

# GMHB EXHIBIT 59

## 2023-07-05 City Council Transcript

0:30

good evening and thank you for joining the July 5th 2023 city council special

0:36

hybrid meeting city council is an executive session until approximately 7 pm thank you for your patience

1:59:54

good evening Mr Mayor we are now live thank you

1:59:59

good evening and welcome to the July 5th 2023 city council special hybrid meeting I'm mayor Salim Nissan this evening's

2:00:06

hybrid city council meeting is being brought to you by zoom we're also broadcasting live on mitv channel 21 and

2:00:12

on the city's YouTube channel before this meeting the city council was an executive session from 5 PM to 6 51 PM

2:00:18

during executive session we discussed with legal counsel one to consider the

2:00:23

selection of the site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such

2:00:29

consideration would cause the likelihood of increased price pursuant to RCW

2:00:36

42.30.110 parad 1 close paren friend little B close paren and two to discuss

2:00:42

the legal counsel litigation or potential litigation pursuant to RCW

2:00:48

42.30.110 paren one closed print the live close friend and three for the

2:00:54

planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by a governing body during the course of any collective bargaining professor negotiations or

2:01:01

grievance or mediation proceedings or reviewing the proposals made in negotiations or proceedings while in

2:01:07

progress pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 for N4 closed print little B

2:01:14

close paren welcome to all and thank you for joining us tonight council members please have your

2:01:19

microphones turned on for the roll call city clerk Andrea Larson please call the roll

2:01:26

thank you Mr mayor council member Andrew council member Jacobson

2:01:33

council member Reynolds here council member weiker here council member

2:01:39

Weinberg here Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum sure and mayonnaise here thank you Mr

2:01:46

Mayor thank you we have a quorum president uh next we have the Pledge of Allegiance Council please turn off your

2:01:51

video to ensure that the U.S flag is visible and join me in reciting the

2:01:56

Pledge of Allegiance I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the

2:02:02

Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and

2:02:07

justice for all

2:02:17

thank you we now move to approval of tonight's agenda if there's no questions may have a motion to approved agenda

2:02:26

the mode second okay moved by Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum seconded by council

2:02:31

member Jacobson city clerk Please spell the role thank you Mr Mayor Deputy Mayor

2:02:36

Rosenbaum hi council member Weinberg aye council member Reynolds

2:02:44

aye council member Jacobson aye council member weiker aye mayor niece

2:02:51

aye and council member Andrew all right thank you Mr Mayor thank you motion passes the agenda's approved our

2:02:57

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

2:03:03

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

2:03:09

to address the council may do so in person or by Zoom or telephone provided they registered with the city clerk by 4 pm today when it's your turn to speak

2:03:16

you'll be called by name remarks must be addressed to the council as a whole and not to individual counsel or staff

2:03:22

members as its elections election season please be reminded that state law specifically RCW

2:03:29

42.178.555 prohibits the use of City facilities for campaign related purposes

2:03:34

with limited exceptions accordingly please do not make campaign related comments during this time please speak

2:03:40

audibly and state your name and city of residence for the record there'll be a timer on the screen you'll have three minutes to speak when your time is ended

2:03:47

up thank you for your comments and move to the next speaker or item of business um city clerk please promote the first

2:03:53

Speaker our first Speaker tonight is Addie Smith

2:04:09

can everyone hear me welcome

2:04:14

one second sorry all right sorry about that can everyone

2:04:20

hear me yeah welcome my name is Addie Smith I want to address

2:04:25

a comment made by one of the council members at the last council meeting he said something about the city having a

2:04:31

Juneteenth event what else has the city done to inform the children and people about African American history which is

2:04:38

American history all African Americans were not free when General Gordon Granger sailed into Galveston Bay Texas

2:04:45

it was not the collective end of enslavement for African Americans Juneteenth is not our national

2:04:51

emancipation day Juneteenth is a story about when our enslaved ancestors were

2:04:56

freed quote unquote in Texas however many of our ancestors were still Enslaved the proclamation only applied

2:05:03

to Rebel States Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia North Carolina South Carolina and Texas it left slavery untouched in

2:05:11

Delaware Kentucky and Maryland the executive order Exempted States occupied by the union which were Tennessee

2:05:17

Virginia Louisiana and Missouri New Jersey and Delaware didn't want to free the enslaved there only final doing so

2:05:24

on January 23 1866 and February 12 1901 respectively these two states initially

2:05:30

rejected the proclamation does the youth and people of Mercer Island really know their American history the original sin

2:05:38

in America now I've come to this Council often since 2019 telling you all about

2:05:44

the hate crimes that my daughter and I endured at the hands of whites and Asians living here on Mercer Island this

2:05:50

all got started because the city of Mercer Island City manager was not monitoring the application and waitlist

2:05:56

process at all the contract signed by the city of Mercer Island and my former employers allowed the city to extend

2:06:03

thousands and thousands of dollars in waivers to my former Employers in exchange for allowing 20 percent of the

2:06:10

209 Apartments to be rented to low-income families the apartments lit

2:06:15

the the apartments in the 100 million dollar building were not being rented to low-income families they were being

2:06:21

rented to wealthy white people at the low income price and I know who they are when I was hired a white woman wanted to

2:06:28

live in one of them she didn't qualify for low-income housing this is against Federal Hood law and the

2:06:35

multi-family tax exemption laws which they all here ended in this in this city

2:06:40

and the city manager wasn't doing her job that's how my former employers were

2:06:45

able to get away with these local state and federal law violations when I refuse to help them violate the law they let

2:06:52

that white woman attack threaten harass and stop my daughter and I then she recruited nearly a dozen white and Asian

2:06:58

people to help her the police wouldn't do anything to help me they wouldn't write one police report this Council

2:07:05

wouldn't do anything to help us and receive my emails for months when I went to get a protection order judge Marcus

2:07:11

Naylor told me these attacks were part and parcel of the job and this city will eventually be held accountable for what

2:07:17

the police and this Council have allowed to happen to my daughter and I by the way during the gym Pro Era African

2:07:22

Americans weren't allowed to eat vanilla ice cream except for the all right nice speaker please

2:07:30

our next speaker tonight is Dan Winder

2:07:46

um senator

2:07:51

welcome um hi just doing a technology check here first are we okay

2:08:01

although I can do the intro while we're doing this my name is Dan Winder uh City restaurant

2:08:07

go ahead um so this is concerning the fire department and uh first state wreath

2:08:13

medical statement I happen to be a physician but then we'll talk about institutional concerns the medical one

2:08:19

is about um survival rates um time between cardiac arrest and

2:08:26

defibrillation and these are some pretty well known things by the American Heart Association

2:08:32

um in the first minute there can be a 90 Survival by 10 minutes it drops to five

2:08:38

percent um a rule of thumb is that it drops by 10 for every minute so I did some rough

2:08:45

estimates population of Mercer Island uh and national average we can expect about 30 arrests per year

2:08:53

um and so when we if we want to do a rough estimate number of minutes change

2:08:59

um would be for every minute it that it takes longer we can expect three additional deaths per year on Mercer

2:09:05

Island everything has a price including light but you have to pick what that price is

2:09:11

um that was the medical comment and then the institutional one is that I previously was living in Kirkland and it

2:09:17

went through some uh annexation difficulties I was in the non-annex area and uh the fire department changed as

2:09:24

part of that process we were given lots of assurances that our rate of response would not decrease however it did and

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they were unable to change that after the fact because of contract restrictions that occurred as part of

2:09:39

the merging of two fire systems and even if we are given assurances that there

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would be no drop in Services I have concerns that whenever you are surrendering administrative control to a

2:09:51

larger agency that can lose local control larger agencies don't have the same concerns for local values that we

2:09:58

would have and that we are potentially giving up things even we don't have them happening right away they are

2:10:05

potentially in the future as happened in the area just north of Kirkland um

2:10:11

local control means you get to choose things the way your local community wants and I think that is what we're

2:10:18

saying would like otherwise why doesn't Mercer Island merge with Bellevue if you

2:10:23

want to carry the city and extend the analogy um that's the main points I have to make

2:10:29

if you have a price for life we can do the formula

2:10:40

our next speaker Mr Mayor is Catherine Winder

2:10:48

I'm going to sit because I don't feel well with standing

2:10:53

um my words are I'm not going to stop emerging with another District I've been

2:10:59

around politics long enough that to know that you're already going down that path so just like with a new homeowner that's

2:11:06

signing on to buy a new house how I would advise them to be sure that their

2:11:11

sale was contingent upon inspection I'm going to give you some bullet points to make sure you do so you don't replicate

2:11:18

the problems that Kirkland had when they were taking over station 34 and our

2:11:24

response upon times did lower and there were four years of transition time that

2:11:30

were majorly more expensive not less expensive so here are the Exit Plan

2:11:36

strategies that you should add to your checklist first of all all agreements

2:11:41

should include an exit strategy if Services drop lower that allows you to

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return back to the status quo two a return of assets should be written

2:11:56

into those contracts so that if standards aren't kept you can come back to the status quo

2:12:02

three make sure that agreements with unions are in place before the merger is

2:12:09

in effect so you're not open to lawsuits like happened with Kirkland and Bothell

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make sure that your Island personnel are a percentage of existing Mercer

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Island citizens so response times can in a crisis remain the same

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and also before the merger set aside certain assets that are outside of the

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merger either to go to the fire department or to the city building such

2:12:43

as some fire hoses AED units and essential things so that in a crisis

2:12:49

that outside of your merger agreement that there's still safety

2:12:55

so what happened during the annexation with Kirkland is even though we were

2:13:01

told that response times would be greater and we'd be getting more responses the fire station was closed

2:13:09

we were told that we replaced that never happened six firefighters were laid off

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there were a whole host of lawsuits that came out of the Union

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and there were huge problems with transfers of assets that would cost the

2:13:28

city manager loads of time they actually had to hire additional staff to manage that transition and

2:13:36

um it was rebound branding of fire trucks being re spray painted listings

2:13:42

and dispatch coordination with the regional dispatch everything was

2:13:48

supposed to be seamless but it wasn't it cost a lot more and most thing that it

2:13:53

will do is our own City feel free to leave those notes with the the staff in

2:13:59

the room if you'd like our last speaker tonight Mr Mayor is Meredith tall

2:14:14

welcome

2:14:20

good evening mayor niece and members of the council thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight my

2:14:26

name is Meredith tall and I'm a lifelong resident of Mercer Island I'm also a board member of the Bellevue fire Foundation have a little more interest

2:14:32

and insight into fire Services than maybe other people have started to have

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I've been watching the process to adopt the regional fire Services model and feel a public discussion about the

2:14:45

merits of Bellevue and East Side proposals have been missing I urge you to slow down and create an opportunity

2:14:51

for more Island residents to evaluate and weigh in on both proposals and make sure we're making the best decision

2:14:58

please consider the following proximity does matter in a recent post to let let's talk couldn't illustrate it better

2:15:04

it highlighted East Side sending its ladder direct to structure fire on April 14th what it didn't mention East Side

2:15:11

arrived a full eight minutes after seven Bellevue units that arrived including a ladder truck picture that Bellevue units

2:15:18

were working to extinguish the buyer for a full eight minutes while East side's ladder truck was driving there

2:15:24

a fire progresses exponentially and if unchecked it'll progress quickly until everything is consumed the goal is to

2:15:30

get there and rescue people in time to make a difference for the people in the property do we want to rely on

2:15:35

additional help that's coming to the island in six minutes or 14. the closest True ladder trucks to Mercer Island are

2:15:42

both in Bellevue if you have a fire on my block and you confirm that if your east side is a regional partner then

2:15:48

we'll continue to rely on Bellevue to provide the same resources as in the past Bellevue provides the paramedic service

2:15:55

ALS does it make sense for Mercer Island team to be in that department Mercer Islands in a training Consortium

2:16:02

right now with Bellevue and Redmond at the Bellevue Training Center East side's Training Center is in Kent with South

2:16:09

County units in a comparison the proposals Bellevue has been accredited since 1998 and has a wsrb rating of fast

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two both of these benefits would convert to the island does this matter to us I haven't seen a rigorous debate on the

2:16:23

merits of the two proposals what exactly is on the pages and their impact Bellevue contracts with six other Urban

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cities including the dinette Clyde Hill and Hunts Point which I believe are more aligned with Mercer Island service

2:16:36

expectations than the rural communities that East Side serves uh and I believe that the Bellevue

2:16:42

Financial proposal was better I was expecting the process of weighing the merits of each proposal to be a more

2:16:48

open discussion when measuring the quality and cost mature fair treatment of each instead discussions have been

2:16:54

behind closed doors East side's a long way away it makes one Wonder are you compromising on the fire service that

2:17:01

offers the best protection for Mercer Island residents so that Mercer Island firefighters get a better employee

2:17:07

benefit in return for their complaint going away please think about what happens to our lives and property when

2:17:13

minutes and seconds matter I shudder to think about what could happen in the event of a regional disaster who do we

2:17:19

want responsible for sending us additional help thank you for your time I look forward to being part of the

2:17:24

discussion thank you there are no further speakers tonight Mr

2:17:31

Mayor okay well I have you I have a quick question for you are we moving to the study session are we doing consent

2:17:38

uh study session and then consent is after the study session okay next up on the agenda we have a study session for

2:17:44

ab6290 which is the comprehensive plan periodic update supplemental scope and schedule for which will welcome CPD

2:17:50

director Jeff Thomas welcome good evening mayor good evening Council for the record Jeff Thomas with CPD

2:17:58

um before we get started with the presentation that Adam is going to bring up here I believe momentarily I would

2:18:05

like to make a few introductory comments um first uh city council will recall

2:18:11

that it approved a resolution in March of uh last year 2022 that set a scope

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schedule in public participation plan for the completion of the 2024 comprehensive plan periodic update

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um staff noted at that time and several times since that several balls were

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still up in the air from the Washington State Legislature and by extension the State Department of Commerce especially

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with respect to House Bill 1220 after many months that have passed by we

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believe that we now have all the information we need to forge ahead and

2:18:51

complete this effort of updating the conference of plan therefore

2:18:56

um what uh we're here for tonight is for staff to present to you a supplemental scope of work which is additive in

2:19:02

nature to the original scope the council approved in March 2022 therefore all work in the original scope

2:19:09

will be completed as approved by city council plus the contents of the supplemental scope will work

2:19:15

um one important note I would like to make this supplemental scope of work is budget neutral therefore no additional

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funds are being requested or needed for completion of the effort

2:19:27

um council did appropriate funds for the overall comprehensive Plan update in the fall of 21

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and the city has also received Grant funds from the State Department of Commerce to complete this effort

2:19:39

so with that um I'd like to introduce senior planner Adam Zack who is going to run through

2:19:45

about a half dozen slides or so with some additional detail regarding the supplemental scope of work and deputy

2:19:51

director Allison Mancorp is also here this evening and she will assist uh in helping answer any questions that you

2:19:57

may have with that Adam go ahead and walk us through the slides

2:20:04

so as Jeff mentioned uh the original scope of work for the comprehensive Plan

2:20:11

update was adopted last March uh the March of 2022 and that update is

2:20:17

currently underway um we've we've made pretty good progress on

2:20:22

um quite a bit of the of the Plan update with the Planning Commission the

2:20:27

economic development work group but there's recent Statewide legislation and

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that guidance from Commerce is requires some additional tasks for our comp plan

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update um specifically um House Bill 1220 which was adopted in

2:20:44

2021 this is probably the biggest change for us in terms of comprehensive Plan

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update um and the Washington State Department of Commerce has issued some guidance on

2:20:57

how to comply with House Bill 1220 just as a reminder this is the the bill that requires cities to plan for housing for

2:21:05

all economic segments of their projected growth and then also to look at and

2:21:12

evaluate housing policies for potentially racially disparate impacts um so Commerce has given us guidance on

2:21:18

both of those pieces House Bill 1110 which was adopted this year is the middle housing bill and the

2:21:25

majority of the work for House Bill 1110 is really going to take place in

2:21:31

um in development code amendments but there's some minor policy changes that

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will be necessary to ensure that our comprehensive plan um is consistent with what what changes

2:21:43

may be coming for Middle housing and then House Bill 1337

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is the accessory dwelling unit bill which changed some of the requirements

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for adus and this too is another one where most of the work is going to be

2:22:00

code amendments but during the comprehensive Plan update some minor policy amendments will also be necessary

2:22:06

so our supplemental scope of work is directed at the additional tasks associated with all of those

2:22:13

um as I mentioned the Department of Commerce has issued some guidance

2:22:19

um about complying with House Bill 1220 it's given they've given us some

2:22:25

direction on how what steps we need to do to determine our housing capacity for all of those income segments and what's

2:22:32

what's going to be required in terms of planning for um those income segments and then

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they've also the Department of Commerce has also given us some guidance on how

2:22:43

to evaluate our housing policies and event uh identify potential racially disparate impacts of those policies so

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that all that work will be taking place or the tasks of the supplemental scope

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are really directed at doing those um those uh analyzes and and updating the plan

2:23:03

accordingly um so the the supplemental scope that

2:23:10

was attached with the agenda bill would add some more tasks to

2:23:15

um to our work on the comp plan update but it wouldn't change the originally adopted scope

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um this doesn't this doesn't amend those tasks that we've already decided to do

2:23:26

um and it also wouldn't require any additional budget allocation as Jeff mentioned

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um the what we're targeting with this is to

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um begin working on this um once the once the supplemental scope

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is approved we're planning to initiate work this month um and it will run through February of

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next year um that's when the Planning Commission would take up their legislative review

2:23:54

of the comprehensive Plan update and then we'll be working towards adoption of the comprehensive Plan update by the

2:24:01

end of June in 2024. um I also should mention that we

2:24:08

um I I didn't mention it when we were taught when I was talking about the bills earlier but there were previous

2:24:14

um we we discussed those bills with the council at the planning session in May so we we've covered um what those

