

GMHB EXHIBIT 94

2024-07-16 City Council Transcript

0:25

good evening and welcome to the July 16 2024 city council regular hybrid meeting I'm mayor s nce and this evening's

0:31

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

0:37

channel thanks for joining us tonight council members please have your microphones turned on for roll call Deputy city clerk de Strada please call

0:44

the roll thank you Mr mayor council member

0:49

anderol here council member Jacobson here council member Reynolds here

0:55

council member wer here council member Weinberg here deputy mayor May Rosen bomb here and mayor n here thank you all

1:03

right we have a quorum present next we have the Pledge of Allegiance if you've joined us in council chambers please stand on Face the flag if you're on Zoom

1:09

please mute and turn off your video pledge allegiance to the flag of

1:16

the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and

1:24

justice for all

1:31

we now move to approval of tonight's agenda there's no questions may have a motion to approve the agenda as presented so moved second okay moved by

1:37

council member Weinberg seconded by council member Reynold city clerk please call the

1:47

role thank you Mr Mayor just catching up with

1:53

the my help sheets here okay council member Weinberg I council member

1:58

Jacobson hi council member Reynolds hi council member wer hi Deputy Mayor

2:05

rosenbom hi council member andell hi and mayor nce hi thank you okay tonight's

2:11

special business is postponed this wearing in of the police chief and will be held at a later meeting which brings

2:17

us to city manager report for which we welcome city manager Jesse

2:22

Bond good evening Mr Mayor and members of the council thank you Casey for the

2:28

screen share happy Tuesday July 16th all right next slide please uh just

2:35

a quick look ahead at uh the schedule as a reminder we take August off from City

2:41

Council meetings and board and commission meetings so our next uh regular city council meeting is Tuesday

2:48

September 3rd uh we do have a couple more board and commission meetings this month Arts Council will be meeting uh

2:54

tomorrow July 17th and the open space Conservancy trust will be meeting on Thursday day all of our meetings are

3:01

posted to our website at the link below next slide please all right a city update let's

3:07

start with our uh favorite topic uh the spu Water Supply pipeline repair uh

3:14

first let me give you an update on construction uh and where spu is on uh

3:19

work on that pipeline uh they have pulled the new liner through the existing 24in pipe that actually

3:26

happened a couple of weeks ago uh and they are reconnecting ing the pipe this week after that work is all done uh

3:33

they'll drain the liner they have some welding to do uh and they will be anchoring everything at either end um

3:41

inside the pits once the construction is done then we have to take another week

3:47

or more for disinfection flushing and water sampling and testing uh which

3:53

we've been through before with our own water system so some of that can take a few days uh we are still anticipating

3:59

and of July early August for that pipeline to be back in service Council I do not have a specific date but we are

4:06

talking to spu daily if not twice a day or three times a day uh to stay a breast

4:12

of the work that's happening out on site uh although it's cut off on my screen we do have a let's talk page where we're

4:18

providing updates on the pipeline repair uh next slide please I wanted to uh do a

4:25

quick look back on last week's uh call to conserve um last Monday we issued a

4:32

CommunityWide call to Residents and businesses to immediately conserve water

4:37

uh because the levels in our Reservoir tanks were declining uh that was due to backtack days where our water usage on

4:44

bur Island was Far exceeding the supply that was coming in inside that little red circle is a look at Monday uh

4:52

excuse me Sunday and Monday's water usage and so what was happening is the reservoir tanks uh were declining and we

4:59

were not able to catch up we we were on a uh projecting to hit the fire band in

5:06

24 to 48 hours and that's the point at which we don't have enough pressure in our water system uh to actively operate

5:12

all the fire hydrants um so uh we think what happened because we've been doing

5:19

okay during this uh during this period of time was just really hot weather and

5:24

probably the end of the holiday weekend I know many people came home uh probably threw in some loads of laundry filled up

5:30

their kids swimming pool uh and we we just had a really really high run on water but the good news is next slide

5:38

please uh the next day thank you thank you thank you Mercer Island community uh

5:43

we we turned it around immediately inside that red circle is Tuesday's water usage where uh we had Supply um

5:52

far exceeding usage so in that uh 24 to 36 hour period there we were able to

5:58

catch up the Res Reservoir tanks and get back to what I would call normal operations during this um pipeline

6:05

repair period so I want to say it again uh we could not have done this without you uh community and businesses

6:12

everyone's response was incredible and now we'll just continue to remind uh folks that the pipeline is still um

6:18

under repair which means we're receiving water on a smaller backup line and we'll need your cooperation to continue to

6:25

conserve water until that pipeline is back in service all

6:30

right I have uh just a handful of capital project updates uh to share with

6:36

you the first is also water related I wanted to let you know that uh we are

6:42

actually almost done if you can believe it with the installation of the new meters across the island to date we have

6:50

installed 7,397 new water meters and we have only

6:56

10 left to go as of today so uh great work uh much much more to come um up

7:03

next is uh getting the customer portal up and running and we have also the antennas that tie to this system that

7:11

we're working on completing uh and more we'll be rolling out a lot of information to the community over the

7:17

next uh 6 to 12 months in terms of how they access information uh from the new meters so uh huge thank you I know every

7:25

single home and business has been impacted by the new meter installation uh we appreciate everyone's cooperation

7:31

so that we could quickly get the work done over the summer and we're almost there all right next slide please uh

7:38

Island Crestway as you know uh city council we are working on three uh new

7:44

crosswalks at three locations been a lot of construction out there and it's it's been busy the timing

7:51

of this work was scheduled such that we would be doing the uh roadway work and the Crossway improvements while uh

7:58

school was out of session uh we are on track to have that work done at the end

8:03

of August just squeaking in right as schools start in the meantime uh we ask

8:09

for continued patience uh with uh the road closures out on island Crest and if you can consider an alternate route all

8:17

right next slide please uh the Luther Burbank boiler building gosh we are making a really

8:24

great progress you can see the picture there um we're still working on uh seismically stable izing that

8:30

chimney uh the roofing work is nearly complete the concrete floors and the restrooms and the mezzanine are being uh

8:37

ground and Polished now it looks amazing and we are uh coming near to the Finish

8:43

Line uh we Council would welcome you uh down to the site for a hard hat tour so

8:48

just reach out to me and I'd be happy to schedule that uh during the August recess if you're around all right next

8:54

slide please a few upcoming events just wanted to get on your radar Tuesday August August 6 uh we will be uh hosting

9:03

a National Night Out event uh come meet the new Chief and enjoy some uh cold treats at our ice cream social I'm

9:10

realizing as I look at this slide we don't have the location but um oh at the community center there we go it's at the

9:16

very top I missed that so Tuesday August 6 here at the community center from 5: to 8 uh we uh invite the whole Community

9:24

to come out meet our police department and our our new police chief we'll be pushing out more information about the

9:30

event uh in the coming weeks uh we are hosting a blood drive Monday August 26

9:36

also here at the community center from 10:30 to 4:30 uh it's noted here that from the

9:43

time you come to register to the time you walk out the door with a cookie in your hand it's just one hour and as you

9:48

know our blood supplies regionally are quite low so we're happy to be uh coordinating with the partners uh to

9:54

make this event um possible here on merer island if you'd like to come and

9:59

donate blood the link to blood Works Northwest there is at the bottom of the slide all

10:05

right and uh finally a look ahead and Council I'll make sure um Casey Thompson

10:11

my assistant gets this on your calendars if it's not there already uh Sunday September 22nd
uh from 5: to 8 the

10:18

Mercer Island sister city Association is hosting its annual sare uh we'll have

10:24

more information and registration coming to you soon uh they are proudly going to be host
hosting this event at uh our

10:30

newest fine dining restaurant Alistair I saw a whole bunch of equipment being delivered
today so they must be getting

10:36

very close to opening all right next slide hey wanted

10:41

to take a moment to recap what was an incredible weekend uh the parade for

10:47

some reason the pictures not there they are um the parade was a great hit again

10:53

I think we had more participants in a much larger crowd than last year over 36

10:58

groups uh plus plus all of the city of Mercer Island uh Rigs and staff were

11:04

participating in the Cade uh it was it would not have been possible without our partners
Island treats Island books and

11:11

John all Scott uh for helping to coordinate the parade and encouraging people to to come
out and participate

11:17

also a shout out to the city of Mercer Island staff um for all the work they did as

11:23

well as the parade was ending all of those people were funneling into the

11:28

main event the daytime festivities at mercerdale Park and in the surrounding um area we
had really big crowds 63

11:36

booths uh for vendors sponsors and our community groups 12 food vendors our own

11:43

City booth and of course uh many of the city rigs were out for Touch a Truck uh we had
some new fun features a foil

11:50

party a no tent circus uh great music and a Japanese storytelling theater

11:57

my staff tell me there were over 5,000 people that participated in the daytime event so that
was a really great turnout

12:04

super hot super hot so thanks to all the volunteers and staff that made uh made

12:10

the daytime event possible and then uh we move to the

12:15

evening festivities and there's our Marine Patrol boats out on the lake um supporting the

12:21

barge uh another just Banner event uh again my staff for telling me uh through

12:27

some very scientific measures that uh we had a bigger crowd this year than last

12:32

year estimating um 7,000 people attended uh we also use the Community Center

12:38

parking lot as a paid parking lot and I raised \$66,000 which goes directly back

12:43

into supporting this event all right and our final slide is

12:48

uh a thank you the event would not be possible without many many amazing

12:55

sponsors uh particularly want to give a shout out to the mercher island School District who partners with us for

13:01

transportation and King County search and rescue who is with us all day uh

13:06

supporting the safety needs of the event and of course um all of the sponsors you see there on your screen uh thank you

13:13

again for a great great

13:19

event I'll just I'll quickly add a thank you on behalf of the council and the community to the city manager and the

13:25

staff it's it's amazing what the event is re blossomed into and the amount of work that goes into it I know is

13:31

tremendous but uh you know those individual contributions pull the team

13:36

together and the team produces a fabulous summer event that Islanders I think look forward to more and more

