dwelling units are created that is exempt from impact fees and then there's three provisions that

2:41:08

relate to sipa mitigation plan conditions or development agreements where

2:41:14

a project or an applicant is already providing for transportation system

2:41:20

improvements through one of those agreements then they would not need to pay an impact fee and essentially

2:41:26

pay twice for the same thing and then finally um retail and restaurant uses are also exempted

2:41:33

and what falls into this category is considered general retail so basically

2:41:39

any kind of business where they're selling a good um as well as supermarkets and then

2:41:44

restaurant fast food restaurants coffee shops donut shops bagel shops all of those kind of things but it does not

2:41:50

include bars so places where liquor is sold by the by the drink

2:41:58

okay now in terms of revenue since 2016 the city has collected 662 000 in

2:42:04

transportation impact fees from project applicants and the city has also backfilled about

2:42:11

177 000 in exempted impact fees so what that means is for those businesses that

2:42:17

were restaurant or retail and receive that exemption the city

2:42:22

is required to pay that impact fee instead of the business

2:42:28

and so we've we've backfilled 177 000 for those exemptions

2:42:35

excuse me so in total we've generated 839 000 in transportation impact fees

2:42:40

since 2016. can i ask a question on that while you're there sure if the city backfilled 177 000

2:42:48

for let's say a restaurant or a small retail and then later on that business closed

2:42:54

and then converted to something like a bank does the credit roll back to the city or

2:43:00

how does that work well currently the code just um

2:43:05

says that we should look at the delta between the two uses and calculate the new impact fee based on that so

2:43:13

say if a restaurant changed to a bank the bank has a higher impact fee than a restaurant and so then they would pay

2:43:20

the delta so they would they would not claw back that exemption amount

2:43:27

that's correct but they could

2:43:32

um made by the city when the previous business had opened but could the city choose to not let

2:43:39

that happen make the bank pay the full amount which would end up bringing the this is not the way our

2:43:44

code is currently written but it can be by law is my question

2:43:50

um i'd ask scarcity attorney maybe to chime in on that i think it could be

2:43:58

i also remember um nice

2:44:03

so your question is if uh if the city pays the um

2:44:09

the exempted impact fee and a different use comes in that is not exempted would

2:44:14

they would they be um would they have to

2:44:19

that would have to be specifically written in in the ordinance right now uh

2:44:24

you know if if you were to specifically write that the exemptions

2:44:30

um will be reverted back or thought back i believe um you know it's it's my opinion now

2:44:37

that uh that is that would be permissible i don't know of any uh restrictions in in the impact fees uh

2:44:44

statute that would prohibit the city from doing a claw back okay thank you for that oh and quick question for

2:44:50

allison again on the affordable housing units the percent of ami to get the exemption is what

2:44:57

it's 60 for rental and eighty percent for ownership

2:45:02

okay and so just uh to tell us what we have on mercer island we don't typically generate those units doing

2:45:10

um well in town center we have a requirement that if they want to go above two stories for a development they

2:45:16

would need to include i believe it's ten percent of the units need to be affordable to sixty percent ami

2:45:22

i think it might be a little higher than sixty percent if i recall quite correctly but the reality is those most often are rentals i think almost always

2:45:31

i mean with the newer buildings that have been constructed or proposed there's usually

2:45:36

you know like with the hadley apartments that was constructed several years ago there was 13 units that were affordable to 70 ami so they would not have

2:45:43

qualified for this but with the xinhua proposal that's currently in permit review

2:45:49

um i believe they're proposing that they will do 10 at 60 ami and so those units i

2:45:57

think it's 25 or 27 or something like that um they would re receive the exemption the 80

2:46:04

exemption for those units did you say they have to be ownership units or they can be rental units those are rental

2:46:10

okay very good thank you that's a good question any other questions about this revenue

2:46:17

slide yep deputy mayor has a question yeah allison um if we talk about this last time just

2:46:22

just remind me and i'll go back and look at the notes but um what do we do we have a sense of for these exemptions do

2:46:28

they line up pretty consistently around the region or do we do we have an idea

2:46:33

if this is is this sort of the norm to make it establishing this business sort of