2:24:22

additional tasks would look like there some of the key Milestones from the

2:24:28

supplemental scope of work um so as I mentioned we would start work um this month

2:24:34

um doing the analyzes required by the Commerce guidance and then we plan to

2:24:40

wrap up that work in September or October and then come to the council for

2:24:46

a briefing on what came out of those analyzes and then one of the key steps

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in in this process is in December the council will give direction on a

2:24:57

preferred housing alternative so you'll consider those uh the outcomes of those analyzes and then and then give us a

2:25:03

direction of where you want to go and then from there in January of next year

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will take that direction to the housing work group and begin reviewing the

2:25:14

housing elements and Link that back up with the um the overall comprehensive Plan update

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in February when the Planning Commission will begin their legislative review on

2:25:28

that work and then we're targeting the end of June for um concluding the project

2:25:35

um so now I'll turn it back over to Jeff um to cover kind of the next steps and where we're going

2:25:41

yeah thanks Adam uh Council this is our last slide and um in addition to uh hopefully answering

2:25:48

any questions you may have this evening and taking any comments that you may have the working idea here is uh we

2:25:55

would wrap this study session up tonight uh finalize the supplemental scope of work and bring it back uh to your agenda

2:26:04

for your meeting on July 18th and have you approved a resolution for the

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supplemental scope of work and the rubber will hit the road

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um almost immediately thereafter as Adam just pointed out on his uh his high level uh timeline that he provided there

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during the slide deck there's a lot of work to do in a short amount of time and

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um we have been busy working on many other elements of the comprehensive plan to date including the New Economic

2:26:34

Development element but um this this housing element is really going to bring much of the work together and will

2:26:41

probably be the final draft piece uh before the the formal legislative process begins in early 2024. so with

2:26:51

that mirror we'll turn it back over to you and the council uh for any questions or comments that you may have thank you

2:26:56

Adam very good thank you councilman Reynolds yes Mr Thomas I'm very interested in the

2:27:03

uh the racially disparate impact language I I'm not familiar with how that phrase

2:27:09

is generally interpreted in land use policies but where I am familiar with it is is an employment

2:27:14

and I I assume it's similar that it's suggesting that even if we're not

2:27:19

intending to impact One race differently than another if our policies results in

2:27:24

a different impact on different races then we have a problem so the first question is that true and what's the

2:27:30

general context of or concept of what that means in a housing cons context

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where if we have policies that encourage for example uh single-family housing at the

2:27:43

expense of multi-family housing and might therefore lead to a higher a higher priced property on the island

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do we have a racially disparate impact at that point and does that get us in trouble

2:27:55

yeah thank you council members so um this is um fairly new to us as a result of House

2:28:01

Bill 1220 so we've uh Adam in particular has been been spending a lot of time

2:28:06

unpacking uh not only the bill itself but the guidance that's been provided by

2:28:12

Commerce and uh I'm gonna I'm gonna let Adam uh maybe give a an executive

2:28:17

summary of uh where we're at with our understanding of that and what we plan to forge ahead with in the supplemental

2:28:24

scope of work sure so there's uh it is it is a tricky

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thing to analyze um I think that's the the gist of of the guidance from

2:28:37

Commerce so what what they intend or what they've directed us to do is to

2:28:44

take a look at the some of the data around housing and how that's changed

2:28:49

over time and like how demographics on the island have changed over time and

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then compare that with our our policies uh from that that time period and then

2:29:02

where those policies may be affecting some of that that's where we would

2:29:08

um direct um possibly some some code Amendment or some policy amendments essentially the

2:29:15

way it'll work in the in the scope of work is that we will will prepare a report that looks at those

2:29:22

um at the housing policies that we have currently and then also some of that housing data and then makes those

2:29:30

connections as as outlined in the guidance um so it

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it probably won't be as simple as there's you know a policy about

2:29:40

single-family housing and that means it's an impact there's a little bit more Nuance there

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thank you I just encourage you to keep your eye on this it's it's it's an area

2:29:55

we could make a mistake that would be unfortunate yeah we are

2:30:01

um we are rowing uh in the same boat as all other jurisdictions in the Four County area that are moving ahead with

2:30:08

the 2024 update so um I think it's fair to say we're going to learn some more along the way here

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um both from the state and from some of our fellow jurisdictions as well uh to

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complete this effort and to obviously to move forward for completion of the periodic update

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councilman Jacobson uh uh do you know if the racial

2:30:34

desperate racial impact considers all number of races or is it confined to

2:30:42

to you know one or two or three

2:30:49

go ahead Adam okay um their the guidance doesn't specify

2:30:54

um that we need to look at one or two or three races above others it's it's

2:31:00

looking at it uh holistically yeah one could you send me a link to the

2:31:07

guidance from Commerce I just be interested in saying thank you

2:31:13

councilmer Weimer so uh will the study of racially disparate impacts of policy and

2:31:20

regulation also be addressing the racially disparate impacts of the lack

2:31:26

of policy and regulation or the lack of the enforcement thereof

2:31:34

that's a that's a good question um I think it's it's hard to say

2:31:40

so the guidance is pretty specific in that it wants us to look at policies that are enacted I think that if there's

2:31:48

if as we're going through that if something jumps out as we should enforce

2:31:54

something more um that we haven't been in the past or undertake some other work I think that

2:32:00

that would that would be something that we can address during a comp plan update

2:32:06

um but the guidance really is focused on policies that are on the books I would encourage us to look uh both

2:32:13

inside and outside the box you know if there's a place where there's a bridge missing we shouldn't say well we can

2:32:20

never get across this water we should be thinking also about should there be a bridge here

2:32:27

okay councilmember Reynolds tell me a little bit about the the

2:32:32

structure of the project uh you know before the recent speed of state regulations we had a housing work group

2:32:37

that was already formed and had a couple three meetings I don't recall exactly but several

2:32:43

it it feels like now that the work group is being back-ended and fairly far

2:32:49

through the process before we get involved again is my read on that correct and if so was that a conscious

2:32:54

decision and on what basis and where exactly does the where where will you be in the process before the work group

2:33:00

meets again is Staff going to have the housing element already drafted at that point or

2:33:06

that's a good question um I'm not sure I would use the the term back-ended to describe this uh the the

2:33:13

problem statement here is when we initially set out in March of 2022

2:33:20

um we weren't aware at that point of the

2:33:27

requirement to accommodate the affordable housing targets that were being developed at that time

2:33:33

as a result of house bill 1220. so the initial Vision here was to update the housing element

2:33:39

in synthesis with all the other elements of the conference of plan uh

2:33:45

except for the fact that we're developing a New Economic Development element but the the original task that was put

2:33:52

forward for the housing worker was much more straightforward and simple than what it's turned into over the last 15

2:33:58

or so months so as we've waited on Commerce to develop guidance on House Bill 1220

2:34:05

specifically um the task for the housing work group has gotten much larger much more complex

2:34:12

and which which then resulted primarily in this supplemental scope of work being developed and brought to council as

2:34:19

we've learned uh and figured out along the way

2:34:24

what we're going to need to do to get the job done so um

2:34:30

a larger a larger Mission at this point than what was originally set forth uh in

2:34:35

March of 2022 for the housing work group and for the city in general in terms of the process on how we're

2:34:42

going to proceed um we've got to go do some of this background work as Adam has laid out

2:34:49

before we can really come back to anybody to

2:34:55

um to provide the report and to start making some decisions about how to move

2:35:00

forward um the part in the presentation about the preferred housing alternative that

2:35:06

specifically relates to the um how we're going to accommodate

2:35:12

the affordable housing targets that we have since been assigned

2:35:19

since March of 2022 when the original spoke was approved so we feel it's

2:35:26

important for Council to put that in motion and then we'll work up through the housing work group The Planning

2:35:31

Commission then ultimately back to city council with what that will look like and Council will consider that

2:35:37

legislatively between in mid-2024. um yeah go ahead so I'm still unsure I'm

2:35:45

following the last specific part of my question or the answer to it the housing work group it shows his

2:35:51

meeting in January is is that the first meeting and what will be done before then you'll have the analysis done from

2:35:58

what I understand will a draft policy exist at that point as well do you have enough guidance from from the housing

2:36:04

work group to begin that drafting process already what's what's the situation we don't have enough

2:36:09

information at this point to formulate policies and objectives so to answer your question directly or that part of

2:36:15

the question directly the housing work group will be intimately involved at that point in crafting or amending

2:36:23

existing crafting new or amending existing policies to bring the how the

2:36:28

draft housing element together and that that process will start for us in January is that correct that process

2:36:35

will start for the housing work group in roughly okay thank you yeah rosenbaugh

2:36:41

yeah uh Adam Jeff a question for you a little kind of crystal ball here uh you

2:36:47

know we've been waiting for guidance of Commerce on this for some time and it sort of came in stages

2:36:52

and then you know sort of legislative session big question that we kept working on with you know how will 11 10

2:36:58

and 1337 interplay with 1220 um so to the extent that you can tell us

2:37:05

do we feel like the guidance on 12 20 is is final and how much guidance or I

2:37:14

guess the better question is when do we expect guidance on the next two pieces the legislation that

2:37:20

were passed this year and how does that impact your schedule I mean I I understand I'm asking an impossible

2:37:26

question here but I am sort of curious to to what extent do you think that this guidance is

2:37:32

you know something that we can really work off of or is this going to be something that you know in three four months here when other cities start you

2:37:37

know working on this as well that we realize hey we've got some real conflicts here we gotta we gotta iron out in some way and then the whole thing

2:37:43

moves to the right again yep um to answer the first part of that question

2:37:49

uh I believe we believe at a staff level that the guidance on 1220 is about as

2:37:55

final as it's ever going to get from Congress um if we learn anything else from

2:38:02

Commerce on 12 20 it's likely going to be some sort of a denim or or you know

2:38:07

supplemental but we're not at this point we're prepared to forge ahead and not rely on Commerce for any additional uh

2:38:15

guidance or wisdom at this point we may learn some things here along the way as we go about our work but

2:38:22

um we're we're we're not waiting for the phone to ring with Commerce on the other end

2:38:27

um in regards to the other two bills Deputy Mayor that you pointed out um I believe there is going to be some

2:38:35

guidance emerge from Commerce on those bills I also

2:38:40

believe that we as a staff group have a have a fairly strong understanding of those bills at this point certainly a

2:38:47

stronger understanding than likely many other jurisdictions uh primarily as a result of

2:38:53

um that all the hours that that all of us collectively put in during the legislative session

2:38:59

um Adam and Allison and I and a few other of our planning staff have sat in

2:39:04

you know various forms and and you know just short training sessions on all of

2:39:10

this and heard other jurisdictions as well as you know Commerce and the county speak  
and

2:39:16

um it feels like a lot of the time we already know what they're saying and we're going to say  
because of all that

2:39:22

time that had already been put in so um yeah we'll likely see some information emerge but  
we also feel good

2:39:28

about moving ahead and um tying all this together both at the policy level with the comp

2:39:35

plan and then necessary code amendments that will uh that will emerge very quickly along  
the way with the complaint

2:39:42

as well great thanks councilman weikert yeah so drafting off that crystal ball comment uh  
Deputy

2:39:49

Mayor Rosenbaum said um Adam thank you for all your work and Jeff trying to navigate  
what we're doing and what other

2:39:55

cities are doing trying to figure this all out uh my question is uh during the next legislative session if there's

2:40:01

another bill that comes our way that impacts this work how do we respond and how might all this work just not even

2:40:08

matter like tell me what you think about that uh well we'll we'll all fasten our

2:40:13

seat belts to start with um uh there is some strong suspicions out there that the Senate Bill 5466 I

2:40:22

believe was the number from this legislative session regarding um oh the the you know the denser option

2:40:29

for um you know the town center and so forth that we may see something like that come back

2:40:36

um frankly uh council member I I it will be very interesting to see how the legislature responds to implementation

2:40:43

deadlines for any Bill like that in the next session given you know

2:40:49

um certainly the the Metro Seattle counties are all in you know cities within are

2:40:55

all forging ahead here for the end of 24. one thing we didn't point out in our presentation which is worth noting here

2:41:01

for the Council on record um when Council approved the original scope of work uh back in March of 22 the

2:41:08

the deadline for King County and jurisdictions within to complete this effort was June 30th 2024 so that's the

2:41:15

schedule that was put forward at the time the legislature did extend um you know the deadline to December 31

2:41:23

2024 we we have not moved our end date Target

2:41:29

we would like to get it done as early as possible so we're going to work as diligently as possible to meet the

2:41:34

original June 30th deadline for any bills that come forward I don't

2:41:40

see implementation dates in 2024 for those next year so

2:41:47

um you know they'll have to look at options to see you know what their options are and and what the I guess

2:41:52

what the will of the majority is right so it's tough to predict but it's also

2:41:57

tough seeing seeing new bills come out next spring with a 2024 deadline and rumor has that

2:42:06

there is one so I invite us to move that conversation to our legislative agenda setting later this fall yeah for sure

2:42:13

Adam I'll take a quick question on Commerce guidance have they

2:42:18

do you recall how they finalized the density around different Ami bands and

2:42:24

does most of Mercer Islands portable housing Target need to be in a certain type of density

2:42:31

good question so the the way that the guidance is structured is that they

2:42:37

assume that a more dense units are more affordable um or are more likely to accommodate

2:42:45

uh lower income um uh lower income targets and the city

2:42:53

currently most of our capacity is in high density mixed use and multi-family

2:43:01

um you know in the town center and the multi-family area around there um so it's it's likely that

2:43:09

um looking at the guidance it's likely that there's it's not necessarily going to

2:43:15

require whole scale changes it's it's more looking at just

2:43:21

increasing the capacity that we have and the reason I bring that up is that you know when we look at the sheer number of

2:43:27

affordable housing units that are ascribed in our Target I think around 1200 or so 1100 or at the 50 Ami

2:43:34

abandoned below uh Department of Commerce had in the draft guidance a

2:43:40

table that said if you conform to this table it's basically uh your comprehensive plan will be compliant but

2:43:48

it suggested that it was infeasible to create these 50 Ami and Below units

2:43:54

outside of a density that was less than you know apartment type densities is

2:44:00

that did that kind of carry through the the final guidance it did yeah and I

2:44:05

think tied in with this one of the things that we'll be analyzing with looking at 11 10 the moderate density

2:44:12

the middle housing capacity that that's going to add that

2:44:17

also will affect how that what what capacity we have available for like

2:44:23

middle income and you know that 50 to 80 percent ban so there's a lot of number

2:44:28

crunching that's going to take place in the next two months to to figure out where exactly we need to make those

2:44:34

changes but we'll we'll have some data to back up the decision making I think that's the

2:44:39

one of the the key pieces of this is that the analysis that we're going to do in the next two or three months is going

2:44:47

to give you data to make a solid decision about how how we accommodate

2:44:52

that and and you'll know it's based on something um but in terms of setting the stage for

2:44:57

how 1110 interplays with 1220 and our specific targets there's really not a

2:45:04

lot of potential with 11 10 middle housing you know with incentive units in

2:45:09

single-family zones to be able to meet the the targets that we have Under 12 20 just because the the way Commerce is set

2:45:17

up the structure of that the density isn't there to really say that we've meaningful meaningfully deploy the

2:45:24

strategy that's likely to produce a unit or when you think of a mental housing unit of course if it gets built it would

2:45:32

count but in terms of a strategy to housing production which leads me to my next question when we think about RDI

2:45:38

you know racially disparate impacts the the 1220 requirements around housing

2:45:44

production right they're not asking us to look at RDI or other aspects of the

2:45:50

city code you know um Parks or something non-housing related

2:45:56

the work that we're that you're embarking on is really around housing production is that right

2:46:01

correct yes the the policies of the housing element um specifically yeah

2:46:09

okay Council any other questions going twice well thank you uh for the

2:46:15

update and we look forward to seeing you back July 18th thank you thanks thank you and next up on the agenda we have

2:46:21

the city managers report which we will welcome city manager Jesse Bond oh

2:46:28

good evening City Council I have my colleague Deb Estrada in

2:46:34

another room and she is going to drive the PowerPoint for me

2:46:42

there we are thank you so much Deb

2:46:48

all right it is Wednesday July 5th go ahead to the next slide

2:46:55

and the one right after that Council this uh this slide is a repeat

2:47:02

but just in case anyone is joining us this evening for the first time I will remind you that we emergency closed City

2:47:09

Hall at the end of April this was due to the discovery of disturbed tiles in the

2:47:16

boiler room and the presence of asbestos which was later confirmed to be in a

2:47:23

portion of the HVAC system I will share again that we're continuing to work on

2:47:29

abatement scenarios for the building I plan to provide an update to the

2:47:34

community and the council at the July 18th meeting in the meantime based on what I know today it is unlikely that we

2:47:42

will be in a position to reopen City Hall in the next several months so I am

2:47:47

talking with my staff team the outside consultants and of course the city council about Alternatives in the

2:47:53

meantime our court is continuing to be held at Kirkland facilities we have

2:47:59

staff teams and spread out through all of our city buildings and many teams are

2:48:04

also working remote so more to come on that

2:48:09

looking ahead at your council meeting schedule our next

2:48:15

meeting is Tuesday July 18th we're continuing to meet in this Zoom format

2:48:21

given the closure of city hall and then Council after July 18th we will be off

2:48:26

for the month of August that was something we have affectionately refer to as the August recess

2:48:33

here's a look at the board and commission meetings that are upcoming this Thursday tomorrow actually the

2:48:38

parks and rec commission will be meeting and the utility board will be meeting next week and then all of our boards and

2:48:44

commissions also take the month of August off we update all of our board

2:48:49

and commission we keep all of our boarding commission calendars updated on our website and the link is there at the

2:48:55

bottom of your screen next slide speaking of boards and commissions it's

2:49:01

just a reminder we have a vacancy on the Arts Council and our recruitments are open through August 25th so we welcome