13:42

every year so thank you for that our next item of businesses appearances this is an opportunity for anyone to speak to

13:47

the city council on any item except items requiring public hearing any quasi judicial matters or campaign related

13:53

matters um tonight's agenda will include in-person public appearances and remote public appearances via Zoom individuals

14:00

wishing to address the council may do so in person or by Zoom or telephone provided they register with the city clerk by 4 p.m. today when it's your

14:07

turn to speak you'll be called by name remarks must be addressed to the council as a whole and not to individual counsel or staff members any person making

14:14

personal impertinent or slanderous remarks or who becomes boisterous threatening or personally abusive while

14:19

addressing the city council may be requested to leave the meeting please speak audibly state your name and your city of residence for the record

14:25

there'll be a timer on the screen you'll have three minutes to speak when your time is ended I'll thank you for your comments and move to the next item uh of

14:32

business next speaker or item of business Deputy city clerk please call the first speaker thank you Mr Mayor we have 15

14:39

individuals signed up for this evening and the first three speakers our first one is Addie Smith then we have Angela

14:46

bong uh Jamie London so Addie Smith please

15:01

hello welcome my name is Addie Smith today

15:06

is July 16th 2024 and I am speaking before the Mercer Island City Council in

15:15

Mercer Island Washington last week I read to this Council an email from uh

15:22

Chief Ed holes uh sent to me on October 8th of 2019 regarding hate crime attacks

15:28

on my daughter and I and subsequently Mercer Island police nor these City Council Members did anything about it

15:36

nothing and when I defended myself from those attacks by racist whites on Mercer

15:42

Island I was the one who was arrested after having gone to the police for months beginning in June of

15:50

2019 on July 2nd the city council members held a presentation by judge

15:57

Jeff Gregory and if I don't get time to finish today I'm going to come back at

16:02

the next hearing and give my response to the statements that the judge made so

16:08

but here is what the judge stated quote at the end of the day that all falls

16:14

under the three guides as I indicated of

16:19

an undeterred administration of justice which includes number one first and foremost
accountability what we do okay

16:27

whatever we change what whatever we go with whatever we decide uh is more appropriate
in this particular situation

16:35

uh or one that we are looking for in the future it's accountability number one

16:40

our accountability to the city of course our accountability to the citizens our

16:46

accountability to each other our accountability to access and administration of justice and
the laws

16:53

of this state the judge end quote the judge stated that access and

16:58

accountability to justice as the last portion of accountability not to the

17:05

justice but to the city the city was first before anything else and then to

17:11

themselves but no justice number one as a priority people ought to be shocked to

17:17

hear that coming from a judge responsible for a court that Justice period is not the priority but to the

17:24

city and to the citizens that comes first so that that should give you paus

17:30

for concern he also wanted to address transparency and the perception of the court and how the court has taken some

17:37

hits quote unquote regarding certain narratives that we are seeing out there but may not always be true my position

17:45

is if you are reading something from social media or if you are hearing something my time is running out I'm

17:51

going to come back next week the judge is a liar and you all should be concerned and these City Council Members

17:58

know that my daughter and I were subjected to hate crimes and to dat since 2019 they've done nothing thank

18:05

you next speaker please thank you Mr Mayor the next individual to speak is Angela bong and

18:12

then we have Jamie

18:24

London hello okay dear members of the Mercer Island City Council my name is

18:29

Angela bang and I am a resident of Mercer Island I'm speaking to you today to express my concern regarding the

18:35

potential adoption of the IH working definition of anti-semitism as part of the city council Proclamation number 339

18:44

first of all I want to make clear that I unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism on Mercer Island but I believe adopting the

18:51

IH definition may not be the best course of action for our diverse Community

18:57

anti-Semitism is a real and pressing issue that demands our attention and action however the IH definition while

19:05

well-intentioned has been widely criticized for conflating legitimate criticism of the Israeli government with

19:12

anti-Semitism thereby stifling free speech and disproportionately impacting human rights Advocates numerous civil

19:20

liberties organizations including the ACLU and the center for constitutional rights have documented instances where

19:26

the IH definition has been unfortunately used to silence discourse and suppress Freedom regarding human

19:33

rights as a community that I know values inclusivity and diversity it is

19:39

essential that our policies protect all residents including our Jewish citizens and citizens of other faiths this

19:46

definition in its current form does not adequately distinguish between anti-semitic acts and legitimate

19:52

political speech which can lead to unintended consequences such as censorship and the marginalization of

19:58

other voices including those of our own students instead I urge the city council

20:04

to consider adopting an alternative definition such as the Jerusalem Declaration of anti-Semitism which was

20:11

developed by over 350 Scholars and Middle Eastern in in the fields of

20:16

Holocaust history Jewish studies and Middle Eastern studies this definition provides a more

20:22

precise framework for identifying and combating anti-Semitism without impeding Free Speech or conflating criticism of

20:29

Israel with anti-Semitism incorporating the jda

20:35

would align with Mercer Island's commitment to equity and social justice ensuring that all residents feel safe

20:41

and respected it would also send a clear message that our community stands against all forms of hate and

20:47

discrimination while protecting the rights of individuals to engage in open and honest dialogue I deeply appreciate

20:54

the council's efforts to address anti-Semitism and support our Jewish neighbors however I believe that

21:00

adopting a more inclusive and precise definition will better serve our entire Community fostering a safer and more

21:07

Equitable environment for everyone which I believe is the goal of everyone here

21:13

thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to the council's decision on this critical matter thank you thank

21:22

you the next three individuals are Jamie London Christine n Nano and Aiden

21:34

mcll welcome thank you good evening council members my name is Jamie lundine

21:41

I'm a Mercer Island resident I'm here to express my objection to the council adopting Proclamation 339 defining

21:48

anti-Semitism for the past several years I've served on the Mercer Island School District PTA diversity Equity inclusion

21:55

Council the superintendent Equity advisor Council and for the last two years have served as CVP of DEI on the

22:02

Mercer Island high school PDSA as such in my heart I share the city council's commitment to fostering an inclusive and

22:09

respectful Community for all of our residents and it has been an honor to support and Elevate the voices of

22:15

marginalized students across the district and especially at Mercer Island High School while I have served in these

22:20

roles and thus see largely through the lens of student voice I speak to you today as a private citizen as a

22:26

non-jewish person I come to this conversation with deep humility and respect and would like to commend the

22:31

council for addressing and denouncing anti-Semitism on Mercer Island I know that the threat of anti-Semitism from

22:37

white nationalists and neo-nazis has been personally felt by folks in this room and is a very real and serious

22:43

problem in fact after Gathering feedback from concerned students and community members at the end of the 2023 school

22:49

year my CVP of Dei and I made anti-Semitism an area of focus for our work at Mercer Island High School we had

22:55

the privilege of bringing New York Times best author Georgia Hunter to mihs to

23:01

collaborate with students in support of Holocaust Education studies according to students and staff Miss Hunter's visit

23:06

was deeply impactful not only offered an opportunity for Jewish students to feel seen and heard but also provided a

23:12

humanized story to support the concept of never again I mentioned this to illustrate where my heart lies with

23:18

regards to fighting anti-Semitism in our community while I absolutely support the council's move to adopt a definition of

23:24

anti-semitism it is this particular definition that is concerning to me the international Holocaust remembrance

23:30

alliance's definition conflates criticizing the actions of Israel a government and political entity with

23:36

anti-jewish hate and I am worried that this conflation will be used to undermine our students and community members ability to speak frankly about

23:43

violence against Palestinians one thing that we know for certain in connecting with student groups on campus at mihs is

23:50

that for those teens that are suffering due to the ongoing Siege on Gaza they do not feel safe speaking about their pain

23:57

they don't feel safe speaking out in support of Palestinian freedom and Justice and about the suffering and

24:03

senseless killing of thousands of innocent civilians these students believe that they will be punished if

24:08

they voice their grief anger or legitimate condemnation of the Israeli government I fear that adopting the

24:14

Ira's definition of anti-semitism will only further intimidate Free Speech not only for these students but for all

24:21

community members on Mercer Island with all this said I implore the council to please consider adopting the Jerusalem

24:27

declaration anti-Semitism as an alternative to Ira's definition this definition was crafted by a coalition of

24:34

350 anti-Semitism and Jewish history scholars in the Holocaust and experts in the

24:47

first the next person to speak is Christine Nano Council and my name is Christine

24:53

Nano and I've been a resident of Mercer Island for over 24 years I am EX extremely grateful for the privilege of

25:00

living in this amazing Community it has long been a place where I felt safe and I have enjoyed meeting Neighbors from

25:06

all over the world recently however I've become increasingly nervous about underlying tensions that I fear are

25:13

growing I worry that we are losing the ability to have civil discourse about

25:19

items over which we disagree and yet I believe that our city benefits from diversity of thought respectful dialogue

25:26

and learning from one another this is why I too am against Proclamation number 339 and adopting the

25:33

working definition of anti-semitism as outlined by the international Holocaust remembrance Alliance let me be clear I

25:42

am 100% against anti-Semitism I believe it is real it is

25:48

current and it is horrendous I commend you for wanting to publicly Proclaim

25:54

that our city will not tolerate acts of hate violence and discrimination against

26:00

Jews many of whom I count among my friends nor do I condone defacement or

26:06

destruction of Jewish places of worship learning or Community Gathering however

26:12

I do not accept all of the examples in Ira's list as listed in exhibit a as

26:19

acts of anti-Semitism specifically I do not believe that Jewish people should be

26:24

conflated with the state of Israel political entities are distinct from Human individuals and cultural

26:30

institutions and community members should be able to offer critique of Israel without fear of being accused of

26:37

accused of anti-Semitism Pro prohibiting this is a violation of people's right to free

26:44

speech I'd like to ask what is the purpose what purpose does it serve for

26:49

you to approve this particular controversial definition that has been rejected as divisive by many other