2:46:39

attractive or is this something unique that we're doing i

2:46:45

believe this is fairly unique perhaps kendra might have more uh knowledge of what other cities are doing it is fairly

2:46:51

unique uh to do the exemption for retail and restaurants

2:46:56

i wonder if we need to work on promoting that a little bit

2:47:04

okay any other questions looks like we're moving on

2:47:11

okay so this slide is showing the proposed new rates for transportation impact fees

2:47:16

um these are the same as what was included in the packet for the last meeting with the exception of the

2:47:22

daycare rate and kendra took another look at this and

2:47:28

wanted to clarify first the unit of measure which i believe was updated to show you know 1 000 square feet of gross

2:47:34

floor area instead of just square feet um and also uh we included a 90 pass by factor which

2:47:43

reduced this to 491 i think it was previously 49 10.

2:47:50

and the reasoning for that is that um typically parents select daycare

2:47:56

locations that are nearby to their home or work or on the way between so that it's easy to drop off their children

2:48:02

every morning and pick them up and so those trips are usually linked and combined together so you know as you're

2:48:08

on your way to work you stop by the day care you drop the kid off and you continue to work so it's not really a whole new trip it's part of the trip you

2:48:14

were already doing so that pass by factor accounts for that and helps to reduce this

2:48:20

impact fee for daycares i think everything else remains the same

2:48:26

from what was in the packet for the last meeting

2:48:31

yes a question just trying to see if i'm doing the math right here so let's say we had two adjacent properties they're

2:48:39

greenfield there's nothing on them today and both of them developed to put in a 100

2:48:46

000 square foot building let's say property a does an apartment building property b does a business a

2:48:54

light industry industrial park uh so property a with

2:48:59

uh let's say it's 100 units um so that would be the second line from the top there the multi-family so

2:49:06

essentially would be 100 dwellings that would be 185 thousand dollars

2:49:11

for their uh impact fee whereas the light industrial park is 100 000 square feet

2:49:17

at two dollars and 21 cents per square foot so they end up paying 221 dollars

2:49:23

is that right no that is not correct i'll speak up on that that was just perplexing me as i

2:49:29

was looking at the slide um so actually as i'm looking at the slide what's going on is the

2:49:37

um the trip generation is on a thousand square foot basis but this is on a per

2:49:43

square foot so i apologize if that isn't clear um so

2:49:49

gosh i'm trying to maximize my screen again here um

2:49:56

so going back to the example uh that you're speaking to um so

2:50:02

the example was a hundred thousand square feet is that is that the example right so two buildings one's doing

2:50:07

apartments one's doing uh business essentially uh at light industrial park they're both 100 000.

2:50:15

so that is on a per square footage there's some interesting units of

2:50:21

measure if you look at the rate study which um i'd be happy to kind of walk through

2:50:26

it's fairly clear i think we've got on the slide it's a little muddled and how it's shown here

2:50:32

but um apologize that i'm not being as clear as

2:50:37

i would like to be um but it is on a per square footage

2:50:42

per square foot basis so the amount yes so you're saying for the light industrial park uh this new lane

2:50:49

industrial park that's 100 000 it would be uh two dollars and 21 cents times a hundred

2:50:55

thousand so they'd essentially end up paying two hundred twenty one thousand dollars okay correct so it's quite a measure column essentially you seem to

2:51:01

take out the one thousand that okay i presume that same for the warehouse storage that there would be 80 cents per

2:51:08

square foot not per correct correct

2:51:16

councilman reynolds well just following up on councilmember weinberg's free astute observation

2:51:22

which other ones besides those two are impacted by that are all the thousand square foot items really per square foot

2:51:28

correct okay so for a uh

2:51:33

general retail if it weren't exempted which it is it would be a quite hefty

2:51:38

uh 2.3 million for a hundred thousand then right um sorry i didn't i was going into looking

2:51:46

at actually this study correct okay that's quite significant

2:51:52

but even the 100 000 square feet of retail would be quite large

2:52:00

that's a walmart it was a admittedly we could have done the same example with the ten thousand square foot one it might have been a