2:49:07

everyone helping out to recruit applicants and we'll be making Council I

2:49:15

believe you'll be making that appointment provided we have applicants at your September 5th city council

2:49:20

meeting next slide

2:49:26

City updates it's typical following the Fourth of July holiday that I just do a

2:49:31

quick check-in with you on the types of calls and incidences that incidents that we were responding to so the first slide

2:49:39

here is on fire from July 1st until this morning the fire department responded to

2:49:45

31 calls for service 20 of those were medical and 11 calls required a response

2:49:51

by a fire engine as I understand it was a mostly normal few days ranging from automatic fire

2:49:59

alarms a structure fire I suppose I should qualify that as normal

2:50:04

um bark fire and one firework related kind of bush grass fire

2:50:09

that was put out before we we even got there the image on the right is the

2:50:15

calls that we responded to it's a little heat map that shows intensity overall it was mostly good mostly normal

2:50:25

a few days with fire department responses I do want to say thanks to the

2:50:30

fire department it's been particularly dry I know going into this holiday we had some concerns but Mercer Islanders

2:50:38

we thank you all for following the rules and practicing safe and sane fireworks

2:50:44

next slide please and this is on the police side certainly police were busy

2:50:50

covering not only the island but also Lake Washington uh this report is just

2:50:55

for yesterday Patrol responded to 22 calls for service regarding fireworks

2:51:00

including the the Bushfire that I was just referencing a moment ago Marine

2:51:06

Patrol was really busy we had two Patrol vessels out on the lake throughout the day in the evening

2:51:12

lots of boaters on the lake if you were out and about um it was it was really busy

2:51:19

including an estimated 150 vessels in maidenbauer Bay for the evening

2:51:24

fireworks show so that is a Bellevue event that we support with our Marine Patrol program

2:51:30

we did make many stops but no rest and the good news is that while some of the

2:51:36

vessels we stopped had alcohol on board the boat had a designated sober operator

2:51:42

so my thanks to both fire and police for all their work over the busy holiday

2:51:48

yesterday sorry Deb go ahead this is just a little promotional plug

2:51:55

here it is summer time here at the community center that's actually where I am this evening we are really excited to

2:52:02

welcome back if any of our camps from prior Summers and some new camp programs as well in total we have 50 to 15

2:52:10

different organizations offering summer camps to Mercer Island residents last week we had the J Camp

2:52:17

which is from The JCC and chess Wizards Kicking It Off keep an eye out in our

2:52:23

parks for pedal heads Camp that's the biking Camp tennis golf pickleball and

2:52:29

frisbee if you happen to be watching tonight you're interested in any of those programs I encourage you to visit

2:52:35

our website and check out all of our offerings this summer

2:52:43

speaking of busy busy summer it is a road maintenance time on Mercer Island

2:52:48

our right-of-way team is out and about doing a lot of work you can see them filling what looks like a very large

2:52:55

pothole in that image they are also working on vegetation control along our arterials this is that

2:53:03

time of year where it's dried out so thankfully we're mostly out of the crazy growing season but we have a lot of

2:53:08

ketchup to do because Mother Nature was giving us that run rain Sunshine combo

2:53:14

for quite a while there we're also working on uh replacing missing pavement markings so crews are

2:53:20

out we're really busy we encourage you to give them space so that they can do their work safely I will also add

2:53:28

council I shared with you but we are starting to experience some air quality

2:53:33

issues related to Wildfire fire smoke in our region so we are taking

2:53:38

we take our protocols and safety very seriously and we'll be modifying work

2:53:43

schedules and operations in the field when we need to do so

2:53:49

next slide right I am really pleased to share the

2:53:56

pictures of the completed Sunset and 77th Avenue intersection Improvement project we recently finished the power

2:54:03

connection to the flash flashing crosswalk Beacon Council you may recall

2:54:08

that was the last item of work that took us just a little bit longer than planned everything is functional now so go out

2:54:16

give it a give it a test drive we had to do some forensic work looking for the a

2:54:23

long buried electrical junction boxes so that that was actually specifically what

2:54:28

was taking so much time but they were located everything is operational we're really pleased that that intersection is

2:54:35

open on time and I'm pretty sure on budget thank you very much to our Public Works

2:54:41

team for getting that project done and I also want to give a shout out to the businesses that were impacted by this work thank you for supporting us and

2:54:50

providing us great ideas and we even made some operational changes and how

2:54:55

that how that work was handled to minimize or reduce some of the impacts so thanks to everybody we're back open

2:55:01

and ready to go uh this is a shout out you'll see us out

2:55:08

in the community this summer we are looking for your ideas for the

2:55:15

Mercer Island medallions project you may recall that artist Marsha rollinger was selected to help design these 12 bronze

2:55:22

pieces that will be incorporated into the Luther Burbank Waterfront um project that's part of the the doc

2:55:29

replacement project that will be underway next year we're in design right now so please please share your ideas

2:55:36

about these creative medallions the designs that you would like to see on those medallions we have more

2:55:43

information on our website at the link below and we will be out and about at our community events getting your ideas

2:55:49

about these these uh art medallions

2:55:56

wanted to uh just share with you Council the library is extending their hours

2:56:02

beginning July 16th they will be adding one hour to each weekday and uh we'll be

2:56:09

open Saturday and close Sunday so I think Deb if you've click to the next slide there we go

2:56:14

these are the new hours so we wanted to make sure everyone was aware that they too are continuing to

2:56:22

recover their hours following the pandemic next slide

2:56:27

upcoming events okay we'll go quick and then I'll wrap it up here the Bible junior art show we encourage

2:56:34

you to stop by the community center we have a beautiful exhibit on display there's kindergarten through 12th grade

2:56:40

artists here from the island they will all these art pieces will be

2:56:45

on display now through August 18th and if you're available we encourage you to stop by the artist reception which is

2:56:52

this Saturday from 12 to 2 here at the community center you'll have an opportunity to meet many of these young

2:56:57

artists and it is that time of the year again

2:57:03

mostly music in the park we will have six weeks of outdoor concerts at

2:57:08

mercerdale Park in our town center starting Thursday July 13th that is next

2:57:14

week at 6 30 p.m we have lots of partners that help us produce this

2:57:20

program our thanks to for culture the Mercer Island Community Fund Island treats classic pianos and my balls for

2:57:27

supporting us this year next slide

2:57:32

and it's almost here so very very exciting summer celebration a week from

2:57:38

Saturday July 15th we'll be at mercerdale Park we're really excited about the return of the parade we'll

2:57:45

have live music Community booths art vendors kids activities and more and

2:57:50

of course we want to thank all of our spark sponsors that are helping to make this happen we'll be doing lots of promo

2:57:55

promos for our sponsors in the coming weeks so Mark the date on your calendar if you haven't and don't forget while we

2:58:02

start at mercedale Park for the daytime events we conclude in the evening with a fireworks show at Luther Burbank Park

2:58:12

all right some good news and we'll bring it home

2:58:17

I want to give a congratulations to council member Wendy weiker who has recently re-elected to

2:58:23

the association of Washington City's board of directors you may not be aware but the association

2:58:29

of Washington cities it's an organization that we work closely with throughout the year on a variety of

2:58:35

Municipal issues AWC represents all of the cities in Washington state we are

2:58:42

really really honored to have council member weiker representing us again on

2:58:47

the AWC board so congratulations Wendy and thank you for your service

2:58:54

and finally a shout out and congratulations to our 2023 graduating

2:59:01

cert class cert stands for Community Emergency Response Team we had over 20

2:59:07

community members participate in the training this year which is a seven week commitment where they learn a whole

2:59:13

range of responsibilities including fire extinguishers basic search

2:59:19

and rescue and more and I want to remind the council in the community that it's these very community members that come

2:59:27

forward during times of emergency to support City operations so we're just really

2:59:32

excited to have 20 more people with uh cert training under their belts we also

2:59:37

want to say thank you to everyone that helped teach and serve as evaluators to the course including Pat Hackett Bob

2:59:44

Gilbert Bob to kulsker I'm so sorry Bob I do that every time Commander Seifer

2:59:50

Sergeant Schroeder Fire Marshall Hicks detective barrigan police recruit peoples and retired Officer Jennifer

2:59:58

Franklin congratulations everyone on your certification

3:00:05

[Music] and thank you that concludes my report for this evening excellent thank you and a big shout out

3:00:11

to uh Debbie mayor Rosenbaum and councilmember Jacobson who joined me on June 30th I think it was for Officer

3:00:19

Jennifer Franklin's retirement functional where it was overall books make from out of state they're out of

3:00:24

the region they came in to thank her for her a huge long career contributing to Emergency Management while building

3:00:30

Emergency Management in Mercer Island so that was great to see okay next up on the agenda we have the

3:00:38

consent agenda which contains ab6292 June 16 2023

3:00:43

payroll certification certification of claims for June 16 and 23 2023 and

3:00:49

certification of electronic funds transfers for May 2023 revised city

3:00:54

council meeting minutes of June 20 special hybrid meeting ab6293 Parks and Recreation month

3:01:00

Proclamation number 312 ab6295 Basin 40 cured in place

3:01:06

pipe sewer lining project phase two bid award ab6296 2022 arterial and residential

3:01:14

street overlays project closeout and ab6297 2022 Street related utility

3:01:20

improvements and project closeout is there a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

3:01:26

second moved by councilman Jacobson seconded by councilmember Reynolds please call the roll

3:01:33

thank you Mr Mayor councilmember Weinberg all right

3:01:38

councilmember Jacobson all right councilmember Reynolds aye

3:01:43

council member weiker aye Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum hi council member Andrew

3:01:50

aye mayor niece hi thank you Mr Mayor all right motion passes our first item

3:01:56

of regular business is ab6291 Town Center Park and study draft report and early actions implementation update for

3:02:02

which we welcome CI CIP project manager Sarah bluebus and mipd Commander Mike

3:02:08

Seifert welcome thanks Marin good evening Council let me just share my screen really quickly

3:02:21

okay can I get a thumbs up that you can see your presentation terrific thank you

3:02:26

uh for the record I'm Sarah bluba CIP project manager and I am joined by Mike

3:02:31

Seifert our operations Commander for mipd and we are here to provide an

3:02:36

update on the Town Center Parking study so tonight we're gonna walk through some

3:02:42

of the impacts from the Washington State legislative session then we'll go through some updates on our

3:02:50

implementation of early actions and we'll close out with the recommended recommended action and next steps

3:02:56

tonight our goal is to not only provide an update but hopefully seek your

3:03:01

approval to restart the process to approve and adopt the 2022 Town Center

3:03:08

Parking study report just a reminder about our project timeline so back in March we paused the

3:03:16

project while we waited the outcomes of the state legislative session which ended in April and we are here today to

3:03:24

give you the update and hopefully resume the report review I know you all have talked about the

3:03:30

legislative session a lot over the last several meetings so this will be a kind of quick recap we were watching a few

3:03:37

different bills from the house and the Senate that were working their way through the legislature you talked a

3:03:43

little bit about HB 1110 earlier during the study session this was one of the

3:03:48

bills that passed and this is that new legislation that mandates new missing

3:03:53

middle housing density in single-family neighborhoods and it also prohibits parking minimums for any new housing

3:04:01

that's developed within a quarter mile walking distance of the future light rail we feel that this bill will have

3:04:08

minimal impacts on the outcomes of the town centers parking study report in

3:04:13

part because it applies primarily to new housing density in single-family

3:04:18

neighborhoods but we do know that if new density is built it would likely push

3:04:24

Parker people who need to park their cars into the Town Center Zone especially if the new housing does not

3:04:32

require parking minimums so we're going to continue to watching to watch that one HB 1042 also passed this is another

3:04:39

one that limits our ability to impose parking requirements specifically for any additional housing that may be added

3:04:47

to existing commercial or mixed-use buildings so like 11 10 with no new

3:04:53

parking potentially developed as an outcome of these new housing units it

3:04:58

might push folks to seek other parking options in town center if their units are not offering dedicated parking

3:05:05

spaces HB 1293 also passed and this one requires a code update that will limit

3:05:12

the design review of residential development this is important because currently our parking program is part of

3:05:19

our current design review process parking stall quantities and their design are reviewed by the design

3:05:25

commission during that process so that is also going to be needed to be updated

3:05:31

as a result of this legislation passing and then the final one SBA 5466 failed

3:05:37

although you also talked about this a bit earlier tonight we anticipate that this one will return in the future so

3:05:44

staff will continue to monitor its impacts and make sure that any future

3:05:50

code updates and work that results from the Town Center Parking study report

3:05:56

aligns with any future legislation so when we review the outcomes of these

3:06:02

various bills while they may have impacts in the future Staff feel that they don't necessarily impact our

3:06:09

ability to move forward with adopting the Town Center Parking study report so that will be our recommendation tonight

3:06:16

is to move forward with that work okay on to early actions implementation

3:06:23

so back in March the council directed staff to return with a plan for implementing a few early actions and

3:06:30

they're here on your screen updating parking counts observing Ada parking usage evaluating and modifying parking

3:06:38

citation fees improving wayfinding to public parking in our parking garages and Town Center observing bicycle usage

3:06:45

and phasing in conversion to two-hour parking limits which is a key recommendation out of the report so I'm

3:06:52

going to talk about some progress for some of these and next steps

3:06:57

first star 2023 parking count so this relates both to updating our general

3:07:03

parking count inventory as well as beginning to monitor more closely Ada

3:07:08

parking usage we completed 2023 counts in June we worked with idax which is a

3:07:15

data collection firm that we use for many of our transportation data collection needs and idax also was the

3:07:22

consulting firm or the firm that conducted our counts in 2022 so our 23 counts are building on those original

3:07:29

ones from last year we also included the Mercer Island Park and Ride the north

3:07:34

Mercer restricted restricted parking district North of I-90 as well as on Street 88 parking so we'll be back later

3:07:42

this year we just received the data a couple weeks ago and we're still analyzing it so we need a little more

3:07:48

time before we come back with that but I thought I would share a piece of data that I thought was quite interesting

3:07:54

related to the park and ride counts we found that the highest occupancy was observed at 12 p.m on Thursday June 8th

3:08:02

the park and ride was seen as being 67 full so never reached uh beyond that 85

3:08:09

percent threshold that we talked about throughout the process of the study as

3:08:14

being a kind of key metric for evaluating new parking options and and congestion

3:08:24

so we also did a survey of regional parking citation fees to start working on evaluating and modifying our citation

3:08:32

fees so you can see some of that data on your screen and you can see that we are

3:08:38

pretty significantly lower in our citation fees than other cities around us

3:08:43

say maybe Redmond the average that we found not including Mercer Island was a

3:08:50

little under fifty dollars and our current citation fee is twenty dollars so we likely have some work that we can

3:08:56

do to adjust our fees to better serve our community and also better serve our

3:09:03

enforcement needs one interesting thing to note so our fees reverted to the

3:09:08

Statewide standard in 2022 following an audit by the administrative office of

3:09:14

the courts so the AOC found that we actually didn't have documentation for our 30 citation fee so we reverted to

3:09:23

the 20 fee and we're going to be working with the Municipal Court staff later

3:09:28

this summer and fall to start developing and evaluating proposals for adjusting those fees so more to come on this one

3:09:35

as well and then we've also started developing some new wayfinding tools specifically

3:09:42

for the public parking garage and garages and Town Center so you can see one of our new maps on your screen that

3:09:49

our GIS team created this is a map that shows all the time limits and public

3:09:55

parking opportunities in the Town Center garages located primarily on the north end of town center we also are working

3:10:02

on a map that shows both these parking garages which offer free public parking and all of our on-street parking of

3:10:10

course these have you know a disclaimer that these maps are meant to be a guide they don't necessarily guarantee ability

3:10:16

to find parking in those garages or time limits and we still ask community

3:10:21

members to still check the signage that's posted on site before they Park but this will hopefully be another step

3:10:28

closer to helping community members figure out where parking is available in town center

3:10:35

we're working on reviewing these resources and hopefully we'll be distributing distributing them later

3:10:40

this summer through the city website through local businesses the Chamber of Commerce and other channels

3:10:47

and we're also working on exploring options for adding consistent signage on

3:10:52

site at the parking garages I think everyone knows that our parking garages

3:10:57

don't really have uniform signage either on the garages themselves or directional

3:11:04

signage to get folks there so we'll be working with property managers and

3:11:09

owners to evaluate what they currently use and figure out if there are some ways we can to start temporarily deploy

3:11:16

probably A-frames with consistent signage that will help community members find the garages

3:11:23

and so the last two early actions monitoring bicycle usage and phasing in

3:11:29

the two-hour time limits are not as far along as our other actions so far so for

3:11:37

bicycle usage we have been working with the right-of-way and Engineering staff to review locations for unused bike

3:11:43

racks we have two bike racks that allow I think six to eight bikes each to park

3:11:49

within them so we'll hopefully be placing those around town center and key locations later this summer or early in

3:11:56

the fall we had started working on some other work related to Bicycle usage but

3:12:01

with staff Transitions and particularly in the sustainability analyst role that

3:12:06

work was put on hold so once the new sustainability analyst is hired we'll get back to that because they're a key

3:12:12

partner in identifying locations and also monitoring bicycle usage and then

3:12:19

for the parking limits that really requires additional analysis of our new parking data so our hope is that by

3:12:26

early 2024 we'll be able to return with a plan for phasing in those two-hour parking limits particularly looking at

3:12:34

you know different Trends to find key congestion areas that would be smart to

3:12:40

start with that process the council member Reynolds has a question for you Sarah yeah so I'd just

3:12:48

like to confirm I understand you mentioned two bike racks does that mean we're adding two bike racks to the

3:12:54

Town Center or we only have two and we're considering moving them around those are two additional bike racks that

3:13:00

are not being used right now so we're just doing storage somewhere or something yep yes up at the public