26:57

groups Jewish and non-jewish alike the author of the IRA definition

27:02

himself has argued that the purpose of the document was for data Gathering not

27:08

for creating standards against which actions would be evaluated rather I implore you to table

27:15

this matter study further and come up with a different way to publicly condemn

27:21

hatred and intolerance directed toward Jewish people and institutions I also invite you to ensure

27:28

that whatever you adopt it also protects non-jews and particularly Palestinians

27:35

as they too deserve to live free of hate intolerance violence and retribution of

27:40

any kind let's seek to serve and esteem all of our residents and to preserve

27:45

Mercer Island as a safe friendly and inclusive community thank you thank

27:52

you our next three speakers are Aiden McCall Deian Etex

27:58

and G

28:10

ler hello council members can everyone hear me welcome yes excellent uh my name

28:17

is Aiden McCall and I'm a constituent of Mercer Island I'm speaking today to oppose the use of the IH definition on

28:24

anti-Semitism as the basis for Proclamation number 339 I propose that the city council adopt

28:31

the Jerusalem declaration on anti-Semitism instead I have seen the recent rise of anti-Semitism and

28:37

islamophobia and agree that we must do something to stop it however the IH definition not only doesn't make Jewish

28:43

people safer it also directly endangers and targets Muslim Arab and Palestinian

28:49

groups as well as our basic rights to free speech as udab professor of Jewish

28:54

studies and former chair of ub's Israel studies program Leora Halper has said

28:59

the IH definition of anti-semitism is a source of deep Division and controversy across and Beyond Jewish communities

29:07

because as deployed in practice it primarily serves to police political speech about Israel while doing little

29:13

to stop anti-semitic violence the following uh other organizations cite also cite

29:21

constitutional concerns with the IH definition the progressive Israel Network the National Council of Jewish

29:28

women The Washington Post and the ACLU to name a few I support the ask to the

29:34

city council to reconsider their adoption of the IH definition in favor of codifying the Jerusalem Declaration

29:40

on anti-Semitism this set of 15 guidelines is an alternative definition of anti-semitism signed by over 350

29:48

Scholars of Jewish history and anti-Semitism the guidelines are of similar strength and Clarity to the IH

29:54

definition without the issues around conflating anti-Semitism with with any political speech about Israel thank you

30:00

for listening and your time thank

30:06

you our next speaker is Dean edixon good evening my name is Dean

30:11

edixon and I've lived on Mercer Island for 36 years tonight I'll focus on one key idea that a group of extremist

30:18

activists would show up to speak out against Proclamation 339 without ever take talking to the mainstream Mercer

30:25

Island Jewish community and with the specific intent of speaking over us to

30:30

Define what hatred against Jews looks like feels like and acts like the alternative they promote has zero

30:36

mainstream Jewish support and crucially does not address the safety concerns of Mercer Island Jews the desire to speak

30:44

against the statistical vast majority of Jewish voices on a definition of

30:50

anti-semitism represents the polar opposite of Mercer Island values those who speak out against Ira do so because

30:57

their goal is not to protect Jews but rather to protect their own ability to speak in ways we Jews experienced and

31:04

Define as hateful it is a unique audacity to believe that other groups

31:10

know better than we do when it comes to the simple fact of defining the hatred against which we struggle every single

31:16

day were any other minority group to be treated this way in the face of a threat to their safety or well-being we would

31:23

call it infantilizing or even dehumanizing I hope the council will will see through this disturbing mindset

31:29

and focus on passing Ira the globally recognized unambiguous gold standard

31:35

definition of anti-semitism supported by the effective entirety of the global

31:40

organized Jewish Community 90% of Jews along with every major Jewish

31:46

organization and the nationally representative Jewish communal organizations of over 100 countries of

31:54

the 1100 plus local level jurisdictions which have adopted Ira in full Washington counts five Tacoma bellw mil

32:02

Creek burmington and sish County as much as activists non-jews would like to

32:07

believe Ira is not controversial unless the goal is to speak over the community

32:13

which is the target of the hatred Ira defines rather it is a vital tool that

32:18

clearly illustrates how anti-Semitism is Manifest in a variety of ways from

32:23

violence and discrimination against Jews to conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial it offers concrete examples of

32:31

anti-Semitism related to Israel while noting that criticism of Israel is not

32:37

anti-semitic do the right thing listen to actual representative Jewish voices

32:43

not outside groups who think they have a right to tell us how to experience and label hate crimes that specifically

32:50

Target us failing to pass Ira would be a failure to treat my community with the

32:56

same dignity afforded to all all other groups we are counting on you to hear our cries for action and to take the

33:02

uncontroversial step of passing Ira thank you thank

33:08

you the next three speakers are G lter Randy Kesler and Rusty

33:24

fedman hello can you hear me sure can hi there my name is G lter uh I am a

33:31

Jewish resident writing today speaking today in opposition to Proclamation 339 which proposes to adopt the IRA

33:38

working definition of anti-semitism you're well aware at this point um I encourage you as the city council

33:44

members to not adopt for the following reasons which I will expand upon one at a time first as a descriptor of

33:50

anti-Semitism and of the breadth of Jewish experiences this definition I find to be fly incomplete seven of the

33:56

definitions 11 itions relate directly to Israel a nation state uh it is clearly more focused on serving a political

34:02

ideology rather than the material realities of Jewish people or communities living here in the diaspora

34:09

in contrast to the Jerusalem Declaration on anti-Semitism which many have spoken on um the IRA definition was written not

34:15

by people who are literal subject experts but rather by politicians um and

34:20

think tank working groups in Europe it represents as I see it an attempt to recuperate Europe's particular history

34:26

as a leader of global racism and imperialism and reframe Europe as a benevolent place for Jewish people

34:32

because it is now an unquestioning ally of Israel the IRA definition is a particularly European phenomenon uh and

34:38

I don't believe it is a moral compass here in the United States secondly this definition is widely contested and

34:44

adopting it is not a safe operational or political decision you have already heard a wide range of opinions on this

34:49

issue tonight this alone should demonstrate that you not taking a decision that would encourage the social cohesion of Mercer Island the

34:56

conversation around the definition is representative of the broader contested terrain within the American Jewish Community about the role of Zionism in

35:03

jewishness large I don't believe it is appropriate to put any institutional support behind this uh definition um

35:10

given that these uh disagreements are still playing out in real time amongst the Jewish Community um thirdly this definition

35:18

lends itself to punitive actions most often directed towards Palestinian people Arabs Muslims or other colonized

35:23

peoples speaking towards their Liberation much like the codification of the phrase domestic terrorist has

35:29

enabled police departments to arrest and prosecute activists the label of anti-Semitism backed by this particular

35:34

definition allows the wholesale crack down on the wide range of anti-zionist political Expressions including from

35:40

within the Jewish Community this definition is entirely out of touch with the realities of the victims of Zionism

35:46

under this definition someone who lives in the United States because their grandparents were forcibly displaced by Zionist militias during the Naka would

35:53

be labeled anti-semitic for saying they dislike the state that came into existence exclusively through their's

35:58

own dispossession fourth this definition represents a campaign of distraction from Israel's ongoing atrocities we have

36:05

spent today and I'm sure you will continue to hear people speak on a policy proposal that will materially change nothing in the lives of Jewish

36:11

people we are discussing the psychological impacts of words that are important uh but rather we should be

36:17

discussing the material impact of our tax dollars sending bombs and planes to murder Palestinians the space given to

36:22

this conversation at the expense of urgent human rights crises in Gaza and the West Bank I believe lacks moral

36:28

Clarity among our community please let's thank

36:33

you our next speaker is Randy

36:38

Kesler welcome good afternoon Council my name is Randy Kesler I'd like to first start by thanking you very much for your

36:45

service to our community I have a lifelong relationship with Mercer Island I actually grew up in Bellevue but I

36:51

started Hebrew school here at Herzl n tamid when I was 5 years old got Bar Mitzvah there when I was 13 and I got

36:56

married there when I was 2 and for the last 17 years I've been privileged to be a Mercer Island

37:01

resident so it's really a privilege to stand here and talk with you today I want to thank you very much for

37:07

the sponsors of this Initiative for the important action to support the city's

37:13

Jewish community and to send an important message that our city is serious about tackling

37:20

anti-Semitism now you would think that having the city adopt the most widely

37:25

utilized definition of anti-semitism ISM and widely adopted definition of anti-semitism in the world including the

37:33

definition that's utilized by the state department and US Department of Education and that has been endorsed by

37:38

both Democratic and Republican administrations here in the United States you'd think it would be not a

37:43

controversial thing to adopt however as you've heard today the entire meeting

37:50

public comment period has been taken up with this it is a controversial issue however uh you have to ask yourself why

37:57

would this be so difficult why would there be people arguing for not adopting

38:03

the global standard for anti-Semitism definition and the answer is because the

38:08

IH definition makes them very uncomfortable it calls out the way in

38:14

which legitimate criticism of Israel which by the way is not considered anti-semitic under the IRA definition

38:20

and specifically called out as such that criticism of Israel similar to that made

38:25

against any other Nation can cannot by by definition be considered anti-semitic so please don't believe

38:32

that this is a speech code that labels every type of criticism of Israel as anti-semitic it doesn't but it does make

38:38

people who wish to do things like conflate Israeli Behavior with that of the Nazis or to call Israel a racist

38:45

state by definition when Israel is clearly not by any observable uh metric

38:52

that makes them very uncomfortable that's why there's such controversy here the uh people in America have the

38:59

right under the First Amendment to say to say things that are hateful and we have the right as Americans to label

39:06

that that speech to be anti-semitic when it does indeed match that definition so

39:13

this definitional uh uh discussion might seem trivial but I I guarantee you that

39:19

from the perspective of the Jewish Community it's extremely important and I ask you to do the right thing and please

39:24

vote to adopt the IH definition as part of this resolution thank you very much thank

39:30

you our next speaker is Russell F

39:36

fedman hi welcome thank you for the opportunity and thank you for your service to the