2:52:06

little bit more realistic but uh yes okay thank you okay

2:52:13

very good carry on

2:52:21

okay so the code amendment that's before you tonight um is ordinance number

2:52:26

22c-06 and it amends section 1919.100 in the merchant city code

2:52:33

basically creating a reference to the most recent rate study and adds impact fees to the annual

2:52:39

development construction fee schedule adoption that occurs annually so basically what this means is we don't

2:52:45

have to come back to you every time we do a rate study and ask for another code amendment we can just adopt the new rates as a part of the annual fee

2:52:52

schedule adoption this was recommended by the planning commission and if you

2:52:58

adopt this ordinance tonight the new rates would go into effect as a part of that fee schedule adoption that takes

2:53:05

effect on january 1st 2023

2:53:11

okay all right so so we can either adopt this thing as it is and send it on its way the only changes

2:53:17

after that would be the rate changes or is there any impetus to make any other

2:53:23

policy level changes before it's baked go ahead councilmember jacob

2:53:34

for the economic development of our town center generally or

2:53:40

mercero round generally and town center particularly and

2:53:47

i'm i think one or a strategy that appeals to me is one thing to do is keep what

2:53:55

you got so in the instance of of a business moving from point a to point b

2:54:02

there may be a um considerable impact charge which may be a

2:54:08

disincentive for the people either continuing the business or to move

2:54:14

and we have a number of areas that are probably going to be

2:54:20

developed that have small businesses and i refer specifically to the rite aid property

2:54:26

i refer to the islandia center i refer to the tabit square

2:54:32

and possibly the um i forget what the the building is that's

2:54:38

just up uh just west of uh tabith center but that's that

2:54:44

has uh barrels and a number of other things excuse me

2:54:49

yeah boyd collection thank you and um i i'm not i'm i've talked to jeff thomas

2:54:57

about this and i think it's uh i'm not proposing to upset the apple

2:55:02

cart at this point with this ordinance although i think there are defects to it but you know there are always going to be

2:55:08

defects or something like this but i i i think it's something that we should

2:55:14

uh consider and my request is that we do a thumbs up or thumbs down to commission

2:55:19

this cpd to look at this issue uh because absent some kind of

2:55:26

authorization uh they're not going to do anything about it not because they're bad just because they haven't been

2:55:31

directed to do it and and i think it's really important

2:55:36

i i know of several businesses or i know at least at least two businesses that are

2:55:42

relocating and are impacted or are liable for impact fees which are

2:55:48

substantial and um and that's under the current you know current rates rates which

2:55:55

in certain instances increase with this ordinance and so mayor i would ask if

2:56:00

there's interest in the council looking at this because the business or economic development has

2:56:06

it's to invoke mythologies like the hydra multi-headed hydra and that is parking

2:56:13

is part of it impact fees are part of it

2:56:18

the what the pricing of retail is

2:56:25

for example youth mercer or whatever it is many of those retail locations just keep turning over or empty because the

2:56:31

rents are too high and and and i don't begrudge the owners of those

2:56:36

things for trying to get the rent they want but we have a number of empty things bennett's been empty for

2:56:42

two plus years now and

2:56:47

if we don't make an active effort to address all of these issues the parking

2:56:54

issue the uh impact feast and everything else we are going to be uh to a point

2:56:59

where we're going to have almost no retail in downtown mercer island and maybe not much on the south end

2:57:06

either i don't there are rumors that that that whole uh you know let's not perpetuate any rumors

2:57:13

here tonight though what's that let's not perpetuate any rumors

2:57:18

at any rate so uh and i spoke to jeff about this at some length and and i would think he'd be

2:57:25

more reliable uh his relate uh relation uh or is

2:57:31

saying what we discussed and how it impacts cpd would be more accurate than i so and i've talked to him about this

2:57:38

so uh there are two things one i'd like to hear what he has to say on the subject number two

2:57:44

uh if it's the will of the council to have cpd look into this we need to give

2:57:49

at least wave some uh thumbs up in the air to do it okay so um

2:57:56

jeff can you speak to that as to how that may or may not fit in with the economic development working group and

2:58:02

plans that are kind of on the horizon yeah thanks mayor and thanks councilmember

2:58:07

jacobson i think councilmember jacobson has done a good job team um is his issue up for the council here