3:13:07

Workshop currently so so how do you decide where a bike rack needs to go since almost by definition there won't

3:13:13

be people parking there right now if there's not a bike rack where the the vice physical usage piece

3:13:20

comes in too so I think we have some ideas about where heavy use is and also

3:13:25

where you know folks want to be in town center city manager Bond mentioned the

3:13:32

completion of a crosswalk improvements up at 77th and sunset during her report

3:13:37

and that's actually a great project because it extends the bicycle Lanes along 77 so I think it would be a great

3:13:44

addition to add some bike Lanes around that area our bike racks at that area we

3:13:51

also have you know bike racks already at mercerdale Park there's some bicycle parking at the Boyd building so we'll

3:13:58

just be looking for other locations where we know people are going and hopefully start trying out some

3:14:05

different locations they are movable so you know we'll monitor it and if we need to we'll make adjustments thank you yeah

3:14:14

so this is my last slide um our recommended recommended action and Next Step so as I mentioned before

3:14:21

um the outcomes of the legislative session are at least minimal on our

3:14:27

ability to resume the work on finalizing and adopting the Town Center Parking study report so tonight we recommend

3:14:33

that Council resume that work so that we can adopt the Town Center Parking study

3:14:39

report by the end of 2023 if this recommendation is accepted staff will finalize the draft report and publish it

3:14:46

on let's talk by the end of this month and there's the link to our project page on let's talk and the community will

3:14:53

also have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft through mid-september and then we'll be back in

3:14:59

September to hold a public hearing and collect more feedback I'm going to stop sharing there and I

3:15:07

welcome any other questions or comments let me quickly ask about the map that you showed with the two and the three

3:15:13

hour public parking I might have my recollection wrong but I thought that those were subject to like an on-site

3:15:21

shopping and then you could walk off type criteria some of them correct so some some of the

3:15:28

parking garages do require on-site um shopping or business you know

3:15:35

stopping at a restaurant uh some of them do not at all so that's part of the reason that that disclaimer is on there

3:15:42

there's because each garage has a little bit of a different approach to that we

3:15:47

can't include it all but we will you know I'm imagining we'll set up a new

3:15:53

webpage on the website that includes more information that people can go to and then I'll also be working with our

3:16:00

Communications manager to identify some other ways to push the information out to help educate folks

3:16:06

okay but why can't we include it if there's only five or six garages and

3:16:11

we've permitted the construction of those buildings and they provided that benefit as a contingent of the of the

3:16:18

permitting like don't don't we have that information more readily than the public would ever have in

3:16:24

we do and I think I think it's more from a design perspective on the map so that's also something that I can work

3:16:30

with GIS to adjust to make sure that the information is clear and easy to find

3:16:36

yeah in terms of your comment about A-frames and using A-frames to direct

3:16:41

people to public parking didn't we have some discussions around A-frames in town center when we talked

3:16:46

about sign code and maybe maybe there's some discussion about that was kind of High clutter and maybe people didn't

3:16:53

really pay attention to A-frames yes I I do remember that conversation I

3:16:59

think that uh perhaps Our Hope would be to so I'll use an example a couple of

3:17:05

the parking garages uh the Hadley and the Aviara currently have individual

3:17:11

businesses that have set out their own A-frame saying you know two-hour parking located here and directional signage so

3:17:18

the idea would be to work with those property managers and those businesses to condense all of that so rather than

3:17:24

two-hour parking to Orange Theory it would be a two-hour public parking available here and some information

3:17:31

about you know the business logos or something like that that are on there so this would also just be a temporary

3:17:38

solution while we work kind of on more long-term solutions for the way finding

3:17:44

and navigation piece I was just coming here to say that mayonnaise as we look

3:17:50

at quick wins we're looking at trying to get some consistent branding so our community begins to pick up the signage

3:17:57

for public parking and the use of things like A-frames while while we would want

3:18:02

to use them limited it would be um the interim before we consider it a

3:18:08

permanent signage program if we considered it all just a green pea in the middle of the road I think to the

3:18:15

project okay you know like on the pavement is that is something that we've looked at I I can't say that's something

3:18:22

that we've looked at specifically yet but I think all those ideas are certainly on the table

3:18:27

okay very good thank you customer Reynolds yes I may have missed this but if so

3:18:32

could you humor me the I believe you described phasing in the two-hour parking requirement and I understand the

3:18:40

need to give a little bit of notice but why do we need to phase it in why don't we just do it

3:18:46

once we make you know two people A month's notice that's a good question I think part of

3:18:53

the issue with phasing in the two-hour parking limit across town center is the

3:18:58

the question of the Town Center parking permit program because we do use several

3:19:04

on-street parking spaces for that program there are recommendations in as

3:19:10

outcomes of the study related to that program we still need to do a little bit more work in determining kind of the

3:19:18

long-term fate of that program so I think it can likely be something that

3:19:23

can can happen you know relatively in in ones with motion for a bunch of

3:19:30

different spaces in town center but it is real it does rely on figuring out

3:19:36

what happens with the Town Center permit program as well I understand there may be limits associated with spaces that

3:19:41

are with the permits but for all other areas I would encourage you to take an

3:19:47

aggressive approach is as practical to the to our apartment okay thank you

3:19:53

um Samara weinker the speaking of enforcement um how are we going to don't we have police

3:20:01

cameras to help enforce parking to go along with the fee increase for

3:20:06

people who stay longer than the two and three hours can you talk a little bit about what the enforcement plans might be

3:20:12

good evening Council Mike Seifert the operations Commander for the police department and enforcement overall with

3:20:18

parking has some complications we currently have one vehicle that's set up to use the automatic License Plate

3:20:23

Reader cameras we are working on integrating the other gener vehicles into the parking system but there's been

3:20:31

some complications one of the recommendations the police department would make would be if we do

3:20:37

go to a model where it is just a set two hour parking some sort of pay as you park um that would allow for a much more

3:20:43

efficient enforcing as opposed to current practices of chalking tires or having to have a vehicle marked by the

3:20:50

alprs and then marked again later after violating the time limit so getting a a

3:20:56

more singular system where it's one system that says this vehicle is parked legal there's not parked legally would

3:21:03

really assist with making sure that we have consistent

3:21:14

um a couple of questions number one how many uh how many permits do we have or

3:21:20

how many parking permits are currently issued our permits are issued on uh by annual

3:21:28

basis and I would need to double check the number at the last time I looked we

3:21:33

had issued I think about 300 permits for 2023. uh prior to that I would say prior

3:21:40

to the pandemic we were issuing 400 to 500 permits it definitely went

3:21:47

down during the pandemic but it has started going back up do those permits uh

3:21:55

permit 24 hours a day parking so those permits allow community members

3:22:03

who are permit holders to park in designated areas from 7am to 9 A.M in

3:22:08

the morning so there are several locations of on-street parking in town center that are marked as a permit

3:22:16

required from seven to nine after nine am those spaces are open for anyone if I

3:22:23

remember correctly they are unrestricted after that 9 A.M

3:22:29

thank you maybe I can ask uh one of the things

3:22:35

that we had talked about when we implemented the pay by phone was the permit passes weren't there was no

3:22:41

capacity by the vendor to sell those and integrate them with the pay by phone is that something they've sold at this

3:22:47

point yeah Meredith I can speak to that as well um I I just found out recently that

3:22:54

we were looking to be able to do that the current pay by phone contract that we have they have not given me a

3:23:00

straight answer as if they can integrate that but it seems like they're on the verge of being able to there are other

3:23:06

vendors that we're also looking at that may be able to meet our current permit requirements

3:23:12

that's great that's great to hear okay Council any other questions if not

3:23:18

may I have a motion to resume the process to finalize in a Town Center Parking study report by the

3:23:24

end of 2023. so moved

3:23:30

second okay moved by councilman Reynolds seconded by councilmember weiker any discussion

3:23:36

not seeing any city clerk please call the roll thank you Mr mayor council member

3:23:42

Jacobson I couldn't hear you councilmember Jacobson all right

3:23:49

mayor niece hi council member Reynolds aye council member Andrew bye

3:23:56

council member Weinberg hi council member weiker aye and Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum hi  
thank

3:24:03

you Mr Mayor all right motion passes thank you Sarah and Mike

3:24:09

all right does anybody need a break before our last item of regular business nope not  
seeing any all right our next

3:24:16

item regular business is ab6307 interlocal agreement with Eastside fire and rescue for  
regional fire and

3:24:22

Emergency Medical Services the city of our son would like to thank both the city of Bellevue  
and Eastside

3:24:28

fire and rescue for submitting excellent and thorough proposals and for continually being  
available for clarification and follow-up from City

3:24:35

staff during the review process the city the city thanks both entities for their strong working  
relationship and is

3:24:42

committed to maintaining those relationships into the future and for our a b we welcome  
city manager

3:24:47

Jesse Bond good evening again city council before I

3:24:54

dive in council member Jacobson you have your hand up but I believe that was for the last item so I just wanted to

3:25:00

foreign he's already ready okay uh Council I will be joined this evening

3:25:06

by a number of uh staff as questions arise so I will introduce them as they

3:25:12

come on screen Robbie Cunningham Adams who's an analyst in the city manager's

3:25:18

office there he is thanks Robbie will be driving the PowerPoint for me this evening

3:25:23

let's go ahead and do that Robbie [Music]

3:25:34

thank you almost there there we go thank you

3:25:42

[Music] all right this is agenda Bill 6307 city council this is the interlocal agreement

3:25:48

with Eastside fire and rescue for regional Regional fire and Emergency Medical Services next slide please

3:25:56

uh Council for my presentation this evening I will walk through the background information we will talk a

3:26:02

little bit about regionalization and the regionalization slides are repeated from prior presentations so I will go pretty

3:26:08

quickly I'll walk through my city manager's recommendation to you and also

3:26:15

hit just a few of the highlights of the interlocal agreement but certainly not all of them we would be happy to answer

3:26:21

your questions about the interlocal agreement when I am done so let's go ahead and dive in I'll ask the mayor to

3:26:28

watch your hands or questions if there are any just as a reminder for anyone just

3:26:34

joining us tonight at the April 4 city council meeting the city council authorized me to seek proposals from the

3:26:42

city of Bellevue and Eastside fire and rescue for emergency fire and Emergency Medical Services on Mercer Island

3:26:48

we issued an RFP shortly after that meeting and we did receive timely responses from both the city of Bellevue

3:26:55

and Eastside Fire and Rescue side in early May at the council meeting May

3:27:03

2nd council meeting the council created a regional fire service Proposal review ad hoc committee

3:27:10

that's a lot of words I think we'll just call it the ad hoc committee to assist me with reviewing and evaluating the

3:27:16

proposals that we received we met several times over the month of May and

3:27:23

really received some valuable feedback and put and questions which helped

3:27:29

inform our presentation to the city council in June

3:27:34

uh so June 6 the staff provided an overview to you on the regional fire Services proposal

3:27:42

we covered a lot of ground at that meeting and we also included an initial financial

3:27:48

analysis and I should have added to these slides as this process has been underway we've been engaging with the

3:27:55

community we stood up below at the top page and we're pushing out regular Communications to support all of these

3:28:03

actions and encourage people to get involved in our meetings and discussions next slide

3:28:10

at our last city council meeting on June 20th Council as you know we met in an executive session and the purpose of

3:28:17

that executive session was to talk about collective bargaining and potential litigation we have acknowledged that

3:28:24

that discussion related to the adoption of a regional fire model I know that some people have expressed

3:28:32

frustration that we were in an executive session and we came out and passed a motion so we're here

3:28:39

tonight actually to talk a little bit more about the recommendation but after that executive session I just wanted to

3:28:45

confirm that you returned to the open portion of the meeting and you passed a motion directing me to begin negotiating

3:28:52

that agreement with Eastside fire and rescue and that evening recognizing

3:28:57

that we had been in a closed session the community would like more information about the reason for that

3:29:04

recommendation you also directed me to return with an agenda Bill presenting the city manager's recommendation which

3:29:11

I'm pleased to do so tonight next slide so those were all of the Milestone and

3:29:17

key dates just as a reflection I want to go back and before we dive into the rec

3:29:23

recommendation again these are slides that you've seen versions of previously I think it's important just to ground Us

3:29:29

in the why are we having this conversation ground is in that in that framework so

3:29:36

next slide please Council as a reminder we currently operate two fire stations on Mercer

3:29:42

Island 91 and 92 under a regional fire Services model both fire stations remain

3:29:48

open and meet or exceed today's Staffing levels next slide

3:29:54

uh we currently staff 29 firefighters this is including firefighters lieutenants Battalion Chiefs and a fire

3:30:01

marshal we have seven on duty so we have one battalion chief between

3:30:06

the two stations a lieutenant at each station and two firefighters at each station we also have a full-time Fire

3:30:13

Marshal our interim Fire Chief and interim Deputy fire chief Physicians are

3:30:18

currently filled through an internet agreement with Eastside fire and rescue that's been in place for almost three

3:30:24

years now we also have a part-time Administrative Assistant that splits her time between fire and HR

3:30:33

so why regionalize again these are the slides you've seen previously I'll remind you that player fighting is

3:30:39

evolving originally created to respond to fires now our firefighters and our

3:30:46

firefighter teams are responding to a range of needs including medical Hazmat special rescue and one of our

3:30:53

newest programs mobile Integrated Health our collaborations regionally allow for

3:30:58

enhanced fire and Emergency Medical Services they provide the potential for specialty

3:31:04

services that would not normally be available to a small Department like Mercer Island we believe it's a more cohesive

3:31:11

efficient and certainly cost effective next slide [Music]

3:31:17

you've also seen this slide before I will just say quickly that the city of Mercer Island is one of the few

3:31:23

remaining Standalone fire departments in our region many others have already moved to a regional Services model

3:31:30

including cities like Edmonds Woodinville Linwood and Tukwila and if we look at the map on the next slide

3:31:37

you will see what that looks like in the Puget Sound region

3:31:43

I will just point out and I don't have the I don't have the mouse here but on

3:31:48

the map Mercer Island is in hot pink and Eastside fire and rescue is in that

3:31:55

kind of lavender purple to the east also up north

3:32:00

thank you Robbie okay next slide

3:32:05

under a regional fire Services model it's important to remember that

3:32:11

the leadership of that agency will oversee the operations here on Mercer

3:32:16

Island so with in this case the fire chief of Eastside fire and rescue reporting

3:32:21

directly to the city manager I've already noted that the Eastside fire and rescue fire chief has been serving in an

3:32:28

interim role since 2020. uh and as a reminder Council it was on

3:32:35

my work plan this year to address interim fire leadership as we had recognized it was not a sustainable

3:32:40

solution long term it was never intended to be permanent so that uh kicked off an

3:32:46

opportunity to explore our fire Services model before permanent

3:32:51

decisions were made about those senior leadership positions in the fire department

3:32:56

next slide please [Music] Regional fire Services model Staffing

3:33:02

under a regional fire Services model or Mercer Island staff would transition to

3:33:08

a regional fire agency internal services that support the fire department traditionally would also be largely

3:33:14

provided under the regional fire agency I bowled

3:33:20

bulk shun because when we started this process it was our intent to secure employment for all fire department

3:33:25

personnel and I am pleased to say although we have not

3:33:30

concluded bargaining with our local union that that is still

3:33:36

very much our intent uh speaking of bargaining impacts of the

3:33:41

transition on fire Personnel are being bargained with the Mercer Island local currently and I'll tell you more about

3:33:47

that in just a moment this was from an earlier slide I will mention that we had acknowledged early

3:33:53

in the process that our staffing models did not align perfectly in terms of the

3:33:58

ranks as compared to either Bellevue or east side so we did anticipate some

3:34:04

changes in making this transition and that will all result in promotional

3:34:09

opportunities for our current Workforce more on that in just a moment

3:34:16

our site here on Regional fire service models I will just remind you that under

3:34:21

this model which will include an interlocal agreement also known as a

3:34:27

contract the city establishes the service levels and

3:34:34

ensures that fire Services continue to meet or exceed our established service

3:34:39

levels this is a this is an agreement for services we heard public comment earlier about a merger this is not a

3:34:46

merger this is a contract for services the fire department uh continues to

3:34:52

respond to emergencies inspections and support all of the other events and programs that they are doing now so none

3:35:00

of that changes and I've said this many many times over the course of this process but I understand it can still be

3:35:06

a little bit confusing both fire stations remain open and staffed

3:35:11

at current service levels or potentially exceeding current service levels

3:35:16

okay next slide a few comments on Mutual Aid and Regional coordination

3:35:21

and Council I'm happy to answer questions that you might have on this specifically in a moment all fire departments and actually all

3:35:29

police departments everyone in public safety works together throughout the county throughout the Tri-County region

3:35:35

and I have to say right now during Wildfire season throughout the state and even country that is just the nature of

3:35:43

Public Safety we operate Mercer Island under a regional coordination framework through King County which you know

3:35:50

formally aligns resources and allows us to share Personnel equipment and information

3:35:57

um it's it's been mentioned many times and certainly tonight as well that we do not have a ladder truck so Regional fire

3:36:04

agencies provide the service to Mercer Island when needed we have a an

3:36:09

interlocal agreement for mercury and Patrol services with the city of Bellevue that describes the exchange of

3:36:16

services for Marine Patrol Services we get other services back from Bellevue

3:36:22

we also provide support to nearby agencies I was mentioning this early or

3:36:27

so it's not just Mercer Island receiving support we also go off Island quite a bit to Bellevue Newcastle even further

3:36:37

east and more commonly we go west Seattle we support the needs of the I-90

3:36:42

bridge we also train with our surrounding agencies to ensure that our services

3:36:47

align no matter where we are in the county or in the state for that matter next slide

3:36:54

my recommendation to you tonight and Council this was in your agenda packet so I'm not going to read everything word

3:37:01

for word but I will go through a handful of slides here uh my recommendation is to pursue an