39:43

community my name is Russell fedman I am Jewish and this pervasive

39:50

issue anti-Semitism actually personally affects me and my family

39:57

and my community I grew up on Mercer Island and have lived here most of my life we

40:04

raised our kids here we always felt comfortable here and welcome as

40:10

Jews until recently after the horrible Massacre of October 7th everything changed as soon

40:16

as the attacks on Israel occurred my synagogue here on

40:21

Mercer Island that I grew up in that my children were bought metfood in I found

40:28

weeks after the attack vandalized with horrible graffiti anti-israel and

40:34

anti-semitic I had the pleasure years ago of serving as the president of the Jewish
Community Center which is one of

40:41

the largest public service non- denominational organizations in the [Music]

40:47

community this this definition the IH definition is Meaningful to our

40:54

community as Jews we're entitled to have a voice

41:01

if not the voice as to what actually constitutes discrimination and hatred

41:06

targeted against us as a community as a people as a religion and a group with a

41:12

common ethnic and and National Origins it would not be reasonable for a

41:17

white supremacist to Define what it means to be anti-black or anti-asian those
marginalized groups are

41:24

best positions positioned to Define their experience and what it means to be discriminated

41:30

against similarly Jews victims of anti-Semitism over Millennia are best

41:36

positioned to represent their experience and Define what it means to them to be
discriminated

41:43

against just want to add it's this definition of anti-semitism Ira is not

41:51

controversial among most and certainly not amongst Jews

41:57

also as has been noted clearly in IRA definition criticism of Israel does not

42:03

constitute anti-Semitism you may also hear from Jews who do not support Ira they do not

42:12

represent the Viewpoint of the vast majority of Jews more than 90% of whom

42:17

globally support Ira thank you thank

42:24

you we have six additional speakers uh Sarah Kim Kimberly Frank and Ray

42:33

LaVine welcome thank you good afternoon Mercer Island City Council Members it's

42:38

an honor to be in front of you my name is Sara Kareim and I'm a voting constituent homeowner and resident of

42:44

Mercer Island full disclosure that I serve as president of Lakor Elementary's PTA and will be serving as president-elect of the Mercer Island um

42:51

School District's PTA Council for this coming year I am here today however is a private and concerned citizen I

42:57

reference my role in the school district as I am a committed volunteer because I want to ensure belonging for all of our

43:03

school children and as part of my commitment to belonging I also strongly believe we need to protect every human

43:08

being from all types of hate our definitions of hate must be thought out

43:14

carefully and in a way that does not create more division in our community in this regard I am here today to express

43:20

my strong objection to the city council adopting Ira's working definition of anti-Semitism and I instead strongly

43:25

urge you to consider alternative definitions of anti-Semitism that protects all Mercer Island residents by

43:32

way of some background I am a practicing Muslim American of South Asian descent and going back 25 years have done

43:38

Interfaith work with practicing Jewish Americans belonging to the Orthodox conservative and reform synagogues I

43:44

have learned a lot from my Jewish siblings in the faith including some incredible Concepts about the Jewish faith as well as about the incredible

43:50

diversity of languages ethnicities and political viewpoints within the Jewish

43:55

diaspora I've also learned a lot about the ugly anti-Semitism that they have faced and continue facing their lives and as a result I have fought against

44:02

anti-semitic com comments made by individuals in many communities including those around me anti-Semitism

44:07

is unfortunately very real and very awful and I commend the council wanting to support efforts to understand and

44:13

combat it you've received multiple um issues with the definition of Ira and I'm here today to direct you to one

44:20

specific uh letter that I already sent to you about how multiple civil rights organizations including the center for

44:26

constitutional rights and the national lawyers guilt have documented through examples how irra has contributed the

44:32

definition of IRA has contributed to the censorship of expression in support of Palestinian rights and has supported the

44:38

rise of anti-palestinian racism you will find in their January 2024 letter to the Department of

44:44

Education how they have rejected it given these material consequences that they have documented I will now publicly

44:50

share that I am personally scared to live on Mercer Island and speak of Palestinians and of Palestine the IR def

44:57

definition does not create a safe space for discussion it's why I thought multiple times as to whether I would be safe to submit any type of testimony

45:03

including coming here in person and speaking to you and I'm trembling as I speak to you it's not safe for me to

45:09

speak if you choose to adopt a specific definition I would like to for you to be aware that you're choosing to

45:14

make Mercer Island less safe for me and anyone who wants to speak about Palestine or Palestinians it does not

45:22

stand the proclamation does not stand to port a definition that has been

45:28

weaponized against Palestinians against critics of Israel and against human rights Defenders further you're setting

45:34

a dangerous precedent of suppression of those wanting to speak about

45:42

any our next speaker is Kimberly

45:49

Frank Mr Mayor and members of the Mercer Island City Council my name is Kimberly Mia Asawa Frank and I am here to express

45:56

my strong objection to Proclamation number 339 defining anti-Semitism I

46:02

commend the council's intent to support and protect Mercer Island residents and condemn

46:08

anti-Semitism by starting with a precise definition of the same but suggests consideration of another de definition

46:15

than the one proposed the pro proposed definition as provided by the international Holocaust Remembrance

46:21

Alliance IH has been publicly rejected by respected Scholars and civil rights

46:26

organ organizations as conflating anti-Semitism with legitimate criticism

46:31

of Israel thus creating more polarization not less and stifling

46:38

legitimate legal speech of those in support of Palestinians my family and I reside on

46:44

Mercer Island I am Japanese American and my husband is European American together we have three children

46:51

who attend school in the district and participate in sports on the island we have lots of friends on Mercer Island We

46:58

Dine at local restaurants and Shop on the island we volunteer with nonprofits that serve Mercer Island residents we

47:05

pay taxes and we vote on Mercer Island our life is here on Mercer Island in

47:10

short we are all in on Mercer Island I share with you this detail about our

47:16

cultural backgrounds in the context of Mercer Island because as a culturally mixed family we have a unique experience

47:23

here regarding our daily navigation and access acceptance within the dominant white culture on the island as well as

47:31

within the Asian culture the daily effort required and the toll it takes to

47:36

adapt or what's known as code switch in Social contexts in order to be

47:43

seen is real and is tremendous for us there are consequences to all of our

47:49

actions even those that would seem innocuous or benign to others they must be premeditated

47:56

premeditated in today's divisive highly charged environment that continued to be stoked by racially motivated name

48:03

calling hate mongering and violence sadly we have learned that at times it

48:09

is safer to keep our heads down to look away and to not make waves as they say

48:15

for us it's a survival strategy you may wonder what my background and the social challenge of my family have to do with

48:22

this very real and painful struggle of our Jewish and Palestinian friends and colleagues you might even be thinking

48:28

she ain't got a dog in this fight having said this please know that I mustered up the courage and chose to come before you

48:35

today because I cannot stay silent given the shameful racial history

48:40

of our country and and in particular its treatment of Japanese Americans and what

48:45

happens when concerned citizens do not speak up thank

48:53

you our remaining four speakers are Ray leavon Abby Brockman Darren g and

48:59

Isabelle fled

49:10

Wallen welcome yes hi can you see me now sure can yes hi thank you um good

49:17

afternoon council members my name is Ray LaVine I'm here to urge the council to

49:22

not adopt the IRA definition of anti-semitism I'm Jewish

49:27

anti-Semitism is personal to me my grandparents immigrated to the US in the early 1900s fleeing discrimination and

49:34

violence I lost family members in the Holocaust and have visited Mass graves in their Villages so I appreciate the

49:41

council's intent to oppose anti-Semitism however the IRA adds

49:47

nothing to protect Jews it incorrectly end dangerously conflates legitimate

49:52

criticism of the Israeli government with anti-Semitism for the purpose of silencing advocates for Palestinian

50:00

rights this turns anti-Semitism into a weapon against Free Speech rather than a tool to identify anti-jewish

50:07

discrimination and we are seeing this conflation promoted by Ira used to fire

50:12

people from their jobs and suspend students who criticize Israel's genocidal war on Gaza I hope that you

50:19

are aware that there is Broad opposition to the adoption of the IRA definition

50:25

within and Beyond Jewish communities it is opposed by many Jews Scholars of

50:30

anti-Semitism and Jewish history and civil liberties organizations for example uh University of Washington

50:37

Jewish studies Professor leor helprin wrote In The Seattle Times in January 2023 I hope that the Metropolitan King

50:45

County Council understands that the IRA definition is not a consensus position

50:50

and that even including it in something as symbolic as a proclamation sets a dangerous precedent for future future

50:57

legislation last year King County Council took up a proclamation similar to the one that you are considering

51:04

hundreds of King County Jews wrote emails opposing inclusion of the IRA definition and many of us attended

51:11

multiple Council meetings to explain our objections the council listened and some

51:16

council members were inspired to learn more about the issues resulting in the council's adoption of a proclamation

51:23

condemning anti-Semitism that does not adopt the definition I urge you to pay attention

51:29

serious attention to the concerns raised and not put Mercer Island City Council on record supporting a definition that

51:37

threatens our very right to free speech what we need in these times is to

51:43

recognize that safety for Jews is connected to safety for all we need to oppose anti-Semitism as part of a

51:50

commitment to fighting all forms of prejudice discrimination and oppression and create equity and social justice for

51:57

all on Mercer Island and everywhere thank you very much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today

52:04

thank you our next speaker is Abby

52:21

Brockman hello council members my name is Abby Brockman and I'm a Jewish chaplain who attended Northwest West

52:26

yiva High School on the island The JCC here for many years and now work as a Jewish chaplain and I'm speaking to you

52:32

today as a Jewish person asking you to not adopt the IRA definition on anti-Semitism in Proclamation

52:38

339 while anti-Semitism deserves our consideration this definition is the

52:44

wrong way to fight it because it doesn't make Jewish people safer while it does endanger many Muslims Arabs and

52:50

Palestinians as well as other advocates for human rights why doesn't it make us safer first because it distracts us from