2:58:14

this evening um what we discussed uh earlier today um

2:58:20

was this possible new exemption that could be

2:58:25

considered legislatively ultimately by the city council to add it to the code um

2:58:31

is part and parcel from the matter in front of you this evening so what i recommended uh or what i told council

2:58:38

member jacobson and certainly what i i told him i would recommend to the council is um take care of the business

2:58:43

in front of you this evening first and foremost by updating uh approving the update to the rate study and

2:58:50

adopting the ordinance to make the simple code amendment similar to what you

2:58:56

adopted earlier this evening on the consent agenda with the parks impact fee then

2:59:01

um if there is a desire by the majority of the council to

2:59:06

on an additional a possible additional exemption we would go and do that

2:59:12

bring that back present those findings to the city council in a relatively short order and then

2:59:18

the council then would be able to direct staff to actually put that on the docket for 2023

2:59:24

and then council could officially dock at that as a prospective code amendment that would then run through the regular

2:59:30

legislative process in 2023 which of course is you're well aware at this point goes to the planning commission

2:59:36

for a public hearing the planning commission ultimately makes a recommendation to the city council on the matter

2:59:42

and you have a final authority to adopt or not adopt such an amendment

2:59:48

council member jacobson then additionally uh we spoke about and he raised a good point in our conversation

2:59:54

this morning he said well waiting a whole year for you know

3:00:00

a legislative proposal to move through the system we may have mercer island businesses

3:00:06

existing businesses facing this circumstance you know within the next 9 10 12 months
whatever the

3:00:12

time frame is to go through the docketing and then the legislative review

3:00:18

the tool in the toolbox that the city council has ultimately used

3:00:24

on more than one occasion as recently as last september i believe with some state

3:00:29

uh legislative requirements that came down where we had to make some amendments to
our code on a certain time

3:00:35

frame the council may consider an interim zoning control authorized under state statute

3:00:41

where we could adopt an interim um exemption in this case

3:00:47

for up to 12 months with an appropriate work plan and that would then still allow us to dock
it and

3:00:53

go through a regular legislative review so we do have uh we do have an option

3:00:59

for this that we could work on and we do have um [Music] a couple different you know time
or

3:01:05

speeds that we could work on just do the regular review in 2023 or do an interim measure in
2022 and then the

3:01:13

regular uh process in 2023 then so in terms of

3:01:19

in terms of tying this to the top plan it's not necessarily um mer ex exclusively tied to the comp plan this

3:01:26

is really a code amendment to title 19 um so that's our

3:01:32

that's the process and that's what councilmember jacobson and i discussed earlier today

3:01:37

okay thanks for that uh councilmember reynolds i just want to seek clarification

3:01:44

from staff or from councilmember jacobson i think i'm missing something uh when councilmember jacobson when he

3:01:50

was talking about this the examples he gave were i think all retail and restaurant facilities

3:01:56

but i thought that retail and restaurant facilities were already exempt so what am i missing

3:02:02

effectively that is true you know there could be other uses that are not that that are in those spaces um well

3:02:08

for example a uh veterinary business is not a retail business okay but it's but

3:02:14

but i am correct that the retail and restaurant are protected is that correct that that's correct okay but yes

3:02:20

the devil's in the definition of what is retail and what admittedly so okay thank you

3:02:26

okay so uh just a quick pulse of the council is there a thumbs up thumbs thumbs up on

3:02:33

council member jacobson's proposal to look at exemptions that are not currently considered

3:02:38

and have staff return okay so that do you need any more than that we don't need a motion for that okay

3:02:45

while we're doing that i do want to circle back to this issue that i asked about i think it could be covered in the same use and that exempted use is then

3:02:52

later changed to a non-exempted use would the council seek to not allow that credit to be taken and

3:03:00

to claw that back so the example of a restaurant coming to mercer island

3:03:06

and taking the place of a defunct bank and then that later returning to being

3:03:11

bank that had an exemption of all those impact fees should the bank get credit

3:03:17

for that or should that just the bank pay from you know whatever the prior prior use