3:37:08

interlocal agreement with East Side Fire and Rescue East Side operates as a government nonprofit and they have a

3:37:15

single line of business which is fire and emergency response Services they are represented of their

3:37:22

essentially a Consortium of many other smaller size cities and towns they have

3:37:27

a shared governance model uh their board includes representatives

3:37:33

from Member cities and Regional fire districts so you know providing a diverse array of stakeholders who govern

3:37:40

Eastside fire and rescue operations under this in our local agreement Mercer

3:37:46

Island will be contracting for service as we would not be a member but there is

3:37:52

a section of the interlocal that would allow for that to happen should circumstances stances present

3:37:59

themselves or that is something that both entities would like to consider next slide

3:38:06

Eastside fire and rescue has been a long way around for a long time there are proven effective agency and there's

3:38:13

particularly in their shared governance model resource sharing we have already been successfully

3:38:19

partnering with Eastside fire both for fire department leadership and we also have this may not be known to everyone a

3:38:27

long time interlocal agreement for apparatus repair that's for our fire trucks and Aid cars and maintenance of

3:38:34

those that equipment as well

3:38:40

uh things that we were really focused on in considering regionalization of Fire

3:38:46

I was making sure that our staff had opportunities and that this is something that they supported the East Side

3:38:54

Staffing model provides same as we have today seven I on island fire staff

3:38:59

members this includes the pro preservation of an on island station battalion chief

3:39:06

also as I mentioned a moment ago the ranks are just a little bit different when you're comparing Mercer Island

3:39:13

ranks to the east side ranks and so this opportunity also provides 11

3:39:20

promotional opportunities for our Mercer Island firefighters

3:39:28

a very competitive job market Council I've certainly had an opportunity to talk to you about that quite a bit we

3:39:33

experienced some turnover as did many others in the last couple of years and that includes an impact on our fire

3:39:39

department we have lost firefighters to competing fire agencies who are larger who have

3:39:46

higher pay benefits and career opportunities we're excited about the opportunity to regionalize it provides a higher pay for

3:39:54

our firefighters and it really strengthens our ability to attract and retain talented employees that will

3:40:02

stick around and be part of Eastside fire and rescue and therefore Mercer Island and and that really has the

3:40:07

effect of stabilizing fire services on Mercer Island

3:40:19

all right okay [Music] sorry

3:40:25

um did I skip a slide there Robbie sorry my screen froze for a minute sorry yeah this is a this is Nick it's

3:40:31

on the same topic though there we go nope sorry that was on my end

3:40:36

um we also want to acknowledge that of the

3:40:41

opportunities we looked at and comparing Standalone to the Bellevue proposal in

3:40:47

the Eastside fire and rescue proposal Eastside fire and rescue did provide the highest level of total compensation of

3:40:52

the three options considered while also continuing to provide cost efficiencies and savings to the city

3:40:59

Eastside has demonstrated their ability to negotiate high quality and Equitable

3:41:04

collective bargaining agreements in a regular fashion and typically in

3:41:10

multi-year agreements this is beneficial to to us as a an agency that is

3:41:15

Contracting and also provides certainty for the employees next slide

3:41:21

[Music] Council although we didn't bring back the full spreadsheet that we shared at

3:41:27

the last meeting I'll just remind you that our initial staff analysis an estimated Savings of about 260 000 a

3:41:35

year through a regional model with East Side compared to our estimated cap

3:41:41

costing a standalone Mercer Island fire department anticipate savings will be realized

3:41:46

through shared leadership economies of scale things like managing

3:41:52

our apparatus equipment things like that more efficient shift scheduling

3:41:58

we also anticipate there there may be some additional savings as we work through this is the last build on this

3:42:04

slide things like insurance premiums as our transition work continues

3:42:09

we anticipate workload reductions on the side of the city will be realized for internal staff teams uh that Supply

3:42:16

support the fire department in a variety of ways this is potential cost savings

3:42:21

and legal services and a reduction in some functions of payroll and benefits management as you can also imagine some

3:42:28

of our other internal teams will see a workload reduction like Finance HR customer service legal I.T GIS Fleet and

3:42:36

Facilities certainly that will all um be sorted out as we work through a

3:42:44

six-month transition period next slide please uh training I talked about this just a

3:42:50

moment ago Eastside fire and rescue is one of 15 King County Fire agencies

3:42:56

sorry there are 21 including Seattle that train under the South King County training Consortium

3:43:02

and I just want to remind you that Seattle is part of this and we work we

3:43:07

work a lot with Seattle being part of this Consortium it's going to provide

3:43:13

for you know really top tier consistent training is all 15 agencies receive the

3:43:18

exact same training by a professional full-time training staff there's a pretty considerable

3:43:25

opportunity for training on a large area of equipment and across more Specialties compared to what we're doing right now

3:43:30

including working alongside the many technicians that work across the east

3:43:36

side and in the South County Network we are currently part of the East Metro

3:43:41

training group and by the way these these boundaries these training groups

3:43:47

they feel very prescriptive but I will share and practice that we cross-train

3:43:53

with everyone we just we just did a training up at the Microsoft campus on a

3:43:58

mass mass casualty drill I can't remember everyone that was involved with that but it certainly went beyond

3:44:04

just our normal training group

3:44:10

also important to mention account at Council this wasn't at least I don't think it was part of our initial analysis but there will be some modest

3:44:17

Savings in training through a different group as a reminder new hires to

3:44:22

firefighting go through an Academy training process prior to joining us and working in the field we're currently

3:44:29

paying about eighteen thousand dollars per recruit for training which is in addition to the base fees

3:44:35

for training under the South King County Consortium they have dedicated training officers meaning that that eighteen

3:44:42

thousand dollar per recruit cost will no longer apply [Music]

3:44:48

uh East Side Fire and Rescue is really uniquely positioned with access to training and other resources for

3:44:55

Technical and specialized resource response for our firefighters serving here on Mercer Island which translates

3:45:00

to a benefit direct benefit to the Mercer Island community eastside's membership with the East Side

3:45:06

hazardous materials Consortium will also provide new training for firefighters working here on Mercer Island

3:45:15

side HazMat team will be prepared to support us with any unique has unique needs we have related to Hazard

3:45:22

hazardous materials I don't know why that was such a tongue twister but there you go we're also proud to say that

3:45:29

Eastside is the leader of Wildland Forest fighting Forest firefighting responses in western Washington and we

3:45:36

will also benefit from that resource and that training although sadly we are

3:45:41

already in our forest fire season I think one of the questions that that

3:45:48

I've received most since we started this process is you know what will change all the

3:45:54

wonderful programs and services that our fire department provides through school visits attending things like summer

3:46:01

celebration and standby Aid cars at the football games will that continue and the answer is yes it will enter this

3:46:07

agreement also Council I want to call out a program that is still pretty new to US

3:46:12

Mobile Integrated Health program will also continue to be led by the city's Youth and Family Services Department with support from firefighters serving

3:46:20

Mercer Island [Music] the city of Mercer Island I'll talk just

3:46:26

a moment here about bargaining our firefighters are organized under the

3:46:32

International Association of firefighters local 1762. we've been meeting with our local

3:46:38

leadership members over the past two months to bargain the impacts of fire employees transitioning to another

3:46:43

agency and all their conversations have been very productive and positive and we

3:46:49

appreciate the time and energy that the local has put into bargaining the impacts we have not

3:46:56

reached agreement on the terms of impact bargaining yet we will continue to work

3:47:01

in good faith to resolve these outstanding issues

3:47:10

[Music] do the draft in our local agreement Council I will just share that I have

3:47:17

not included in this slide deck every single aspect of the Ila but we're happy

3:47:22

to answer questions that you might have uh the relationship between the city of Mercer Island and Eastside fire and

3:47:28

rescue for regional fire Services is governed by an interlocal agreement that's a document

3:47:34

that we use to execute a contractual relationship between government entities or in this case a

3:47:41

government Consortium the proposed Ila term is 10 years with an implementation date of January 1st

3:47:48

2024 so that's just a little over six months from now during that six month

3:47:54

period we would be working on a whole series of transition items next slide please

3:48:00

uh the Ila I already noted it established the service levels and type of services to be provided by

3:48:06

Eastside fire and rescue to the Mercer Island community again we've met our goal in the RFP of meeting or exceeding

3:48:13

current service levels the Ila also describes our annual fees the timing of

3:48:18

payment the method for annual adjustments to charges

3:48:23

and it definitely contemplates the very complicated topics of ownership

3:48:29

maintenance replacement of apparatus Vehicles equipment and Facilities although almost everything in that

3:48:34

category also requires some additional work during the transition period

3:48:40

the next slide as a reminder June 6 when we were in

3:48:46

front of you we did provide an overview and of the financial analysis it was quite detailed again we didn't bring

3:48:52

that spreadsheet with us tonight but it did describe our estimated 2024

3:48:58

costs under this agreement just a little over eight million dollars and an estimated one-time transition cost of

3:49:06

1.2 million that 1.2 million is related specifically to the vacation and six

3:49:12

sick leave liability that will transition from us

3:49:18

to East Side for all of our firefighters [Music]

3:49:24

next steps again I promise you that would be short but I'm sure there are some other things in the Ila you'd like to talk about

3:49:31

Pawn resolution upon approval of resolution number 1645 which is in your

3:49:36

packet and the approval of the resolution approves the interlocal agreement which

3:49:42

is exhibit a once the Mercer Island City Council approves that I want to remind you that

3:49:48

the East Side Fire and Rescue board will also need to review consider and approve the interlocal agreement which I believe

3:49:56

they are set to take up at their next board meeting and I think that's July 13th

3:50:01

uh once the interlocal agreement is approved by both parties as I've already noted we have transition work that will

3:50:07

commence will take us a good six or seven months prior to implementation next

3:50:13

[Music] one uh one of the questions that's come up is what are the costs of the one-time

3:50:18

transition payments again as I already noted that one-time transition payments transfers the leave liability the

3:50:25

vacation leave and accrued sick leave of our firefighters from Mercer Island to Eastside fire and rescue we will not

3:50:32

know the final amount until the very end of the year December December 31st so

3:50:39

we'll complete a final reconciliation in January so that we we can

3:50:45

finalize that transition and the uh the payment plan which is broken up into

3:50:51

three payments we also acknowledge this was in your

3:50:57

agenda Bill city council that with an agreement like this and a contract for services there may be a need for

3:51:03

additional agreements to address matters that were not sufficiently covered in

3:51:09

the interlocal agreement uh the Ila and the resolution grants me

3:51:14

authority to work through those items but requires me to return to council if

3:51:19

there are changes to to financiers or something else that would require excuse me require

3:51:26

Council consideration I am committing to keeping you regularly updated on the

3:51:32

transition process as I recognize there's a lot of moving parts for this

3:51:38

I too want to take a moment to say thank you to the city of Bellevue and Eastside Fire and Rescue It was really an honor

3:51:46

working with your staff teams on the proposals we had a lot of back and forth

3:51:51

questions we spent a lot of time in meetings we appreciate the opportunity to better understand your proposal your

3:51:57

services and really truly to get to know all of our colleagues and the other two agencies so

3:52:04

we thank you for the strong working relationship we have and we look forward to maintaining those relationships with

3:52:10

both the city of Bellevue and Eastside fire and rescue going forward

3:52:16

with that Council this is the last slide this is the proposed motion for this

3:52:21

evening to adopt resolution number 1645 approving the interlocal agreement with East Side Fire and Rescue and with that

3:52:28

we will stop the screen sharing and would be happy to take questions very good thank you councilman randeral

3:52:37

I don't have a question at this point but Jesse I just wanted to thank you and your entire staff team for the work that you put in on this I think it's very

3:52:44

thorough um I can't imagine getting this much work done in the amount of time that you did with the level of professionalism

3:52:52

um and and thoroughness so kudos to everyone on to you and everyone on your

3:52:57

team and and thank you very much and looks like a lot of their hands are up so

3:53:03

I'll let that I'll let that happen Okay that's my weiker yeah Jesse thank you and the team in

3:53:10

both agencies for all that great work in the last several months and I wonder if you could just speak to what the

3:53:15

transition looks like for our firefighters in the in the months ahead before January 1.

3:53:21

sure um something specific council member weiker I think I've already mentioned

3:53:27

that we are still in the midst of bargaining with our local

3:53:32

um I am optimistic that we've done a lot of really good work and that we will

3:53:38

conclude that bargaining hopefully soon we would also Endeavor to keep lines of

3:53:45

communication open between us and our staff and certainly Eastside fire and rescue welcoming new team members to

3:53:52

their organization to ensure this is as smooth as possible there will be training and lots of

3:53:59

transition other transition items that I'm probably woefully understating at this time but if you have anything

3:54:04

specific that I didn't cover I'd be happy to cover that for you

3:54:10

[Music] yeah so um the Mercer Island fire

3:54:17

department does excellent work uh and we currently as residents at Mercer Island enjoy a wsrp rating of three which is

3:54:26

among the highest in Washington State uh so what is our exit strategy in case the

3:54:32

level of service does drop after the uh after this merger

3:54:38

or this contract excuse me is your question related to just the

3:54:43

exit strategy in general or to the wsrb rating

3:54:49

my question is what is our exit strategy in case the level of service drops

3:54:54

uh we're Contracting under the interlocal agreement we have a specified level of service council

3:55:02

member white merg so the interlocal agreement calls for dispute resolution should we find ourselves in a position

3:55:08

that the terms of this interlocal agreement are not being met that is how we would work to resolve that

3:55:14

[Music] so it sounds like we don't have an exit strategy for going back to Mercer Island

3:55:19

our our strategy is to keep working with these sidecar and rescue and try to get level of service going on

3:55:26

I you want me to answer that question or is that a comment

3:55:32

I'm asking if essentially uh you're saying that we would just work with uh Eastside fire and rescue to try and fix

3:55:39

things rather than having an exit strategy to go back to First realm yeah I come to you this evening with great

3:55:44

confidence in the work that myself and my staff have done I stand behind the terms of the interlocal agreement that

3:55:50

I've presented to you this evening we've had a strong working relationship for with Eastside fire and rescue for three

3:55:57

years or more I presume that will continue I believe the Ila outlines

3:56:03

sufficient Provisions that we would address cooperatively

3:56:09

constructively any issues that arise I believe that this is being presented to

3:56:16

you as a long-term agreement not with a plan to immediately return to Mercer

3:56:22

Island services and I would be completely shocked if we found ourselves in a position of needing to do that

3:56:38

the sufficient for you uh no but I I think he's answered my

3:56:43

question yeah that's my Reynolds yes uh first you want to thank the city

3:56:49

manager I was very impressed you were able to negotiate this agreement this quickly and in general I think uh well

3:56:56

I'm still opposed to the concept I think the agreement is pretty good I have a couple of questions though for now I'll

3:57:02

just ask one which is in some ways a follow-up to what councilmember Weinberg used to ask about uh section three of the Ila is

3:57:10

represented as defining the levels of service and as I

3:57:16

read that section it seems to me that it defines things like level of Staffing and services provided but it doesn't

3:57:22

seem to Define levels of service in ways that I might think the fire department might be measured and which previously

3:57:28

has been reported to the council such as uh mean response time to get on onto the

3:57:33

scene of a fire or medical emergency or level of training that is provided to to

3:57:39

Firefighters and and so forth what are your thoughts on what level of

3:57:44

service means to you given that response time which seems to me to be a key one

3:57:50

is not in the agreement or is it there and I've missed it okay uh you're correct response times are not

3:57:57

in the agreement councilmember Reynolds it's my expectation that considering we are maintaining the exact same uh

3:58:04

Staffing model we have today with the exception of some changes in ranks both fire stations remaining open in their

3:58:11

current locations and the same equipment that you will see response times remain

3:58:16

the same that's certainly data that I would be evaluating under this interlocal agreement

3:58:22

if if we're seeing something changing in data that would certainly warrant a

3:58:28

conversation and follow-up with East Side Fire and Rescue to restore those Services although I want to be on record

3:58:34

and saying that I do not believe those circumstances will present themselves

3:58:45

uh I have a I'll put my hand up for a different question but not a follow-up to that one that's where I'm Jacobson

3:58:54

yes my understanding is that the uh

3:59:01

um transition payment of a million two or whatever it is simply represents uh

3:59:09

liabilities that we have to our existing firefighters which in effect we're going

3:59:15

to fund at this point in time or or put uh

3:59:20

that's not correct put Eastside fire and rescue in funds to be able to honor those commitments is that a correct

3:59:26

understanding yes council member Jacobson those are liabilities that we currently have on

3:59:33

the books that is leave both the combination of vacation and sick leave that our current employees have accrued

3:59:40

uh the one-time payment Eastside fire and rescue is based on a formula that

3:59:47

that they've established I don't have at my fingertips right now that would transfer that liability so essentially

3:59:53

the full value 100 of the vacation liability and what's what's equivalent

3:59:59

of a 50 of that sick leave liability to East Side Fire and Rescue East Side Fire

4:00:05

and Rescue is the employer so they will be responsible for that liability going

4:00:11

forward and there's our liability who are retiring firefighters under left one it

4:00:19

continues to be our responsibility we have reserves to meet that

4:00:24

obligation is that correct that's correct and we're getting into

4:00:29

um something that I didn't go over in the presentation but our our current uh team members in the fire department are

4:00:35

under the left two retirement system uh the city will continue to have liability

4:00:40

and obligations to our retired firefighters under the left one retirement system and that will stay

4:00:47

with us that's correct what you said thank you

4:00:57

some Eastside fire Representatives over the term of our interim hiring management agreement to talk about how

4:01:03

they onboard cities and how they view report and track and improve levels of

4:01:11

service for cities that they take on under contract do we have anyone here tonight that can kind of recount that

4:01:17

same kind of a story that I've been told by Eastside fire as to how they how they