52:56

the real source of anti-jewish rhetoric and violence by conflating Judaism a religion with Israel a nation state and

53:03

Zionism a political ideology these are entirely different categories and it's why there are many Jews like myself who

53:10

are marginalized and silenced by many Jews in our community with a pro-israel political agenda who feel deeply

53:16

connected to our religion while also being critical of the state of Israel and ideology of Zionism but by falsely

53:21

conflating them it also conflates the inverse criticism of Israel and Zionism becomes synonymous with

53:27

anti-Semitism this puts the focus of fighting anti-Semitism on those simply exercising their right to free speech by

53:33

offering legitimate criticism of the Israeli government instead of where it needs to be on white supremacists and

53:38

white nationalism which is the real source of anti-jewish Ric and violence it therefore prevents us from understanding

53:45

the true nature of anti-Semitism its root causes how it manifests where it presents and what to do about it it also

53:51

doesn't make us safer because it inflates the perception of anti-Semitism in our society which triggers Jewish trauma and makes us feel less safe than

53:57

we actually are at the same time that it fails to protect Jews it also directly promotes anti-palestinian racism and IND

54:04

dangerous Muslims Arabs and Palestinians and all those who care about Palestinian human rights they are terrified to speak

54:09

up even though they are supposed to have rights to free speech it does this by dehumanizing them by promoting a false

54:16

narrative that they are criticizing Israel out of some intrinsic anti-jewish hatred they hold in their hearts instead

54:22

of due to their opposition to occupiers and oppressors irreg regardless of the personal religion of these actors and

54:29

their fear is not theoretical because we have seen the real consequences being unfairly suspended fired and even

54:34

arrested for advocacy work so while Jews talk about wanting to Define anti-Semitism for themselves which might

54:40

be problematic please listen to these voices at least similarly of these groups who are telling you that this

54:45

endangers them and not Jews telling you that it doesn't endanger them for all of these reasons the IRA definition is

54:51

incredibly controversial even within the Jewish Community as even the briefest research will clearly and overwhelmingly show and I strongly

54:58

urgently to not rely on it in this Proclamation make no mistake the true aim of this definition is not to make

55:04

jeice safer but rather to suppress Palestinian advocacy if you want to make Jew safer please find a way to do it

55:10

that does not infringe on speech or come at the expense of another group of people thank you thank

55:17

you our next speaker is Darren g and then Isabelle flood

55:23

Wallen welcome thank you uh I'm Excuse me I'm Darren gold I live in

55:29

Mercer Island uh I just want to quickly thank you for taking this up and I ask

55:34

that you pass the I um HRA definition um there's really nothing I can add that

55:40

you guys don't already know so I'm not going to do that um the one thing I want to mention is something I heard in one

55:46

of the speakers tonight um that speaker talked about anti-Semitism and then mentioned white

55:54

supermacy and I think it was Nazis but it was another group that speaker

55:59

um is a leader I guess in our schools and when I hear that and that leader

56:07

unwilling to describe non-white anti-Semitism it makes me question whether I belong in Mercer Island it

56:14

wavs me question whether I belong in the schools I've already taken two of my children out of the Mercer Island schools and I'm wearing up to taking out

56:21

my third thank you very much thank you

56:30

Isabelle fled Wallen hello I am Isabella a constituent

56:38

of Mercer Island I am speaking today to voice my concern about the proposed definition of anti-semitism by the IH as

56:46

someone who grew up on Mercer Island I have had the privilege of growing up alongside a thriving Jewish community

56:51

and I'm deeply committed to ensuring that no one in that community experiences hate discrimination ation or

56:56

violence of any kind at the same time I have seen that Mercer Island has not always listened to voices of other

57:02

oppressed communities I am worried that the proposed definition of anti-semitism could inadvertently make those

57:08

communities espe especially vulnerable to discrimination violence and hate the

57:13

definition discour discourages open discussion of important political

57:20

subjects um and suppresses the voices of the already suppressed

57:27

as someone who is a part of the Mercer Island community I believe it's my responsibility to ensure that none of my neighbors experience consequences of

57:33

discrimination I hope that the city council considers exploring other definitions such as the Jerusalem

57:39

declaration which also includes concern for the rising islamophobia and anti-arab Palestinian hate that has been

57:46

prevalent it is crucial that the city council listens to all voices and ensures that they are protecting freedom

57:52

of speech without infringing on it thank you thank you

57:57

Mr Mayor we do have one more request to speak uh in the the gentleman in the in the room

58:04

thank you hello thank you my name is Muhammad

58:10

abidat I am a resident of Mercer Island we've been on the island since 2008 I am

58:16

Muslim and I am Palestinian um myself my family we have many of our Jewish

58:23

friends in the community who we share our experiences and and love uh I am also concerned about the many hate

58:30

crimes we see um anti-Semitism is real on the rise islamophobia is real on the

58:37

rise uh you probably heard uh last November a 6-year-old Muslim child was

58:44

tabbed 26 times uh by his landlord uh because he's Muslim in March

58:51

or January two this year um a friend of our family who was a student at Brown

58:57

math studying mathematics along with two of his friends was shot uh by a racist uh

59:05

because he's Palestinian wearing the CIA um I grew up in Hebron uh my mother was born in

59:12

Jerusalem they lost their home in 1948 and moved um to heon then

59:20

subsequently we were occupied I was born under occupation and left after

59:26

graduating high school to the United States living under occupation so I have reservations about

59:33

the current form of the state of Israel I have been a strong advocate of a St two-state solution that allows

59:39

Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side as they should I think adopting

59:45

such Proclamation is dangerous I think suppressing our ability to speak about a

59:53

serious issue when you hear the current Israeli government when you hear benv

59:59

smotrich saying Palestinians don't exist before October 7th uh that is concerning

1:00:06

if you adopt this resolution you're squashing our ability to express ourselves you're squashing the ability

1:00:12

to have a dialogue among peaceloving people who really want to resolve this

1:00:18

issue and have everybody live together in peace uh I'm a member of merer Island I think a lot of people here we have a

1:00:24

lot of friends a lot of members of the je Jewish communities friends of our us our kids I

1:00:31

can't Define you know what the I can't State the definition of anti-semitism I have not been through that horrible

1:00:37

experience that our Jewish brothers and sisters had to endure so someone else can Define but the inclusion of Israel

1:00:45

and and and conflation of Israel in its current state and behavior with

1:00:51

anti-Semitism is very disturbing and I think it will be a detriment to having a dialogue to

1:00:59

establish longlasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis between Muslims and Jews

thank you very much

1:01:06

thank

1:01:11

you okay that concludes our public comment the next item of business is the consent agenda which contains AB 6411

1:01:18

June 28 2024 payroll certification certification of claims for June 28 and July 5 2024 city council regular hybrid

1:01:26

meeting minutes of July 2nd 2024 AB 6512 2024 asbest cement AC water man

1:01:33

replacement bid award AB 6513 80th Avenue Southeast pedestrian improvements bid award AB 6504 sewer pump station

1:01:41

generator replacement bid award AB 6506 Kroger Kroger company opioid settlement

1:01:48

AB 6516 MCC room 104 hybrid meeting capability upgrade AB 6517 Public Works

1:01:56

building seism repairs and ab 6518 disability pride month Proclamation

1:02:01

number 340 council is there a motion to approve the consent agenda is presented second okay moved by council member

1:02:07

Reynold seconded by council member weberg Deputy St clerk please call the

1:02:13

RO thank you Mr mayor council member wer hi mayor nice hi Deputy Mayor rosenbom

1:02:21

hi council member Reynolds hi council member anderol hi councc council member Weinberg hi and council member Jacobson

1:02:28

hi thank you point of order Mr Mayor um I I was not actually the one who moved it I believe it was council member

1:02:34

Weinberg I don't recall I was silent okay did I say Jacobson

1:02:40

Weinberg I second I you said Reynolds and then uh

1:02:45

Weinberg okay so you're you're the second I I

1:02:50

tried I think I heard uh council member Jacobson's voice first so I think he moved it in ice second going do to that

1:02:56

okay I had my on for for the record I would have been

1:03:02

happy to move it I just didn't at this time thank you all right city clerk are we squared away on that yes we are thank

1:03:09

you very good our first item of regular business is AB 6515 definition of anti-semitism and Proclamation number

1:03:15

339 Council this is item that's been brought forward by council member Jacobson outed tonight's agenda uh for

1:03:21

discussion and approval or a vote and so I will turn it over to you

1:03:29

I uh have for some considerable period of time uh considered the idea of uh

1:03:36

anti-Semitism Proclamation and I've reviewed not only the IH but the

1:03:43

Jerusalem and a number of other things that other cities have done here and I

1:03:48

would nothing is perfect in this world and none of those things are perfect

1:03:53

however I do believe that the uh what's proposed is uh the proclamation 339 is

1:04:01

the best uh vehicle available to us to be on

1:04:09

record about any semitism I um there are those who think that I'm

1:04:15

Jewish because Jak there are many Jews whose name is Jacobson I'm just a dumb old Suite so U you stick have to stick

1:04:23

the pins in a different doll but uh uh I had the Good Fortune of growing up with

1:04:29

a wide number of people my best friends and Playmates were Chinese Japanese black uh Mexican

1:04:38

um all all kinds of things in a a small California City and and uh including a

1:04:44

number of uh uh Jewish people and I I didn't I

1:04:51

never drew lines between these they were just my friends and if they weren't if they didn't want to play with me or

1:04:57

they wanted to steal my bike they weren't my friends but putting all that

1:05:02

aside this anti-Semitism is a serious problem and it's something that I think we have as a city to uh stand on record

1:05:12

three years or so ago we passed a a proclamation of some sort that attempted

1:05:18

to deal with us and at the time I said well why do we just limit it why don't

1:05:23

we just do go across the board and uh say that we're against every form of

1:05:28

prejudice and every form of discrimination and that's my based belief um and at that point in time uh

1:05:36

we didn't do that although we followed up with number of other proclamations I do not believe that that the uh proposed