3:03:22

was staff would have to make the recommendation on that any questions on that

3:03:29

thumbs up on clawing that back so could that be added director thomas to

3:03:34

that same process that you brought about discreetly for sure we'll uh we'll take a look at

3:03:40

it we'll work with our uh city attorney and um our consultant if need be and we

3:03:46

can come back to you with some additional information on that in a staff recommendation

3:03:51

very good so can i have one more question yeah allison i think this this is covered under the exemption that's

3:03:56

sort of the the like for like replacement but just unclear if you if you were to own a

3:04:03

a business that is not exempt the building then gets torn down and rebuilt

3:04:09

are are you then liable for let's say your your space is now bigger

3:04:14

are you now liable for impact fees in some capacity or

3:04:21

i believe you would be liable again for the delta impact fees so say you tore down a

3:04:27

small office building and replaced it with a larger office building it's still the same use but you've

3:04:32

expanded it i think if you applied for the permit within 12 months

3:04:39

you could get credit for the impact fee that was paid on the smaller building but

3:04:46

i think we should double check that because it's not very clear in the code okay thanks

3:04:54

okay council is there a motion to approve the transportation impact rate study and

3:05:00

adopt ordinance number 22c06 the process for updating transportation

3:05:06

impact fees so moved second all right moved by deputy mayor

3:05:12

rosenbaum and who is that seconded by councilmember weinberg

3:05:18

i propose a friendly amendment um i'm concerned that the rate fee schedule still uh refers to per thousand

3:05:26

square feet in there and this should be subject to correction of the right fee schedule to clarify that these are per square foot per thousand square foot

3:05:33

i think that's correctly stated in the rate study itself i just um didn't include some of the footnote information

3:05:38

when i transposed that to the slide which made it confusing okay because when i look at table four in the rate fee study it says ksf as the rate fee of

3:05:46

the rate fee basis which i'm interpreting as a thousand square feet take a look at the footnotes i believe i

3:05:51

don't remember which number it is but one of the number five there's the first three are on the first page and actually

3:05:58

to go to the next page which the next two footnotes are going to fall onto that and when you read those together it

3:06:04

all makes sense i am taking this as a learning moment that there are probably ways that we

3:06:09

could improve kind of the clarity but as if somebody was to implement

3:06:15

these rates it would be correctly applied okay i i had not noted footnote five which is a little bit strange to

3:06:20

say that the units are for a thousand square feet are not a thousand square feet but okay

3:06:26

i'll retract my friendly amendment okay city clerk please call the roll

3:06:31

thank you mr mayor marines aye deputy mayor rosenbaum aye

3:06:36

council member weinberg aye council member weiker member reynolds aye

3:06:43

council member jacobson aye and council member andrew hi thank you mr mayor okay we're good

AB 6099: Adoption of 2023-2028 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Public Hearing continued)

3:06:51

uh marching on not seeing any objections to that so our next item a regular business is ab6099 adoption of the 2023

3:06:59

through 2028 six-year transportation improvement program public hearing continued from may

3:07:04

3 meeting and adoption uh this public hearing is now open as of

3:07:10

9 08 pm individuals who registered with the city clerk before 4 pm

3:07:17

today may make a public comment on this agenda item you'll be called to you'll be called by name when it's your turn to

3:07:22

speak please speak audibly and state your name city residence for the record and limit your comments to three minutes city clerk has anyone signed up for the

3:07:29

public hearing mr mayor there was no one who signed up to speak tonight okay

3:07:39

if there's no further testimony this evening the public portion of this hearing is closed as of 9 00

3:07:44

8 p.m welcome chief of operations jason kittner deputy public works director

3:07:50

patrick yamashita and transportation engineer leah klein

3:07:56

thank you mr mayor for the record i'm patrick dimash your deputy public works director the agenda

3:08:02

bill before you is for the adoption of the six-year transportation improvement program also known as the tip

3:08:09

uh given the late hour i'm going to forego our formal presentation and just do a really brief introduction i want to

3:08:15

remind you that back on may 3rd we presented the draft tip to you at that time you opened the

3:08:23

public hearing and continued it tonight then following your questions and answers and discussion you asked us to

3:08:29

come back tonight for adoption of the tip before you made that direction uh you

3:08:36

just wanted to remind you that you didn't ask us to make any changes to the draft tip so