4:01:23

do that onboarding uh I I had invited uh our interim fire

4:01:30

chief to join us wearing his Mercer Island hat if the council would like I

4:01:35

would be happy to have uh interned fire chief Ben Lane answer that question or I

4:01:40

can follow up after the meeting do you have a preference mayonnaise good to hear it I I was I thought it was quite

4:01:47

remarkable to hear how they how they did that sure but if you're here in the zoom

4:01:54

Planet there there he is city council I have uh largely had a firewall between

4:02:01

myself and interim fire chief Ben Lane as we work through this process I wanted

4:02:06

him to be here tonight as many of the questions that you've shared with me in the recent weeks have to do with

4:02:12

operational details so I feel that he's the best expert but he can also answer the question about onboarding

4:02:21

good evening mayor members of council um you just restate the question so that I

4:02:26

have it correctly yeah so I I can't remember who which administrative official was talking to me about this

4:02:32

but it was one of the contract cities and it was a city that's similar to Mercer Island where we have metrics you

4:02:38

know as Service uh seconds or minutes per call type thing and how that city

4:02:44

was onboarded and that metric was set as a goal and then the goal was pushed you

4:02:50

know a stretch goal how to drive those times down I just wanted to maybe hear from your perspective to address the

4:02:57

earlier comment about the Ila being silent to call out times or this metric

4:03:03

or that metric how he side part kind of approaches a continuous process of improvement around that type of stuff

4:03:11

okay I understood yeah so annually you said foreign rescue we do what's called a

4:03:16

standards of cover evaluation and so and those standards are set by our governing board around units

4:03:23

arriving on scene and a full complement of a first alarm assignment one of the things that we we pay close

4:03:29

attention to is station reliability and if we have a station that drops

4:03:35

below a 90 reliability that triggers a follow-up conversation with a respective governing body so for example

4:03:42

I'm Mercer Island an assessment at Eastside risk would be able to do and be able to provide you what your annual

4:03:50

station reliability is for stations 91 and 92. I'm confidentials are both above

4:03:55

90 percent and we would be poured out annually on your standards of cover meaning how quick crews are arriving on

4:04:03

scene how long it takes for a full complement of resources to arrive on scene to address the specific incident

4:04:10

and at any point a station is nearing the 90 reliability we would make an

4:04:16

assessment on the potential of adding additional resources I don't believe response would

4:04:23

ever be in a position you need additional fire stations but there may come a time based off of population and

4:04:28

call requirements that you might be best or by adding additional resources

4:04:33

you believe in providing that information well in advance so it allows for

4:04:39

planning as noted by city manager Bond city council and the city leadership set

4:04:46

the level of service and so Eastside fire and rescue staff will provide examples and or suggestions

4:04:52

but the ultimate authority of increasing those services at the sole discretion of

4:04:58

City leadership thank you councilmer Weichert yeah thanks

4:05:05

um so Jesse given the public comment today and a couple of conversations I've had in the last couple weeks can you

4:05:11

just State unequivocally that fire station 91 and 92 will stay operational

4:05:17

yes absolutely thank you councilman Reynolds

4:05:22

yes question for the city manager uh first thanks for your patience with uh putting together detailed responses to

4:05:29

the massive number of questions and councilmember Weinberg Marines and I put forward

4:05:35

um I'd like to Circle back to question 23 on that document and for the benefit

4:05:40

of those people to either in Council or on a session that won't have access to it or might not broadly that question

4:05:47

was about responsibility for building maintenance and repair and replacement and I want to make sure that I

4:05:55

understand your answer because you seem to be suggesting that who's responsible

4:06:01

for repairing those buildings if something should happen it's still a matter to be negotiated am I understand

4:06:07

that correctly because that seems like a pretty fundamental thing for a fairly major cost that should be defined in

4:06:13

advance in the agreement um it it is the responsibility of the

4:06:18

city to handle the capital costs related to the fire stations that's no different than that is today

4:06:26

um what I'm specifically pointing to in my response to that question is the city

4:06:31

has not completed a facilities condition assessment for any of our buildings

4:06:37

and had we done so we would have had a completed asset list systems list and

4:06:44

life cycle analysis for all the components of that building something simple like the roof was replaced in

4:06:51

this year and it should be replaced in this year that that work is actually underway on

4:06:57

several of our other buildings we've just retained Northwest Studios and their entire team to complete conditions

4:07:04

assessments on several buildings the fire stations are in pretty good order comparatively speaking

4:07:11

um so they were not included in that scope my recommendation is to add them

4:07:17

to the scope of work to complete the facilities conditions assessment and then we can better identify

4:07:25

what what those Capital project management costs would entail it was

4:07:30

never assumed council member Reynolds that under this agreement East Side would take away take full responsibility

4:07:36

for the replacement of our Building Systems and our assets we do pay a

4:07:42

modest sum annually to them for Capital maintenance but replacement is an entirely different thing I believe in

4:07:50

the long term there will be efficiencies realized through getting our conditions at facilities conditions assessment done

4:07:57

getting that asset replacement schedule confirmed and then negotiating with

4:08:02

eastside how we can best manage these fire stations for example

4:08:07

when Eastside is doing an equipment upgrade or let's say a locker room project

4:08:14

across their entire organization that might be the time that's most efficient to do the work at

4:08:21

our stations as well but until we do that life cycle analysis and we both

4:08:26

have a better understanding of the replacement schedule and the costs it really wasn't practical to negotiate the

4:08:34

deliverables on that at this time so does that mean do I hear you be saying that for something like a roof

4:08:40

replacement the example you gave your expectation is that would be the city's responsibility as it is now as it is now

4:08:48

but there would be smaller tasks repainting a bathroom for example that would probably be covered by the thirty

4:08:54

thousand dollar uh fee is that correct that's correct so let's use that let's use that roof example for just a moment

4:09:01

let's assume that our roof only has a year left it would be pretty unpractical

4:09:06

and not reasonable for eastside fire and rescue to enter into this agreement and then take on a full full roof

4:09:12

replacement um but had had we had that information maybe we could have negotiated a share

4:09:17

or something so yes it is it is my assumption that that thirty thousand dollars will go directly back into our

4:09:24

buildings under an agreed upon facilities maintenance Capital repair approach and

4:09:31

that we will look out to this facility's conditions assessment assessment work to to better Define the long-range plan for

4:09:38

those two buildings

4:09:45

[Music] I'm here um

4:09:51

I've seen a number of people on social media and heard a number of

4:09:57

people have asked the questions what is this unfair Labor practice

4:10:03

assertion by by our local union uh in connection with our bargaining and I

4:10:08

know there's I know there's some limits on what we can talk about about bargaining but could you shed a little

4:10:13

bit of light on that uh sure and and councilmember Jacobson I

4:10:21

appreciate the phone call earlier so that I had a time to prepare that response it is

4:10:28

unfortunate that that showed up in social media because I think it really

4:10:33

doesn't include the context for what is happening uh Council we typically handle

4:10:39

discussions on something like that related to bargaining in a closed session but here's what I will share for

4:10:45

you all and the community just so that there's an understanding of what that referenced several months ago our fire Union filed

4:10:54

with the public employment Relations Committee Commission

4:11:00

an unfair Labor practice asserting that we the city committed an unfair Labor

4:11:06

practice by refusing to bargain over the decision to close our fire department

4:11:12

and join a regional fire service provider this happened just for contexts

4:11:17

it was two or three months ago now our approach has been to deny that charge because we did not believe there

4:11:25

was a duty to bargain this decision and because at that time no decision had been made

4:11:30

I think it's important to note that you know and really important to know that despite this disagreement with the

4:11:36

Union about the bargaining obligations the city and the union we've been together for a couple of months at the

4:11:43

bargaining table we agreed to meet and we've been bargaining in good faith over

4:11:49

the city's decision and the impacts of that decision we have met many times and many hours

4:11:55

and I feel really confident that those discussions were productive and positive

4:12:01

even though we did not have a signed deal yet

4:12:06

here's what I can share council member Jacobson and I'm going to be a little limited in my comments I hope you can

4:12:12

appreciate that the union has said that it supports joining East Side Fire and

4:12:18

Rescue it is also said the parties have a tentative agreement on nearly all the impacts of that transition but the union

4:12:26

bargaining team has not been available for the last couple of weeks as you can imagine scheduling all of these players it's a little bit complicated and has

4:12:33

not yet responded to our proposal to conclude a deal I believe and Council I want you to hear

4:12:41

me say this that the issues that remain are outside of our control

4:12:46

the few issues that remain but and you know we are waiting for the union to

4:12:52

clarify you know what what remains to be resolved I believe the Union uh the scheduling

4:12:58

conflicts conflicts we were dealing with um with the union and travel and vacation are hopefully behind us

4:13:05

and I am optimistic that we will hear back from the union very soon

4:13:14

any other questions counseling uh Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum sorry

4:13:21

yeah um just a little little tricky given that that Ben is here wearing his

4:13:26

interim fire she's had suggested maybe I'll ask you this question you can you can decide what the best way to answer

4:13:32

it is you know one question I got from the community is why is Mercer Island attractive to East Side

4:13:38

um you know what was what what do we bring um you know to their uh their operations

4:13:50

Ben you're staring right at me on the screen would you like to to take a pass at that that seems odd for me to speak

4:13:58

for you on that sure I would be happy to um I'll use the example of our recent

4:14:04

contract or service with Woodinville and we've got some of the similar questions one it's really important to know that

4:14:10

East Side Fire and Rescue is not an organization that goes out and seeks and pounds on the door of a neighboring

4:14:16

organization to say hey join East Side Fire and Rescue we do believe in a regional service model we believe that

4:14:23

there's a lot of efficiencies a gain gained working together and something specifically that came to east side with

4:14:30

our recent contractor services that we wouldn't go was you bring in a fresh new perspective a completely an entirely new

4:14:35

Workforce that come with different experiences and backgrounds and approaches and different ways of doing things so they help

4:14:42

enhance and challenge our status quo so we've we've been incorporate a lot of

4:14:47

what Woodenville was doing previously both in the operational and the administrative side to help improve East

4:14:53

Side foreign rescue so I'll look at it from the sense of you take the best of both organizations and you're better

4:15:00

together in the future so from an East from a Mercer Island perspective the same thing we're going to bring in

4:15:06

potentially 29 new employees into Eastside fire and rescue provides two

4:15:12

additional work locations for personnel to who might be attracted to working on that specific area and engage and

4:15:19

establish a new community relationships and I also think it brings in a a much

4:15:26

increased morale across the entire Workforce as an organization grows and

4:15:31

you bring in Opportunities it's not just for the incoming organizations also for the current organization so in short

4:15:39

adjoining together from a from a perspective of the workforce and those opportunities I think that is a very

4:15:45

positive thing from a business perspective when you you can align things together there's cost

4:15:51

efficiencies and operational efficiencies that are gained on both sides

4:15:56

great thank you thank you uh while you're here at Chiefland I may ask you a quick question

4:16:02

about ALS and BLS there was some public comment um earlier about response times and you

4:16:09

know I'm not sure that everybody in the public understands how we fund uh ALS

4:16:14

Advanced life support through a county Levy and deliver that kind of a county-wide

4:16:20

delivery model and that our BLS our local medic our local

4:16:25

EMTs are in station 91 and 92. I was wondering if you could just level set

4:16:30

that for the public a little bit or I'd be happy to so in King County we have

4:16:36

the benefit of a tiered medical emergency medical approach and that tier

4:16:42

is it's a two-tiered system BLS as in basic life support so on Mercer Island

4:16:47

all of your firefighters are trained to the BLS standard they're certified EMTs in Hurricane County as throughout East

4:16:54

Side Fire and rescue's entire service area that is funded through the county Levy

4:17:00

the EMS King County Medical and Levy and it also funds ALS services ALS services are strategically deployed

4:17:08

under a county-wide system so if you take Regional fire service and you

4:17:14

transition into how you deploy ALS Advanced life support Medical Services that's how the county approaches this

4:17:22

Regional system so using enabling City Bellevue they are one of

4:17:28

three ALS providers in zone one however East Side Fire and Rescue has 12

4:17:34

stations in two of those stations we house a Bellevue medic Union that simply

4:17:39

means that the employees work directly for the city of Bellevue however they're

4:17:44

underneath the ALS umbrella of the King County Medic system and those units are placed in locations

4:17:50

based off of calls for service so that they can arrive on scene in the appropriate time

4:17:57

adopted by the county so the goal is to quickly get BLS services on scene so

4:18:02

that happens on the island and more often than not the nearest Advanced life support unit is coming

4:18:08

from off Island from likely the Bellevue fire department from station two or uh

4:18:15

bellumetic one and sometimes we can get um automatic or Mutual aid from the city

4:18:21

of Seattle or from further south from King County Medic One in the in the Zone 3 area

4:18:26

but in King County there is a tiered system to how we apply BLS and ALS

4:18:32

services excellent and so it's safe to say that Mercer Island staying local going to

4:18:38

Bellevue or choosing Eastside fire and rescue has no impact on the ALS the

4:18:44

medic one component of that delivery it is going to continue to operate just as it does today

4:18:50

that is correct and of course the BLS component stays the same as it is all

4:18:56

burst around firefighters that become under the banner East Side Fire and Rescue also  
continue to have that

4:19:03

standard of BLS certification that is correct that's a condition of employment

4:19:08

for you said fire and rescue excellent thank you councilman Reynolds yeah I'm ready to  
move on to comments

4:19:15

rather than questions so just wanting to take a place in line I'm not sure if we're at that point  
yet yeah are there

4:19:20

any more questions from Council all right four is yours I just wanted to

4:19:27

recap some reasons I've talked about before for opposing this with a slightly different spin based on some new

4:19:33

information um well I I like the agreement it's a lot better than I I feared that it would

4:19:39

be um I I still think my basic concerns remain um I don't think this is going to save us money in the long run I think that

4:19:46

we're one of the city manager acknowledged tonight that there will be higher pay for the firefighters

4:19:51

um we know where we have an administrative fee to pay to to East Side Fire and Rescue and the The

4:19:57

Proposal from Eastside fire showed that they anticipate about a third of the firefighters getting promotions which is going to lead to higher pay as well

4:20:04

there's some offsetting cost Savings of course but I think on balance it looks to me like it's going to be a higher

4:20:09

cost um the second issue is is one of control uh the C manager made a very useful

4:20:16

point tonight when she referred to the fact that the Eastside fire and rescue has a shared governance model I admire

4:20:23

them for that it's a great structure but the problem is we don't share

4:20:28

we're going to be contracting them we will not have a seat at the table in the governance of East Side Fire and Rescue

4:20:33

and with that mode we are instead of going from what might be full control of

4:20:39

a fire department to at least partial control of a fire department we're going to a level of essentially no control of a fire department

4:20:44

and I believe that fire services are a core service the city provides and will be ashamed to lose lose control of that

4:20:51

the third issue is one of safety um in in researching this topic uh went

4:20:57

back and read some academic research on uh I couldn't find any on firefighters but I read some academic research on on

4:21:03

Airline safety and it showed that one of the greatest predictors of of uh safety

4:21:09

records of flight Crews is how long and how often the co-pilot and pilot have flown together

4:21:15

it's because they know each other they know how they work they know how to compensate for each other's weaknesses and they make a safer crew when they've

4:21:21

flown together in the structure that we're talking about now will be in a situation where once a year

4:21:27

our staff's going to change around many of the firefighters almost inevitably will not have fought fires

4:21:33

together with the ones that are that are stationed together now and we're going to have at any given

4:21:39

time especially right after this shift rotation the number of firefighters on staff who probably have not uh not

4:21:45

worked in the Mercer Island station may not know the island as well and I think both those factors are going

4:21:52

to contribute to decreased safety on the island and we know from Dr Dr Bose

4:21:57

Winder and Winder who made a comment this evening that a uh there are 30 cardiac arrests on the island about in a

4:22:04

year and then every minute in reduction minute increase in response time results

4:22:10

in a 10 decrease of survival probability so that could mean three extra deaths

4:22:16

each year if we're just a minute slower on the uh the service of to uh to a

4:22:21

house call and when you've got people stationed in the stations that don't know each other may not have been down a

4:22:28

particular Street and he'd be relying on a GPS to figure out how to get there maybe don't know where the back entrance

4:22:34

is to an apartment building I think it's quite conceivable to me that we could see a minute delay or more in in the writing

4:22:43

on site to provide services which is one of the reasons I asked tonight about level of service level of service

4:22:48

standards it doesn't seem like we have a way to measure that and well I guess we may be able to measure how that's going

4:22:54

forward but there's no contractual commitment for it that scares me and so I I can't in good conscience support

4:23:00

this very good council member weiker

4:23:05

um if Lisa doesn't have a question I'm prepared to make a motion as far as yours fantastic I moved to

4:23:12

adopt resolution number 1645 approving the interlocal agreement with East Side Fire and Rescue okay

4:23:19

moved by customer weiker seconded by customer Jacobson do I speak to the motion at all

4:23:29

I do yeah and I'll due respect Craig I I think um I Public Safety is our number one

4:23:35

priority as a community and in this the city and our residents are relying on us

4:23:40

to do the right thing by our firefighters and by our community safety standards and I think this work and I

4:23:46

think our partnership and I think the opportunity to regionalize to give everyone the opportunity for cross-training and the opportunity for

4:23:52

organizational efficiency and Effectiveness uh don't justify your concerns so I'm fully supportive of all

4:23:58

the work that's gone into this over the years and I think we're going to do right by our staff in our community by joining with uh Regional Fire Authority

4:24:07

thank you councilmember Andrew yeah thanks um I agree with Wendy with

4:24:12

all due respect Craig I think you're you're your safety concerns are manufactured

4:24:17

um I don't think you have any evidence that that there will be these problems and I think what you need to I think

4:24:23

what we all need to understand and recognize is we constantly have new employees on the island

4:24:30

um if this Regional model helps us attract and retain people

4:24:35

um in a way that is better than we currently have then I think it only enhances the safety we'll have better