1:05:43

uh 339 conflates U or prohibits people from

1:05:51

criticizing the government of Israel and uh I have studied it carefully and I've

1:05:56

come to that conclusion I think it's the best uh thing available and by uh taking

1:06:02

a look at the number of uh entities and organizations which have adopted this I

1:06:08

think is uh telling in terms of its pervasiveness and so for those Reasons

1:06:15

I'm the one who's proposed this and Mr Mayor I'm prepared to move to adopt it at the appropriate

1:06:21

time okay well you know I like a motion on the floor so I'll let you put a motion on the FL I move that we uh adopt

1:06:28

uh AB 6515 uh to approve Proclamation 339

1:06:34

defining any semitism okay is your second second seconded by coun Weinberg

1:06:41

do you want to speak to the second well um I actually have a minor

1:06:48

Amendment I'd like to propose as well okay City cler do you have the motion in the uh it was moved by Council M Jacob

1:06:55

seconded by council member wymer and a potential Amendment yeah so

1:07:01

I uh move that we amend on page three of

1:07:06

agenda Bill 6515 uh the last line above uh of the proxim of the Proclamation right above

1:07:14

the signature line to end with the year 2024 instead of

1:07:21

2023 okay I will second that uh Amendment councilor are there any

1:07:26

questions on the amendment all

1:07:31

right Deputy city clerk please call the RO the first Ro will'll take is on the

1:07:40

amendment council member Weinberg I council member Reynolds hi mayor n hi

1:07:47

council member andrell hi council member Jacobson hi council member wer hi and

1:07:53

Deputy Mayor rosenbom hi okay the amendment passes we're back to the amended motion on the

1:08:00

floor all right Council any other discussion councilman

1:08:06

Reynolds I'd like to start by thanking everybody for their passionate and thoughtful presentations tonight uh it

1:08:12

was deeply touching and and helpful to hear all the the perspectives that we had tonight on on all sides of this

1:08:18

issue I also want to note that I'm unalterably opposed to anti-Semitism racism and other forms of hate these

1:08:25

things have no place in our community or our country in recent years I want to

1:08:30

acknowledge we've had many clearly anti-semitic incidents of vandalism and language on the island these are completely unacceptable and should not

1:08:36

be tolerated on June 10th 2020 the council issued a proclamation stated that quote

1:08:43

conduct that inflicts emotional mental or physical harm against individuals because of their race ethnicity place of

1:08:50

origin physical ability socioeconomic status gender identity sexual orientation age or religion has no place

1:08:57

in our community and Country close quote I supported this Proclamation and I

1:09:02

absolutely agree with it today we're put to a test to walk the talk and support

1:09:08

another Proclamation that attempts to address anti-Semitism a specific form of harm that has no place in our community and

1:09:15

Country I recognize this is a delicate and important issue to Islanders of all backgrounds National Origins and faiths

1:09:22

and we've seen a good examples of this tonight already I also know that in this political

1:09:27

climate many Islanders Jews Christians Muslims and others have told me how they

1:09:32

feel unsafe in this community and unable to express their feelings on issues related to events in the Middle East

1:09:38

this is a tragedy so we must move forward carefully I share the views of many in

1:09:43

our community that anti-Semitism must be condemned but I also read the IH definition of anti-semitism and see at

1:09:50

least two examples in this definition that in my view can flate opposing anti-Semitism with a opposing policies

1:09:56

or actions of the Israeli government we've received a number of letters on this topic many who support

1:10:02

the IH definition have included this statement or a variation on it quote the definition clearly states that criticism

1:10:09

of Israel similar to that levied against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-semitic I'd like to take comfort in

1:10:16

this statement but I can't for two reasons first it's directly contradicted

1:10:21

by at least two examples of anti-Semitism within the IRA document rening the clarification confusing it

1:10:28

best and potentially misleading but perhaps more important and I'll be offering an amendment

1:10:33

related to this later this portion of the definition is not included in the Merc Ireland agenda bill that documents

1:10:39

the definition we are adopting the to be clear the original IRA definition and

1:10:44

the Mercer Island agenda Bill are say different things and what people have

1:10:50

been frequently quoting in dozens of letters to the council as justification for accept acting the proclamation is

1:10:57

not part of the bent agenda bill so at this point uh I would like to

1:11:03

move to amend the motion to insert at the beginning of the definition the M

1:11:09

missing text from the IRA definition and I'm going to read this off and I can also email it to the council if you

1:11:16

like quote to guide Ira in its

1:11:21

work the following examples may serve as illust ations manifestations might include the

1:11:29

targeting of the state of Israel conceived as a Jewish collectivity

1:11:35

period however criticism of Israel similar to that levied against any other country cannot be regarded as

1:11:42

anti-semitic anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity and it

1:11:50

is often used to blame Jews for quote why things go wrong close quote it is

1:11:59

expressed in speech writing visual forms and action and employ Sinister

1:12:05

stereotypes and negative character traits close

1:12:10

quote and so for for avoidance of doubt and and uh Mrs Str let me know if you want me to read this back this is

1:12:17

language from the initial from the original IRA definition and all I'm asking is that it be at this time is

1:12:24

that this be included the Mercer Island definition that purports to be a representation of the IRA definition but

1:12:29

leaves out these important words okay is there a

1:12:36

second second okay seconded by Council M wer moved by council member Reynolds the

1:12:41

insertion of the of the language that you quoted is at what point in this Proclamation I believe it would be in

1:12:47

the the beginning part of exhibit one to the proclamation at the very beginning of

1:12:53

that so in after uh in the quote that is in bold on the uh now therefore section

1:13:01

you saying it is within those quotations that this text is to occur it's on

1:13:07

excuse me I said exhibit one I meant exhibit a that exhibit the B side of the

1:13:12

Proclamation yeah yes and that exhibit a begins with the word words contemporary

1:13:18

examples okay that paragraph is taken from the IH definition but the paragraph

1:13:24

within the definition that comes before that that I quoted is missing so I'm proposing to add it to the beginning of

1:13:29

this definition okay have you emailed that the city clerk um I will certainly do that right

1:13:35

now okay give me a moment do you want to speak to the second

1:13:41

um yeah I just I done a lot of reading and a lot of talking to my Jewish

1:13:47

friends and family members and my Palestinian friends and family members and this is a very heartbreaking uh

1:13:54

situation that we have on the global stage and here at home I I just I would like to think we

1:14:02

have an inclusive community I know that's a work in progress on many fronts for many communities and many

1:14:07

ethnicities and many cultural groups and and this attempt tonight is my support to try to address my Jewish

1:14:13

friends and family who who have felt anti-Semitism and who have felt afraid

1:14:19

and um if there are more proclamations coming please send them our way and let's talk about that but tonight I want

1:14:25

to stand with my Jewish friends and family who who really feel um that this is an important stand to take at this

1:14:31

moment in time in our community on This Global stage so I'm going to support this and I appreciate council member Reynolds for for bringing that

1:14:37

clarification forward because this is by no means an effort or support by me of suppressing voices um of our our Muslim

1:14:45

and Palestinian family members and community members and let's please keep the dialogue open it's the only way we

1:14:50

can come together as Mercer Islanders as washingtonians As Americans AS Global Citizens in the world we have to have to

1:14:57

figure out how to get our language right and come together to to support peace and anti-racism in all its

1:15:04

forms thank you city clerk can you put the text as the amendment would reflect

1:15:10

in the bside on the screen is that possible clarification is this text to go before the definition that's blue on

1:15:18

the actual proclamation in the actual Proclamation

1:15:24

the text that is this follows the text that is in blue and I think there may be a little bit of additional text also

1:15:30

after that that is but I've K have lost track to be honest with you but this will if you put it in right before the word contemporary it will be in the same

1:15:37

place that it is in the original working definition I'll share I'll share I I

1:15:43

just want to make sure I get this in the right spot so let me let me share it and you can tell me

1:16:05

uh that that is not the correct place um it should be well maybe it's equivalent

1:16:10

but I believe it belongs on the top of the next page can I right before the word

1:16:16

contemporary

1:16:34

for the record I'm not trying to pull a fast one anybody this is a direct cut and paste from the or copy and paste

1:16:39

from the the Holocaust remembrance website Ellie can you underline that new

1:16:45

text just what we're discussing thank

1:16:53

you can you change the last approved amended motion which is the 2024 on the a side of the

1:16:59

prong thanks

1:17:28

okay is there any other discussion by Council before council member enal well I just wanted to thank council member

1:17:33

Reynolds for um this amendment I my eyes aren't as good as they once

1:17:40

were but I think it's one that I can support because I was worried about the dozens and dozens and dozens of emails

1:17:46

that we received that said criticism of the state of Israel is not considered antisemitic I'm like well where is this

1:17:51

in this two-page document um so I do think it is important um and I would not intend to silence any voices and you

1:17:58

know political speech may be distasteful but it is certainly not something I'm

1:18:03

wanting to quash um so I I do appreciate this amendment and I I think I'm going

1:18:08

to be in support of the entire Proclamation at this point but okay thank you for that Council
any other

1:18:15

discussion before a call to rooll on the amendment Deputy city clerk please call the

1:18:20

RO thank you Mr mayor council member wer I mayor niece I

1:18:28

council member Weinberg I Deputy Mayor Rosen bomb hi council

1:18:35

member andwell hi council member Reynolds hi and council member Jacobson

1:18:40

hi thank you okay Amendment to the motion passes the amended motion is now back on
the floor there any more

1:18:46

amendments councl Reynolds yes I I would move to uh Delete

1:18:52

the phrase on the exhibit a EG by claiming that the existence of a

1:19:01

state of Israel is a racist endeav can you draw my eye to the

1:19:08

location of that in the text um if you can give me it's the fifth bullet point

1:19:18

up uh the one that begins with denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination it's
the what comes

1:19:23

after The Comma on that yes so I'm proposing to delete everything after the comma on that