3:08:41

the tip spreadsheet that you see in exhibit 2 of your agenda bill is exactly the same as what was presented on may

3:08:48

3rd so with that that concludes my brief introduction okay

3:08:53

council is there are there any questions or can i have a motion to adopt the 2023 through 2028 transportation improvement

3:09:00

program as reflected in exhibit 2. okay moved by councilmember wyker

3:09:06

seconded by councilmember jacobson any questions councilman reynolds i just want to make

3:09:13

a comment um i'm i'm generally supportive of the tip and i'll be voting to approve it and i commend the staff

3:09:19

for their good job on it but i just wanted to follow up on some comments that were made at the last meeting about this where

3:09:25

a number of us on the council commented that they were very pleased that staff was doing a great job and the city was

3:09:30

doing a great job generally in producing a good transportation network on the island and i

3:09:35

i don't disagree with that but i i want to plant a seed and i recognize this now is not the time to introduce this for

3:09:42

this year but i'd like to plant a seed for next year that when we next revisit this issue we take a harder look and recognize that

3:09:49

we've perhaps done a very good job for car based transportation but have been very derelict in our duty from what i

3:09:55

perceive as a duty on bicycle and foot based infrastructure in particular

3:10:01

i got some data from the puget sound regional council and did a little massage on it and if you look at

3:10:08

bike routes miles per hundred road miles that we have look at neighboring cities uh mercer

3:10:14

island is about eight kirkland is 16 redmond is 26. bellevue is 16. base is a

3:10:20

population of bike miles per thousand people mercer island is .72 kirkland 1.1

3:10:26

redmond 1.75 bellevue 1.17 seattle's the only one that's slightly

3:10:32

behind us due to their much larger population at 0.66 i think we're we're failing badly on

3:10:37

bicycle infrastructure and i also think that well we've made some fabulous progress with the uh

3:10:43

uh the the soon to be complete loop around the mercers i think there's a lot more that can be done to to work towards

3:10:51

making this a more sustainable community and i also think that there are other areas besides bike paths in terms of

3:10:57

sidewalks and other things like that to make it more foot friendly as well and i hope we have a broader discussion

3:11:03

thinking about that in the next year before we adopt this again quick question for you did did you include the mercer ways 14 miles or

3:11:10

whatever in your analysis i bike routes yeah the the the parts that are complete are included

3:11:15

in that measure there are some parts that are not okay great i hope you forward that analysis to the council i i

3:11:20

will happily do that city clerk please call the roll thank you mr mayor deputy mayor

3:11:27

rosenbaum aye councilmember andrea aye

3:11:33

councilmember weinberg aye council member jacobson aye

3:11:40

mayor niece aye councilmember reynolds aye and council member waker hi

3:11:46

thank you mr mayor very good getting close uh we now move to other business in the planning

OTHER BUSINESS | PLANNING SCHEDULE | EXECUTIVE SESSION | ADJOURNMENT

3:11:51

schedule city manager bond good evening again uh quick look ahead

3:11:57

to june 21st council i want to let you know we have uh we will have an executive session that night i'm not

3:12:03

sure if it will be at the beginning or the end of the meeting b.o is going to confirm that for us

3:12:08

your planning schedule had a hold for parks levy renewal discussion which we have confirmed tonight we will be adding

3:12:15

that agenda item and also just a heads up we should have a presentation on your community survey

3:12:21

results by that meeting as well looking ahead july 5th july 19th

3:12:27

nothing specific to call out and a friendly reminder that we are intending to take the month of august off at this

3:12:34

point as we get to the july meetings i will be looking for a motion uh to cancel those meetings uh that's all i

3:12:40

have mr mayor very good thank you are there any upcoming council absences

3:12:45

to report no i'm gonna request uh

3:12:52

a motion to excuse my absence on 5 12 17. i think you're already excused mr mayor