4:24:41

longevity with employees because it's a more desirable Department to work in and I mean to suggest that East Side will

4:24:49

allow you know firefighters who are not adequately trained on the geography of the island to staff the island I I just

4:24:56

don't think there's any base for that I don't I don't see that the regional um fire Services entity that is East Side

4:25:03

would would um you know support that so I I do think

4:25:08

it's a really responsible to be kind of stoking fear about things where there's no hard evidence and so I'm um for that

4:25:16

reason I don't think that there there is a concern and I'm very supportive of this

4:25:22

thank you councilmember Jacobson I share uh the views of my colleagues

4:25:31

when you like her and Lisa Android but also say that in this life you don't

4:25:36

often get to test drive things we've test driven the leadership that we're at

4:25:42

this resolution contemplates the last three years and whether it was Jeff Clark or it

4:25:49

currently Ben uh the the level of response and interest uh and what goes

4:25:57

on has been markedly greater and I see this as buying into a better

4:26:03

organization a better organization than we we would have because we'd have to replace a fire chief an identity fire

4:26:09

chief we saved the same because uh Eastside foreign rescues deal with us is

4:26:15

not forever and if you think that there's some dislocations that would take place believe me those would be big

4:26:23

dislocations they'd be expensive dislocations as well and uh I see this

4:26:29

as improving uh the safety and Mercer Island and I'm very I'm confident that that will be the

4:26:36

case you will recall about three years ago we had a uh consultant look at our

4:26:43

how we did things on Mercer Island and his conclusion correct or not I don't know was that our

4:26:51

response times were as good as they're going to get because our geography is Scurry on the sound there's not much

4:26:57

further south there are three things there are about three East West arterials and that's it and uh

4:27:05

when I see the uh can hear the level of training or Eastside fire and rescue uh

4:27:10

brings to the table and we're unable to break the table and we would be unable to bring it or we to continue in the

4:27:16

prison plan uh I'm encouraged this is a good step for and recommend the city

4:27:22

manager for all the hard work that she's done to make this happen

4:27:27

thank you councilmer Weinberg yep so I'm going to be voting in opposition to this motion uh there has

4:27:34

not been any convincing evidence presented uh that this new Arrangement will either maintain or increase safety

4:27:41

of Mercer Island residents there is considerable risk however that the change will reduce safety other three

4:27:48

primary ways in which uh the risk will be uh is currently surfacing and one is

4:27:53

that as Mercer Islands fire department staff will become members of the larger East Side Fire and Rescue Workforce any

4:28:00

member of eastside's Workforce can request to be assigned to work on Mercer Island so any on island staff who

4:28:07

thereby rotate onto the island will have decreased familiarity with their our streets topography or buildings and

4:28:13

nobody has mentioned yet that we have a lot of people that call 911 on a frequent basis and really knowing who

4:28:20

those people are and what their conditions are means that even if you get to the front door at the exact same amount of times it took before the time

4:28:27

to treatment is going to be a lot shorter if you you know the people that are there and a lot of these new folks

4:28:33

coming onto the island won't know the people uh in also in section 6.2 of the

4:28:38

current draft of the analy local agreement we're giving the city manager authority to reduce Staffing specifically eliminating the right to

4:28:45

eliminate the fire marshal position without consulting city council very concerned about that also in section 3.3

4:28:51

of the current draft of the interlocal agreement where it still contains a clause allowing East Side to reduce

4:28:57

staff quote temporarily unquote but does not define what temporary is and doesn't

4:29:02

put a time limit on how long it can reassign versus round fire Personnel elsewhere off the island in addition to

4:29:09

the risks about safety this draft to the interlocal agreement contains no convincing evidence that this will

4:29:15

change this change will save us money on the contrary with the 1.2 million dollar upfront transition cost there is

4:29:22

convincing evidence that this is going to actually cost Islanders considerably more in the short term in the 1.2

4:29:29

million one-time cost means we start off 1.2 million in the hole but this Ila is

4:29:34

essentially counting on annual operating costs under East Side being lower than

4:29:40

staying on Mercer Island and staying lower over the long term so that we can eventually make up that 1.2 million

4:29:46

dollar cost loss the the problem is if you look at the annual cost of living

4:29:52

adjustments or colas over the last five years you'll see that East side's colas have been slightly higher than Mercer

4:29:59

Islands in fact in 2021 it was almost three percentage points higher three percentage points at eight million

4:30:05

dollars that's two hundred forty thousand dollars which is almost completely eliminating the 260 000 of

4:30:10

savings that we're trying to get so if inflation continues to rise and there's another year like 2021 we'll never fully

4:30:17

recover This 1.2 million dollar payments that we make to East Side as part of the transition and frankly I don't think a

4:30:24

bet against inflation at in this day and age is a wise investment of the public trust so I have some other concerns

4:30:31

about the financial elements of this interlocal agreement

4:30:36

such as this use of the term fully burdened rate without defining what that is

4:30:42

um and also not having a discussion or identification of who will pay for the

4:30:49

implementation operation and maintenance of the necessary data system Integrations that needs to be called out

4:30:55

in the contract and also concerned that there's no exit strategy as we just heard uh a few moments ago in the

4:31:01

discussion in case uh despite everyone's best intentions I do believe everyone has the best intentions here if despite

4:31:09

all that we don't get the level of service and if there's a significant drop we need an exit strategy in order

4:31:14

to come back to the level of service people have enjoyed so to sum up I'm not convinced that we uh that Outsourcing

4:31:21

the fire department maintains our safety for Mercer Island residents and it would

4:31:26

cost and not necessarily cost us any less in the long term and I encourage my colleagues to it against it

4:31:32

thank you councilmember Reynolds it's just a couple things in response to comments that were just made by

4:31:39

councilor Angel and Jacobson um councilman uh suggested that there

4:31:44

was no evidence for the assertions that I was making I just wanted to offer uh after this meeting is over if she or any

4:31:51

other members of the council would like to see it I'll be happy to share the links to the Articles and peer-reviewed journals that do research on this

4:31:58

particular topic there's actually quite a lot of evidence in data analysis associated with this

4:32:03

um secondly several members of the Council made the point that their advantages to cross training uh with uh

4:32:09

with Eastside fire and other Regional fire agencies absolutely totally agree with that but

4:32:15

the cross training occurs now this is not something we pick up as a notable benefit for purposes of this agreement

4:32:20

from what I understand it means cross training with Eastside fire staff rather than cross training with with Bellevue

4:32:26

fire staff as we do now but it's not a creation of but really more cross savings

4:32:32

um and in particular back to the level of service comments um level of services is influenced by

4:32:39

many things and could be measured many ways um one could certainly be a number of

4:32:45

homes that burn down or people that die after they've been served by the fire department but it recognizes those are

4:32:50

those are difficult things to measure and might be subject to random fluctuation that are nobody's fault

4:32:55

but there are things you can measure like going door to door uh the time to

4:33:01

travel the time to get to the patient uh the amount of training that the firefighters receive there's no

4:33:06

commitment in this agreement for how much training they will get how many hours per year they will get when we

4:33:12

lose control of the fire department we lose control to decide that answer and how much training we want to get

4:33:17

Eastside fire appears to be a a very professional organization I have the utmost respect for chief Lane and all

4:33:23

the people that serve for him but we are to make no mistake we're abdicating control of those decisions to

4:33:29

somebody that is not uh not uh subject to the will of the council not subject to the will of the city manager not

4:33:36

subject to the will of the voters of uh of Mercer Island and I think that's a darn Shake

4:33:43

yeah Rosenbaum yeah thank you uh listen I'm not one who normally makes a lot of

4:33:49

prepared remarks news meetings but I want to make sure that my thoughts on the topic are clearly laid out for

4:33:54

anyone in our community who might be watching or reading about this decision so I'll ask the council to bear with me here for a couple of minutes

4:34:01

I intend to support this motion and I'll lay out a few reasons why first I want to thank the staff for

4:34:06

their work on the significant project building the RFP and then dissecting the responses to deliver a thoughtful recommendation to council with no easy

4:34:12

task and I applaud them for the work that has gone today this work included a multitude of moving Parts including

4:34:18

complex bargaining with a large number of unknown as well as changing factors I also appreciate the efforts that have

4:34:24

gone into presenting this information on our process to our community through a variety of channels through our weekly email newsletter let's talk Instagram

4:34:31

Facebook Etc as well as the individual email correspondence and conversations with our residents I intend to vote for

4:34:37

this motion tonight and I would encourage my callers do the same because I believe partnering with ESR will bring

4:34:43

significant benefits to our residents our firefighters and our city government as someone who has spent most of their

4:34:49

career in homeland security the safety of our residents is a top priority for me and any reduction in safety is an

4:34:54

honest order in my mind collaborating with efr positions Mercer Islands deliver stronger safer and more

4:35:00

sustainable fire services for our residents schools Community institutions and businesses while providing

4:35:06

consistent leadership and more growth opportunities for our firefighters our existing Staffing model will not change

4:35:12

including an on island battalion chief it will however be enhanced because of the special team training opportunities

4:35:17

for efr personnel at a standalone Mercer Island fire department simply cannot provide this lack of opportunity has

4:35:24

impacted our firefighters seven of the most recent fire Personnel who have left for other departments the Staffing model

4:35:31

for efr allows 11 promotional opportunities for Mi firefighters along with significant new training

4:35:37

opportunities which are win-wins for our residents and firefighters alike we've heard concerns that firefighters

4:35:43

employed by efr won't know Mercer Island just the other day I saw two Aid cars race by my street to get to island or

4:35:49

excuse you their help neither said Mercer Island on the side I can assure you that those waiting for those

4:35:54

emergency responders didn't care about the city organization on the uniform they wanted the highest trained response

4:36:00

to get there quickly technology and response apparatuses allow responders to get quick to quickly navigate the best

4:36:06

and quickest path to provide assistance as part of our current response agreement mifd firefighters respond to

4:36:12

off Island emergencies and we welcome other agencies onto Mercer Island in my four years on the council I cannot

4:36:18

remember a complaint from a resident when the responding agency withheld was housed elsewhere are residents of high expectations for

4:36:24

emergency services and this collaboration will allow our city to continue to provide this level of service sustainably being a small but

4:36:31

full service city is a challenge and we should always look for efficient ways to improve the quality of services delivered collaboration with efr is one

4:36:37

of those ways I'm proud of the work that the council has done to modernize the operations of our truly full-service

4:36:42

government on Mercer Island this partnership represents an opportunity to continue this work well we're improving

4:36:49

safety strengthening Regional cooperation with the efficiency of scale that comes with that collaboration and

4:36:54

likely saving some Financial Resources I'm confident that our staff will feed it through to the best of their ability

4:36:59

and keep it surprised that the process moves forward thank you thank you

4:37:08

yeah thanks to WWE Rosenbaum for a very well said uh Summary of why this is a

4:37:15

good idea I I do want to just point out that we we just earlier had a very very

4:37:20

clear presentation from the city manager that the 1.2 million dollar transition fee is not a new obligation it is

4:37:27

payment out of a current to the obligation so this is not new money

4:37:32

um it's something the city is responsible for anyway and so to characterize this as you know an

4:37:39

expensive fee to transfer our fire Services is I think a complete

4:37:44

mischaracterization and I don't I don't want that unrebutted on the record um otherwise yeah kudos to uh Deputy

4:37:52

Mayor well very well said remarks that's where Reynolds is that old hand

4:37:57

or did I skip you or did you leave it up um it is an old hand but I would like to respond to that comment when I have a

4:38:03

moment go for it I just like to point out um yes part of that money is uh to fund

4:38:10

obligations we already have but part of it is to find other things as well that are new costs things like a standard

4:38:17

standardization of equipment new uniforms Etc I don't recall the breakdown offhand but it is at least

4:38:23

some of it is new money and additional cost councilman Weinberg

4:38:30

councilman oh sorry thanks so I uh in order to ensure Mercer Island

4:38:37

res emergency residents that there are no loopholes in this contract enabling

4:38:43

the reduction of on island on duty uh firefighter Staffing I moved to amends

4:38:50

the current motion that we uh amend the first sentence of the interlocal

4:38:55

agreement section 3.3 to use the preposition at instead of the

4:39:00

preposition two so it's very clear that the the the the firefighters will be

4:39:06

positioned on the island second you want to speak to the motion or did

4:39:12

you just speak to the motion in your emotion um I so

4:39:19

this is a technicality but in section 3.3 uh of the fire Services Ila

4:39:25

um I I do believe that Eastside has the uh the intent to uh have their people

4:39:31

located on the islands and not located somewhere else but assigned to the island

4:39:37

um I I think they have the right intent I want to make sure that that's actually reflected in the wording though uh by

4:39:43

getting rid of the word too and staying at so that it's very clear to the public that the people are still staying here

4:39:48

and will be on the island all right if I might just zoom out a little bit uh council members submitted

4:39:55

their questions in writing there were 22 pages of questions and answers that came back uh regarding these items that were

4:40:02

brought up the Genesis of the 11 amendments that you emailed just now that you intend to make are all coming

4:40:10

from this q a matrix and have a city response to each and every one of them

4:40:15

in terms of those responses I didn't see anything substantive even at the ones

4:40:22

that had an issue that even I raised it could go either way but the change

4:40:27

was not necessary so I'm going to ask you if you want to make 11 amendments

4:40:34

would you be willing to just make all 11 amendments in one motion because I believe we're going to be here

4:40:40

for quite some time going through all 11. all right does that work for you

4:40:46

I made one motion and it's been seconded that's what we're discussing I'm asking a question if you would if you've

4:40:52

already answered it no I I'm sorry I answered your question I said no yeah I didn't get the answer

4:40:59

okay Council any discussion before I call the roll

4:41:04

not seeing any discussion city clerk do you have that first motion I do thank you Mr Mayor okay please call the roll

4:41:12

council member Reynolds hi council member Andrew

4:41:17

councilmember Jacobson okay council member Weinberg hi

4:41:23

mayor niece okay Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum no council member weiker nay

4:41:31

two to five okay motion fails another amendment to councilmember Weinberg yes

4:41:37

please uh in order to ensure that Mercer Island residents that there is there are

4:41:42

no loopholes in this contract enabling the reduction of on island on duty fire

4:41:47

Staffing um firefighter Staffing I move that we eliminate the last sentence of

4:41:53

interlocal agreement section 3.3 second

4:41:58

any discussion okay okay Ted which one of your

4:42:03

questions in this Matrix so can you tell us what the correspondence to so it's easier to track the staff responses yeah

4:42:10

of course um so uh section 3.3 in the entry means

4:42:16

on The Matrix the number right if you look at the Matrix each question is is numbered but the last one

4:42:24

is number nine I think I'm looking at the Matrix to help you

4:42:30

out on this um so I'm currently talking about question

4:42:35

number nine which is on page four of The Matrix

4:42:41

oh wait hold on hold on my question four also addresses it uh I

4:42:49

okay I believe there's a typo in my emotion I apologize for that I believe

4:42:54

it is uh uh the last sentence is 6.2 that I wish to let me let me double

4:43:01

check and make sure that I got that right

4:43:10

I believe it's the last sentence of section 3.3 uh when we sorted The Matrix

4:43:15

we sorted by section not by section number just because we were short on time section 3.3 is referenced both in

4:43:22

item number four of your q a matrix a question posed by council member

4:43:28

Reynolds and item number 10 a question posed by a council member Weinberg

4:43:33

uh okay so uh I've looked at my notes here and uh the motion number two that I

4:43:41

want to propose involves uh eliminating the uh the last sentence of uh section

4:43:49

6.2 in which it gives the uh the city manager uh the right to eliminate the

4:43:57

fire marshal position can we have the city clerk read the

4:44:02

motion that's on the floor please the motion that I

4:44:10

thought I was to eliminate the last sentence of the Ila section 3.3

4:44:16

right so the the modification I'm suggesting is to replace the numbers 3.3 with 6.2

4:44:23

I I will accept that change this is number 28 in the Q a matrix

4:44:35

to eliminate the uh the last sentence the last sentence

4:44:41

reads if the employee filling the position of Fire Marshal as the as of

4:44:47

the commencement date of this agreement transfers to East Side uh as partial and

4:44:52

later vacates the position for any reason for sure Islands East Side agreed

4:44:58

to evaluate Mercer Island's need for a fire marshal because the city the Mercer

4:45:04

Island City Manager shall have final code of changes made in any to the

4:45:10

position fire emergency that's a long sentence but essentially it means that this is the city council's

4:45:17

last chance to have a say in any changes or elimination of the fire marshal

4:45:22

position

4:45:27

here yeah do I have an

4:45:33

out of date Ila um I

4:45:38

3.3 doesn't have that language in it as far as I can tell you're correct I I apologize in the draft of the motion

4:45:46

that I originally sent out I I forgot to change the last uh three uh characters

4:45:52

of the motion to say 6.2 instead of 3.3 we're talking about section 6.2 it's on

4:46:00

uh page 20 of the uh of the Ila

4:46:05

well okay yeah so so it's like 10 minutes just figuring

4:46:11

that out so okay can you please read the motion that you have with this uh the

4:46:16

motion I have is to eliminate the last sentence of the Ila section 6.2 okay is

4:46:23

that your motion customer Weimer yes is that your friendly Amendment councilman Reynolds yes okay is there any further

4:46:30

discussion all right please call everyone thank you Mr mayor council member Waker May

4:46:36

council member Weinberg I may your niece no council member Jacobson yay

4:46:44

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum no councilmember Reynolds aye council member Andrew

4:46:51

may five to two thank you Mr Mayor that's my library

4:46:57

okay I have another motion to end in order to ensure Mercer Island residents

4:47:03

that there's are no loopholes in this contract enabling the reduction of on island on duty  
firefighter Staffing I