1:19:29

bullet

1:19:35

point okay is there a second second I'm surprised that's not

1:19:41

in par seconded by council member wer all right so it's moved by council member Reynold
seconded by council

1:19:48

member wer may I speak to motion you can okay thank you

1:19:55

um we heard from a lot of speakers tonight that uh the IRA document

1:20:02

conflates criticism of Israel or the state of Israel or its policies or

1:20:08

actions with anti-Semitism and this is one of my key concerns and I think there

1:20:13

are two key examples in this document where that happens uh this is one of them I'll be
and I would like very much

1:20:20

for the council to be on record as uh very much opposing

1:20:25

anti-Semitism but it does not seem appropriate or necessary for me for the council to
attempt to codify the idea

1:20:33

that criticism of policies or actions of the state of Israel are anti-semitic and

1:20:39

I believe this language at least arguably does that and as such I'm proposing that we
eliminate this

1:20:45

language okay Council any other discussion Deputy Mayor roson yeah I I'm

1:20:51

opposed to this amendment um I'm I'm I struggling to understand a

1:20:58

little bit here the deleting this language would

1:21:04

seem to be in some way endorsing the idea that the state of Israel is a racist

1:21:10

Endeavor and I I just don't feel comfortable with that

1:21:17

um I think that those those claims are are often made and are unfounded uh in

1:21:22

the state where 20% uh of the population are uh Muslim

1:21:29

um I I just can't I can't let this amendment go by without without

1:21:35

comment okay Kar Reynolds I want to be very clear here

1:21:40

that I'm I'm not making an allegation that the state of Israel is racist or is

1:21:45

a racist Endeavor um merely I merely making the point

1:21:50

that in a country that advocates for free speech as as we do um I think all

1:21:58

citizens all residents all of us should feel free to be able to

1:22:04

criticize another country another government our own country our own

1:22:09

government for any reason that they feel is appropriate and not have fear of being

1:22:16

accused of anti-Semitic or other similar sorts of of attitudes um whether that is

1:22:24

or is not a fair criticism of the state of Israel is is not relevant uh what is relevant is an attempt

1:22:31

to criticize such criticism as

1:22:38

anti-semitic Deputy maros I think that the the language that on your last M I think covered a lot of this where it was

1:22:44

very clear that that that criticism of the state of Israel is should be held at

1:22:50

the same standard as the criticism of any other country uh I think I think your point is covered that

1:22:56

language c Reynolds I I acknowledge that the the amendment that I offered first

1:23:02

is is helpful in this vein uh in that it added some very important language but

1:23:08

it also is somewhat contradicted in my view by this language and I think having doc pieces of the document that

1:23:14

contradict each other is is unfortunate and confusing and and misleading Okay C any other discussion

1:23:25

clerk please call a room thank you Mr mayor council member Jacobson

1:23:36

may council member wer may council member Weinberg

1:23:44

may mayor nie may council member Reynolds

1:23:51

I Deputy Mayor rosenbom no and council member andrel no okay the amendment to

1:23:58

the motion fails do you have any more amendments Council Reynolds one more yes uh I would like to move to strike

1:24:07

the second to the last bullet on the uh Ira appendix a that states that drawing

1:24:15

comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis I would move to strike that

1:24:21

language okay is there a second on that

1:24:31

one there's no second so fails for a second back to the amended motion on the

1:24:36

floor Council are there any other Amendment any other discussion Deputy

1:24:42

Mayor OA yeah I just want to thank everyone for coming out here tonight and also the about 100 emails or so we've

1:24:48

received in the last uh 24 hours it was felt like my phone was buzzing at at any

1:24:53

given moment um you know thinking about how to talk about this tonight I really struggled um

1:25:00

I I thought about talking about some of

1:25:06

the recent acts of anti-Semitism I've seen um and have been victimized by uh

1:25:14

and then I realized that that would be a very long conversation but I just want to share a couple because I I I think

1:25:20

that this has become uh heard a lot tonight and I've been frustrated to hear what folks think

1:25:27

will make Jew safe and what won't um especially what won't uh in the last few years I've had a lot

1:25:36

of instances with anti-Semitism I would say from the far right uh to the far left uh

1:25:42

including sitting about 40 feet from a Neo-Nazi a self-proclaimed Neo-Nazi who

1:25:49

threatened to burn down my house with a Molotov cocktail because of my family's

1:25:55

work to combat extremism that was very challenging it

1:26:00

was very terrifying it continues to terrify me more recently I was caught coming home

1:26:07

from a three-year-old's birthday party and I5 as protesters took

1:26:12

over uh I5 as they approached my car I immediately got concerned about what

1:26:18

would happen if they open the door and found out I was Jewish my my son who is three
what would

1:26:26

happen to him um I have been approached by m members

1:26:33

of the community asking what the city can do uh in this effort and I think

1:26:38

that passing this tonight is one thing that we can do uh this puts us in line with over 30
States 1,200

1:26:46

cities uh three different us administrations um

1:26:52

including you know the last three um so I would I'm very concerned about and

1:27:00

cognizant of what folks have said tonight and I think that this is obviously an ongoing
conversation we're not going to solve anything here tonight

1:27:07

um but I do think that this is a step forward um and I encourage my colleagues to support it
thank you all right

1:27:14

Council Weinberg so uh many people have expressed both support for uh and

1:27:20

opposition to uh this definition of uh Andy semitism I think we've done some thoughtful adjustments to it uh in

1:27:28

response that said uh I want to point out that no individual has come forth in

1:27:33

defense of anti-Semitism itself and while no definition of anti-semitism is

1:27:39

perfect it's important to keep the bigger picture in mind here which is that Mercer Islanders are united in

1:27:45

keeping our community safe and free from discrimination and and Prejudice of all kinds including anti-Semitism merer

1:27:53

Islanders are united in fostering an inclusive and respectful Community where everyone belongs and Mercer Islanders

1:28:00

are united in our defense of our freedom of speech I whole wholeheartedly support

1:28:05

this motion encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of it as well and going forward I encourage the members of the

1:28:11

community to focus on the many values that unite us and not the few that divide us thank

1:28:17

you all right not seeing council member Jacobson I'd like to uh thank uh council

1:28:23

member Reynolds because I think his uh the two amendments excuse me or the one

1:28:29

Amendment we've adopted I think um goes some distance to meet the conflation

1:28:36

problems that people have uh I would also like to say that uh having read

1:28:41

every one of the numerous emails that I I have uh I share uh my colleague uh Ted

1:28:51

weinberg's belief that there is a strong feeling that anti-Semitism isn't the way

1:28:57

doesn't isn't what we do in this community and we all will do it go about

1:29:02

not being anti-semitic in different ways but uh it's a commitment that I certainly have and I can see in this

1:29:09

room and in the emails that we got uh numerous on the subject so thank you

1:29:15

thank you councilman Reynolds I think council member Weinberg made a very valid point that uh you know

1:29:22

nobody here is in favor of antiem ISM I'm very grateful to hear that so far I

1:29:27

I also want to uh uh acknowledge the the deeply upsetting commentary by by my

1:29:35

friend and colleague the deputy mayor Rosen bomb um what he had to go through was completely and absolutely

1:29:41

unacceptable there's there is no doubt about that um what I continue to struggle with is that uh this

1:29:50

Proclamation may make uh some Jewish people on the island feel safer and uh

1:29:56

we we have to take their word for it those who have spoken up in this they say it will make them feel safer I I'm

1:30:02

very glad that we'll have that effect I I want everyone to be safe and welcome on this

1:30:07

island um I'll be opposing this motion probably that's no surprise to anybody in this room uh and the reason I'll be

1:30:15

opposing it is not because I'm in favor of anti-Semitism not because I think it doesn't matter um but rather because I

1:30:21

want everyone to feel safe and welcome on this island and there is too much going

1:30:28

on in the Middle East and too much going on in this country on on our campuses

1:30:34

and elsewhere where those who have spoken up against some of the actions taking place

1:30:40

in the Middle East right now have felt silenced have felt unsafe have felt

1:30:45

threatened uh in some cases have been expelled from school lost jobs Etc this

1:30:52

Proclamation has no impact on the on how those people are treated we we can't stop that from

1:30:58

happening but I think in some ways it it gives those who who would attempt to punish people for speaking their their

1:31:04

for using their voice to express their concerns about the Israeli government's policies or actions I I think it's

1:31:11

having the it's giving ammunition to those who want to silence that voice and stifling Civic discourse and to me that

1:31:19

that that's a tragedy as well and it's a tragedy that is is not necess necessary there are alternate definitions that are

1:31:26

around uh through at the beginning of this process I was made aware of the Jerusalem declaration which many people spoke of um uh I've read that and it

1:31:36

seems to me to have all of the same advantages that the initial document has

1:31:41

without any of the disadvantages um I had come in here tonight uh intending to propose an

1:31:46

amendment to adopt that one instead I I won't be doing that because it's very clear it would not succeed and I don't

1:31:53

want to waste the council time uh but I wish we'd gone that way because I think it's possible to

1:31:59

increase the safety of everyone in the island and I I think we failed in that effort tonight Mr may I just real

1:32:09

quick like I said I don't think we're going to solve any of this tonight but I don't I don't think we can go without

1:32:15

mention what we have seen at campuses what we've seen around places in the world if you look at what is contained

1:32:22

in this document there are examples of this so close to home and I I I just as

1:32:29

you go not very far from here there were people that were prohibiting people from

1:32:34

moving around a public university because they felt they were Jewish and I I I fully appreciate what

1:32:42

what what Council Reynolds has said but I I just cannot let a comment like that go without without offering a little more

1:32:50

color okay well Council I want to thank you for the work on this like council

1:32:55

member Jacobson I want to thank you for bringing it forward and the rest of the council thank you for the Amendments on

1:33:00

it I want to thank the public for all of the feedback the public testimony uh the

1:33:06

passion uh the emails we received over a 100 emails uh since you know the attacks

1:33:12

in uh Israel we've spoken out with a joint statement we've had a proclamation

1:33:17

every Proclamation is included additional language about making sure that the community is safe and that this