3:12:58

we did your excuse at the 570. okay no need for that uh council member reports

3:13:03

uh councilmember andrew nothing to report council member jacobson uh i

3:13:09

attended a the uh retirement party for uh marine patrolman uh greg levinson i

3:13:17

think it was last week and aside from you know honor honoring his service and

3:13:23

many police both current and retired were there it was great to see uh jan

3:13:29

devaney there and he is you know had a terrible auto accident

3:13:34

and he was in in a coma for three or four or five months and he has

3:13:40

fought like it you know like a banshee uh to recover

3:13:45

and he's in a wheelchair he says he can get up and walk around now with the help of a walker and uh it's it's just

3:13:52

terrific considering the two and a half years or so of hell this man has gone

3:13:57

through and he was our police and fire chief i believe for many many years 30 years or something like that preceding

3:14:04

uh chief holmes so that's a bit of good news and it's when anybody

3:14:10

has to go through that you you really feel for them but also if they come out the other end the way he has it's really

3:14:16

encouraging so i wanted to share that with you guys and uh you my colleagues here

3:14:22

and anybody who's watching at this point yeah and i'll concur it was great to see jan and he was the public safety

3:14:29

uh director i would guess when i was here growing up on island and he was over fire and police and

3:14:35

it was well loved in the community still well loved councilmember reynolds

3:14:40

a couple of quick things one last friday i attended an event at mercerdale park sponsored by a number of

3:14:47

gun violence prevention advocates on the island that was in response to the to the tragedy of aldi

3:14:54

and uh it was a quite moving event and good to get a chance to talk to members of the

3:15:00

community and share our thoughts about some of the related issues i wanted to thank the organizers for putting that together

3:15:05

also extended thanks to the mercedes police who were there uh providing security there was turned out there was

3:15:11

no need for them but i was very glad to have them there secondly uh just wanted and also want to

3:15:17

acknowledge there were i think five council members or so that showed up at various times at the event which was

3:15:23

very good to see um secondly uh the parks and rec commission met last week and while i was

3:15:28

operating on minimal sleep for the meeting despite that i managed to mostly stay awake and it was a very fascinating

3:15:34

meeting but a couple key things came out of the parks right commission meeting one is they're forming a subgroup to

3:15:40

look at alternate locations for syria which with the goal of

3:15:46

making some sort of a recommendation at their july meeting so that i believe they can come back to the council for uh

3:15:51

the decision in in the second meeting in july at least i think as i recall that's

3:15:56

the timing schedule um interestingly though they are at a prior meeting they had voted to

3:16:03

advocate for opening up uh making the necessary improvements at upper luther burbank to have a temporary

3:16:08

bike skills area and they explicitly acknowledge they're they're not changing that recommendation they still want to have the temporary

3:16:14

area in addition to continuing to look for a permanent location so that'll be an interesting discussion for us in july

3:16:20

i'm sure very good deputy mayor rosenbaum yeah um the superintendent's advisory

3:16:27

council met last week um that was very interesting that was my my first meeting with that group

3:16:32

um and it was interesting to hear they're doing some pretty exciting work with uh

3:16:37

consulting firm to sort of get some good groundwork for some equity work they can do within the

3:16:43

school district uh there's a pick meeting tomorrow night so i'll report back in our next meeting

3:16:48

if anything of note comes out of that um and i want to give a shout out to

3:16:53

a lot of the high school sports teams that had a really impressive run uh at state championships um i know that

3:17:00

i won't try to list them all but they're it was really good uh really good showing so congrats to all those uh high schoolers on on hard work

3:17:07

and great seasons very good councilmember weiker

3:17:12

um i'll say it's great to have the farmer's market back sunday was the first time ten to three um even if it

3:17:17

was a little rainy and those high school teams i will list them because i looked them up because i've heard about them now um it is boys baseball boys soccer

3:17:26

girls doubles tennis girls lacrosse and boys golf so shout out to those state champions all the way around okay

3:17:33

the next regular hybrid meeting of the city council is scheduled for tuesday june 21 2022 the time is now 9 19 p.m the city

3:17:40

council will go into executive session for approximately 60 minutes to discuss with legal counsel to

3:17:46

with legal counsel to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to rcw 42.30.110

3:17:54

paren one close paren paren g close paren no action will be taken following the executive session

3:18:00

again as a reminder the council please stay seated until the city staff is terminating the broadcast thank you

English (auto-generated)