4:47:10

move that we amend the second sentence of Ila section 3.9 to read further the

4:47:17

parties acknowledge that the exhibits in this agreement may be modified by the

4:47:23

city manager without further action by the city council Mercer Island City

4:47:29

Council provided the city manager shall report all modifications to the city

4:47:34

council as soon as practical following the modification and provided further

4:47:40

that no modifications shall be made without city council pre-approvable

4:47:46

pre-approval where the modification results in a decrease in Staffing or an

4:47:52

increase in excess of budget Authority essentially my my addition to that was

4:47:59

just five words that was a really really long sentence your second yes second

4:48:06

okay city clerk did you capture that

4:48:12

yes Mr Mayor okay Council any questions I saw him looks like it went down okay

4:48:20

I I got a question yes this one strikes me as particularly important when we've been talking about

4:48:26

safety one of the the key ingredients here was the Staffing level and while I

4:48:31

have great respect for the city manager I believe any change in the level of Staffing or is this officially important

4:48:37

matter that they should come back to the council before they're acted upon

4:48:43

please call the roll thank you Mr Mayor mayor nice

4:48:51

councilmember weiker nay councilmember Jacobson

4:48:56

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nope council member Andrew nay council member Reynolds

4:49:04

aye council member Weinberg aye two to five thank you Mr Mayor okay

4:49:11

council member Jacobson I move the previous question okay call a question

4:49:18

see you Claire Mr Mayor called the question requires a

4:49:23

second or a second oh well I'll second it no

4:49:30

[Music]

4:49:36

councilmember Jacobson aye council member weiker aye councilmember Weinberg

4:49:43

Nate mayor niece hi council member Andrew

4:49:49

hi councilmember Reynolds Nate called the question fails four to three

4:49:56

thank you councilmember Lambert in order to ensure that there are no loopholes in the contract enabling the

4:50:03

inclusion of expenses related or unrelated to Personnel excuse me in the

4:50:08

Personnel costs I move that we change the second sentence of IIa section

4:50:15

4.3.b.i from actual Personnel costs now include the fully burdened rate based on

4:50:23

actual wages including overtime and benefits paid and accrued during the

4:50:29

year two actual Personnel costs shall be equal to

4:50:34

actual wages overtime and benefits paid during the year

4:50:41

second oh I'll second that one but I'd like to propose a friendly Amendment

4:50:47

if I may do that up to the motion go ahead

4:50:54

um I I would like to propose that uh where he says benefits paid it should

4:51:00

say benefits paid or accrued

4:51:06

I will uh accept the amendment okay city clerk can you read back the motion that you have  
yes I

4:51:14

have the motion as to change the second sentence of Ila section 4.3

4:51:20

point B point I from actual Personnel costs shall include the fully burdened

4:51:27

rate based on actual wages including overtime and benefits paid and accrued

4:51:32

during the year two actual personal costs shall be equal to actual wages over time and  
benefits

4:51:40

paid or accrued during the year okay

4:51:46

I would like to speak to the motion if I may that's great yeah right just just like to note that uh  
a commanding

4:51:53

councilmember Weinberg for bringing this up it's a matter to save money for the city potentially so uh the term fully

4:51:59

burdened is not defined in the Ila anywhere that I've seen and in some context fully burdened could be

4:52:04

determined to include things like allocations of overhead of the department or something like that and

4:52:10

those costs are covered elsewhere I don't want to double dip and be forced to pay for them twice so I think this adds Clarity that it's appropriate and

4:52:16

necessary to save us money hey city clerk please call the role

4:52:23

Mr Mayor councilmember Jacobson hey Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nope

4:52:30

council member weiker council member Andrew

4:52:35

council member Reynolds all right council member Weinberg I and mayor nice

4:52:43

fails two to five thank you Mr Mayor in order to ensure that Mercer Island

4:52:49

residents don't end up footing the bill for potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars on integrating I.T systems I

4:52:56

move that we add a new section to the Ila as follows section 5.12

4:53:02

as part of taking ownership of all computer systems East Side shall fund

4:53:09

Implement and maintain all necessary information technology Data Systems

4:53:14

Integrations resulting from this Ila second

4:53:20

moved and seconded do you want to speak to the motion beyond that councilman no  
mainly I is this something that I do

4:53:26

every day uh the city of Seattle in terms of monitoring a portfolio of I.T projects

4:53:32

and helping to estimate the effort involved in IT projects and the largest piece of cost in  
many projects tends to

4:53:40

be the data integration pieces I see that the Ila does contain a topic saying

4:53:47

that the computers are moving that the mdcs are moving that the computer systems are  
moving et cetera but it

4:53:54

doesn't talk about for the Integrations that might be necessary with other systems that are  
not moving uh such as

4:54:02

our asset management system or our other systems within the city of who is going

4:54:09

to actually own the design and development and implementation and then the  
maintenance of that over time as

4:54:16

systems and operating systems underneath them change I think it's important to call that out as if we're seeing all the

4:54:22

it systems are going to get to Eastside fire and rescue that the ownership of these data Integrations goes with it

4:54:29

councilmember Jacobson is there a number associated with this that would make it a whole lot easier to follow uh

4:54:37

what's being uh verbally proposed is there a number on the uh

4:54:43

on the questions this is not in the Matrix this is a councilman Weinberg because this was not

4:54:48

a question that you posed ahead of time it was it's question 50.

4:54:53

the language of the motion is not in the Matrix right so in the in your inbox council member there is a copy of the

4:55:00

document that I'm reading this from reading a word for word from there so uh and this is item number five in the

4:55:07

document that I sent you well I didn't receive any documents from you and it seems to me this is a 5.5 uh

4:55:17

you know late uh attempt to uh the last minute something so I'm moving

4:55:24

her uh remover procedure 5.5 that we strike this motion no surprise rule yeah

4:55:32

they hired I'm going to overrule that will allow the motion

4:55:41

okay any discussion so you click these colors

4:55:46

thank you Mr mayor council member Reynolds aye mayor niece

4:55:52

okay council member Weinberg hi council member Andrew

4:55:58

council member weiker name Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nope council member Jacobson

4:56:05

no two to five thank you Mr Mayor Weinberg all right in order to ensure

4:56:13

Mercer Island residents that there are no loopholes in this contract enabling the reduction of on island Staffing

4:56:19

I uh oh I'm sorry I got this one earlier let me uh move on to number seven in my

4:56:26

document apologies in order to avoid confusion uh in a multi-city dispute with East Side I

4:56:33

recommend that the term city manager be expanded to read Mercer Island City

4:56:38

manager in Ila section number 12. second

4:56:44

okay moved and seconded any discussion

4:56:50

customer weiker can I just ask if Jesse has any comments on any of this that I appreciate her input but I'm guessing

4:56:57

she doesn't have anything to add to this one I might just step in this this was asked

4:57:03

and answered in a q a matrix and the response was this is an Ila between Eastside fire and Mercer Island

4:57:09

the addition of Mercer Island in that context is was effectively duplicative right so

4:57:16

Jesse has no further comments right I just want to be clear Jesse everything we covered in emails fine

4:57:22

yeah I I just received a copy of the Motions while I was in the meeting here so I'm following along I believe

4:57:30

uh what's being suggested is in The Matrix and then in that case yes uh We've we've addressed the comments

4:57:38

already today so I don't have anything further to add but I'd be happy to you know State out loud what our

4:57:44

response was previously if that's helpful at some point nope that's it thanks

4:57:51

okay city clerk baseball thank you Mr Mayor councilmember

4:57:57

Reynolds aye councilmember Weinberg aye council member biker name council

4:58:05

member Andrew council member Jacobson hey mayor niece

4:58:12

hey and Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum no two to five thank you Mr Mayor

4:58:19

councilman weiberg all right we're over halfway there guys thank you in order to

4:58:24

avoid confusion about the scope of the personal property referenced I move that

4:58:31

uh in the last section of Ila exhibit B

4:58:37

we expand the personal property words to breed personal property of the Mercer

4:58:44

Island fire department I'll second that

4:58:49

okay you want to speak to the motion councilman Weinberg well it's it kind of

4:58:55

a technicality but I as it's currently worded it would apply to all property acquired by Mercer Island whether or not

4:59:01

it relates to the fire department so every stapler or every desk or every police car that we get would be subject

4:59:07

to this and I think by saying I was the first round fire department it helps to narrow it down

4:59:13

okay any further discussion

4:59:19

Council members they're all I'd just like to clarify that to the extent that all of these questions have

4:59:25

been addressed in The Matrix um that that Matrix the Q a matrix will

4:59:31

be available on the city's website after this meeting yes to the packet okay

4:59:39

thank you and then I would just further comment that um staff does not believe that this

4:59:46

amendment is necessary and I'm certainly not willing to go back to Eastside fire

4:59:51

and rescue with a bunch of small amendments that our very professional

4:59:58

and competent staff do not believe are required for clarity in this document so for that reason I will oppose it

5:00:05

thank you city clerk please call the wrong

5:00:10

thank you Mr Mayor Deputy Mayor Rosenberg nope council member Reynolds

5:00:16

aye councilmember Weinberg aye mayor niece okay

5:00:21

councilmember Jacobson no council member Andrew

5:00:26

nay council member weiker name two to five thank you Mr Mayor

5:00:32

thank you motion fails and done recognize for another motion

5:00:40

all right in order to avoid confusion about the scope of the personal property reference I moved that the references to

5:00:45

personal property in the first sentence of Ila Exhibit C be expanded from personal property to personal property

5:00:53

of Mercer Island fire department same reasoning as before second

5:00:59

okay move consecutive you want to speak to the motion thank you the same issues before is it as it's

5:01:07

currently worded it would apply to all personal property everywhere um and I this is just trying to to scope

5:01:14

it down to uh what everyone I believe it intended for it to be which is the property of the Marshawn Fire Department

5:01:22

city clerk please call the roll thank you Mr Mayor councilmember Jacobson hey

5:01:28

council member Waker nay council member Reynolds aye mayor niece

5:01:36

council member Weinberg aye Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nope and

5:01:41

council member Andrew thank you Mr Mayor two to five

5:01:47

all right amen Hills councilmember Weinberg great timorto here in order to

5:01:52

ensure no degradation of the safety of Mercer Island residents I move that we

5:01:58

change sentence one dot a of section one of exhibit F of the Ila from routine

5:02:05

maintenance refers to any maintenance task that is done on a planned and ongoing basis to identify and prevent

5:02:12

problems before the results in a facility or equipment failure two

5:02:18

routine maintenance refers to any maintenance task that is done on a planned and ongoing basis to identify

5:02:26

and prevent problems before they result in a facility or equipment failure or

5:02:31

negatively impacts to operations and the safety of Mercer

5:02:37

Island residents second okay

5:02:42

say clerk did you grab that I did thank you Mr Mayor councilman

5:02:47

Jacobson

5:02:55

are you talking Jake you're on mute see your hands up

5:03:03

still on you can't hear you Jake there you go if this is on The Matrix

5:03:10

which number is it

5:03:16

um I'll have to look back to the Matrix to see uh where that is I think it's 48

5:03:21

but I'm not sure let's take a look we might be near the end here

5:03:26

it's 46 on the Ila exhibit app is that well that's the shot on will

5:03:33

41

5:03:42

thank you it is 41. thank you okay any further discussion

5:03:49

no city clerk please call the roll thank you Mr Mayor Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum no

5:03:55

council member Jacobson no council member Reynolds hey hi

5:04:01

council member Waker nay council member Andrew Renee council member Weinberg

5:04:09

aye and mayor niece two to five thank you Mr Mayor Amendment

5:04:15

all right one more guys thanks for your your patience or lack thereof but thank

5:04:20

you anyway um and exhibit F of section six I moved that we replaced the word will with in

5:04:29

the first sentence with the word shell second

5:04:35

day I speak to the motion well it's uh again a rather technical change to the

5:04:41

contract uh since this is one crack we get at the contract I wanted to uh recommend this change the use of the

5:04:48

word will in a contract implies something that needs to happen at some undetermined point in the future which

5:04:54

could be infinitely far out the future whereas the word shall generally applies or implies that it must uh happen at the

5:05:00

start of the contract uh the the date of the agreement uh so I wanted to put the

5:05:06

shell in there to make sure that there's it's clear that we expect this to uh happen right away

5:05:12

yeah city clerk please councilman thank you I just wanted to weigh in

5:05:19

um I don't know if legal precedent has changed since I took my contracts

5:05:25

drafting class but um I learned and have always abided by the

5:05:30

the rule that will and shall are interchangeable both are mandatory May is of course May means something

5:05:37

completely different but will inshall um are my mind interchangeable so this

5:05:43

this change is not necessary there's there's nothing about either word that has a Time component on it so I I don't

5:05:50

I just don't think that's necessary

5:05:56

33 years and uh in the IIT space I've written and negotiated and uh edited and

5:06:03

changed and seen the adverse effects of uh Missing things in contracts this bill

5:06:09

and ciao is something I've seen happen at least in in the I.T space and I uh

5:06:15

believes that uh it would benefit the city uh to use shell here I don't think

5:06:20

that yeah it would have any uh detriment to the overall plan

5:06:27

city clerk please call the roll thank you Mr Mayor councilmember Weinberg

5:06:33

aye councilmember weiker name council member Andrew

5:06:39

Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum nope councilmember Jacobson yeah

5:06:45

councilmember Reynolds aye and mayor niece okay thank you Mr Mayor two to five okay

5:06:54

council member Reynolds we just wanted to make a couple of closing comments don't worry I'm not

5:07:00

going to propose any amendments at this point um I just wanted to uh to thank everybody that did such a close reading

5:07:06

of the contract and in a particular council member Weinberg well I know these were painful amendments to go through

5:07:12

um he and I apparently share a common belief that while having a contract that

5:07:17

uh everybody thinks they knows what know what it means is a good thing it's even better if the contract actually says

5:07:23

what everyone wants it to mean and I believe contracts like laws should say what we want to happen and I don't think

5:07:29

this one does in the current form and that's another good reason for me to vote to vote against this in this motion

5:07:36

okay I will just add that I want to thank our city manager Jesse bond for her uh

5:07:43

extraordinary employees and dedication to the process kind of navigating this East Side Fire and Bellevue proposals

5:07:50

through Council uh it's been many months of work I think I know more about this

5:07:56

than I ever needed to but at the end of the process I am left with so much trust

5:08:02

and faith that there is no instance that our city manager would

5:08:08

compromise Public Safety response times medical responses bio responses in

5:08:14

Mercer Island and making this recommendation and we are so fortunate

5:08:19

to have as our the council's only employee Jesse Bond and being able to look at

5:08:27

this process and say this is a Hallmark of the type of person that she is and that this resolution gives her and her

5:08:33

staff which have been many and I want to thank all of the staff that supported

5:08:38

Jesse in this endeavor internal and external as well as all the unions that have worked with her

5:08:45

and this is an outcome that has she's been very deliberate at and I just applaud you uh Jesse for the patience

5:08:53

and the pace that you took this and uh making sure that the council got to the point where they could make a decision

5:08:59

uh and still provide enough time to make a transition to a January 1

5:09:04

implementation date of the Ila so that Mercer Island is really set up for

5:09:09

success with Eastside fire and rescue and I want to also thank Chief Ben Lane

5:09:15

and your predecessor and chief McDonald for everything that you've done for the island for our Public Safety as our

5:09:22

interim management of our fire Services you came to us at a time when we needed

5:09:28

you and you gave us what we needed and I personally look at this relationship now

5:09:34

with an Ila with a lot of Hope and optimism and know that we would be

5:09:40

working constructively as a city manager and as a firefighting organization of Professor firefighting organization and

5:09:47

a city council being reported back to you by your organization uh every year and so I I know that there's been a lot

5:09:54

talked about there's been a lot of motions that may be sent to the contrary but I hope all Islanders know that this

5:10:02

move is a necessary move for a small Department like Mercer Island to be able

5:10:07

to deliver over the long Horizon uh the the highest level of services in the

5:10:12

fire and medical Aid business and I have every confidence that he sat fire and

5:10:18

rescue is going to be a long-term partner that will deliver deliver on that and then some so I want to thank

5:10:24

you I want to thank the council for their work through this process and the

5:10:29

Motions tonight um and if there's no further discussion city clerk please call the roll

5:10:36

thank you Mr Mayor Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum hi council member weiker

5:10:42

aye council member Weinberg hey mayor nice council member Andrew

5:10:50

aye council member Reynolds and council member Jacobson all right

5:10:56

passes five to two thank you Mr Mayor thank you all right we now move to other

5:11:03

business in the planning schedule and we welcome to manager Jesse bun

5:11:08

uh thank you Mr mayor council I did want to point out in your packet the 2023

5:11:13

planning schedule document we have updated it for July 18th and we will be adding an item to provide you and our

5:11:21

community uh with just a status report on these uh emergency closure of City

5:11:27

Hall so that has been added after that we are anticipating taking the month of

5:11:33

August off for the August recess and we will be back on September 5th and that

5:11:39

is all I have for you this evening very good uh Council are there any council members is coming up to report

5:11:46

no they all get the month of August off so that's on me council member reports  
councilmember

5:11:53

anderol nothing to respond for Jacobson anything to report traffic your report council

5:11:59

member I have nothing to report councilman Reynolds looking forward to seeing you all at  
summer celebration on

5:12:05

July 15th Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum yeah I'll just say thanks in advance the team is

5:12:11

working on summer celebration I know it's gonna be great but I know it's a tremendous  
amount of work um I really hope none of them are made

5:12:16

up this late to watch this meeting but if you can see it on replay all right thank you  
councilmember weiker

5:12:22

no offender report thanks council member Weinberg nothing to report all right the next  
hybrid uh meeting of the city

5:12:29

council is scheduled for Wednesday July 18th at 5 p.m The Time Is Now 10 13 p.m

5:12:34

as a reminder of the council please say stated until City staff has terminated the broadcast  
good evening and thank you

5:12:40

for joining us tonight

English (auto-generated)