1:33:23

is not not a place that we endorse or support or don't speak up against hate when we see it and if we use the phrase

1:33:30

commonly among any issue this anti-Semitism included if you see

1:33:35

something say something you need to be able to know when you see it and this goes a long way to describing to the

1:33:42

community to our Jewish neighbors uh that we've been thoughtful about defining the

1:33:47

anti-Semitism allowing the community to have a pillar to lean on to know when

1:33:53

they see it one that is congruent I'll add with the school district the school district has adopted the exact language that we're

1:34:00

adopting tonight I guess minus maybe one Amendment um and so we'll continue to

1:34:06

support our Jewish neighbors and friends as well as the full community and so I want everybody to know that uh I'm

1:34:12

supporting this because this is a Continuum of the work that we've been doing since October 7 and it's work that

1:34:19

we'll continue to do when we see something we'll say something so Deputy C clerk please pleas callor

1:34:26

rooll thank you Mr

1:34:31

Mayor this is the vote on the main motion Deputy maor Mayor excuse me

1:34:37

Deputy Mayor rosenbom I council member wer I council member

1:34:43

Jacobson I council member andrel I mayor nce hi council member Reynolds I a name

1:34:51

sorry and council member Weinberg I thank you

1:34:58

okay motion passes Council of time 6:34 is everybody good with a 10-minute

1:35:03

recess okay Council be in recess for 10

1:35:22

minutes

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1:49:17

okay welcome back to the city council meeting the council was in recess from 6:34 to 6:49
9 our next item of regular

1:49:24

business is AB 6510 the 2024 comprehensive plan periodic update presentation the
Planning Commission

1:49:30

recommended recommended draft we welcome CPD director Jeff Thomas also joining us
tonight as senior PL planner Adam Zack

1:49:37

and Planning Commission chair Angela bazo welcome thank you mayor um good evening

1:49:44

Council for the record Jeff Thomas with CPD uh Angie our Planning Commission chair has just popped on the screen and

1:49:51

Adam will hear momentarily as well um before we get going with tonight's

1:49:56

presentation I'd like to just make a few opening remarks um tonight represents the

1:50:02

handoff of the Planning Commission recommendation on the 2024 comprehensive plan periodic update uh work that the

1:50:09

Planning Commission wrapped up on June 12th and um the planning commission's

1:50:14

recommendation signed by the chair is included as exhibit one in your packet

1:50:20

um to agenda Bill 65 10 also included in your packet with exhibit one are two

1:50:27

different versions of the actual um comprehensive plan draft comprehensive

1:50:33

plan that the Planning Commission is uh presenting to you the city council uh one version is a clean version which

1:50:39

represents the most up-to-date work that's been done in clean copy so it's easy to read um the second version is a

1:50:47

strikethrough version and what that version represents is essentially our 26

1:50:52

16 comprehensive plan and all the changes that the Planning Commission uh

1:50:57

worked on over the period of a better part of two years and took the public

1:51:02

hearing um there at the end of May and deliberated on and ultimately voted to recommend to the city council on June

1:51:09

12th so uh two different versions of the same document I would like to also point

1:51:14

out quickly a footnote to the um strikethrough version um not every

1:51:20

element or every chapter per se in the comprehensive plan is in strikethrough version because we have two new elements

1:51:28

that don't exist in the 2016 comprehensive plan that's the economic development and the Parks and Recreation

1:51:34

elements and then the housing element um there is a housing element in the 2016

1:51:40

version of the comprehensive plan however um that version is proposed to be completely repealed and replaced with

1:51:47

a new housing element and uh so the new housing element is in both version

1:51:53

uh in your packet here tonight um tonight's focus is going to

1:51:58

be um ideally will be just strictly on the Planning Commission recommendation we have the chair here this evening

1:52:04

joining us and uh presenting the recommendation to you the city council and then um between Adam and Angie and I

1:52:13

doing our best to answer any questions that you may have on the Planning Commission recommendation um we are going to have

1:52:19

time uh starting in September to who uh have proposed amendments by Council

1:52:25

we'll talk about that a little later at the end of the presentation here this evening um but September 3rd is the

1:52:31

start of the council's deliberations uh to work towards adoption of the 2024 comprehensive plan

1:52:38

so we're not having deliberations here tonight or any motions to make amendments here this evening uh simply

1:52:45

to present the Planning Commission recommendation to you this evening and um hope hopefully be able to answer any

1:52:50

questions that you may have um the last thing I will say really

1:52:56

quick before I turn it over to Angie is um the agenda Bill does indicate no requ

1:53:02

no action is requested tonight I do believe um in working with the mayor and Deputy Mayor um in preparation for the

1:53:09

meeting tonight um the mayor we may be asking for a motion for the council to

1:53:15

confirm the schedule to send proposed amendments to staff over a rolling

1:53:20

3-week period so that will come here at the end of the presentation and we'll discuss that a little bit more when we get to it so with that Angie I'd

1:53:27

like to uh give you the hot mic and um I think you've got some comments on the process and so forth that you'd like to

1:53:33

make to the council so take it away thanks Jeff uh good evening everyone my

1:53:39

name is Angie bazo and I serve as the chair of the Planning Commission I'm here this evening to give you just a

1:53:45

quick briefing on the process the Planning Commission undertook to help City staff develop the draft comprehensive Plan update presented at

1:53:52

tonight's meeting um city council voted in March of 2022 to advance a work plan

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to engage a full review and revision of our comprehensive plan and the Planning Commission voted in June of 24 to refer

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the current draft to the city council for consideration in the 26 months since city council approved the work plan for

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this effort the Planning Commission has convened 30 times to review and discuss plan elements 30 times each of those 30

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occasions had an opportunity for public comment on the business before the commit and of the 30 meetings 12 occasions

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included live public comment uh the city of Mercer Island has maintained a website disclosing comprehensive plan

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updates a thorough library of draft elements presentations and comments and has provided what is I would say

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effectively a 247 information availability and comment platform for the public to engage with planning

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Commissioners often received emails from members of the public who've reviewed the work online and provided feedback or

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comment comments at their convenience um during the comprehensive plan review Commissioners reviewed no fewer than two

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drafts of each of the seven plan elements and in some cases elements were reviewed a third or fourth time so

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there's been a lot of review of the elements in front of you um most planning Commissioners attended the May

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1st comprehensive plan open house and reviewed the comments submitted at the open house as well as responses

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submitted for the various surveys the city presented including economic development and multifamily housing

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topics um three of the five current planning Commissioners have participated in the

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comp plan update process since the beginning of the 26 months which really lends itself to continuity of process

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and historic knowledge within the commission itself um and at least four Commissioners participated in the

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majority of the process if you've kept up with Planning Commission deliberations you've observed active and

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public debate by Commissioners about how to address comments received on the draft comprehensive plan and you'll

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doubtedly have the information you need to understand what public comments we voted to address and what comments we

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opted not to address uh the conversations within Planning Commission deliberations really do give you context

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and reasons for our actions um as your newest planning commissioner and the newest of three commission chairs who've

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served during this process I can say with confidence that the draft before you today has been prepared while

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undergoing near constant opportunity for public involvement and regular debate and discussion by the Planning

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Commission in an open public forum that can be reviewed at every step by accessing notes and videos online it's

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because of these qualities I believe the draft comprehensive plan has undergone a rigorous transparent and accessible

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public process and with that I'd like to hand it over to Adam Zach to review the particulars with you thank you thank you

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chair thanks Angie um I have a couple of slides uh to go through tonight tonight

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so let me share my

1:57:00

screen go okay so so our purpose tonight as Jeff and

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Angie highlighted is to present the planning commission's recommended draft of our comprehensive plan periodic

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review um and also to outline the process for the city council to comment

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on that recommended draft to move us forward um to get to deliberations and

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eventually working towards adoption of the comp plan update um tonight the presentation I'll

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start with a background and project history of the comprehensive Plan update um and then walk you through the

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different elements of the plan that are proposed for update uh touch on the agency comments that we've received and

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that we're expecting and then walk through those next steps um so we'll

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take we'll keep a pretty high level here tonight first um the comprehensive plan

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periodic review is a process that's required by the state law under the growth management act in

1:58:02

Washington and um that the the GMA the growth management act requires cities

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and counties to update their comprehensive plans um currently every 10 years um cities in King County are

1:58:15

required to complete their periodic review by December 31st of 2024 and the the purpose of that review

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is is to update the plan's 20-year planning Horizon um so this this round

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of updates will um extend the plans planning Horizon from 2024 to

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2044 um the other key piece of this comprehensive Plan update is to update

1:58:42

our plan to reflect changes in those GMA um Statewide requirements and for this

1:58:49

update cycle that's um there's a particular focus on housing the legislature has adopted
um several bills

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in the last few years that affect housing as I'm sure the city council um

1:59:03

is aware of um there's it's been rapidly developing uh those requirements for

1:59:10

housing so we're we're addressing those with this update looking back at the process um I

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know there's a lot of text here I'll try not to get too bogged down here but

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looking back at the process as chair bazo uh mentioned the this process began

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in 2022 uh when the city council adopted the the scope of work for this project

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the public participation plan and the master scheduling and that scope of work really kind
of envisioned this uh very

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focused um you know surgical update of the comprehensive plan and we've tried

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to stick to that as much as we can there's been some changes as I mentioned regarding
housing we'll touch on that in

1:59:53

a minute here um one of the one of the key pieces of this update was drafting a

1:59:59

New Economic Development element this is an element that doesn't currently exist in the comprehensive plan and so that uh

2:00:06

that drafting process included some additional steps um as we'll see as we work through this uh the most important

2:00:14

piece of that drafting process was uh convening an economic development workg

2:00:19

Group which was a um joint subcommittee uh of the city council and

2:00:25

the Planning Commission to prepare that initial draft of the housing um sorry of the economic development element we did

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the same thing we had an E A housing workg group for the housing element that was a joint subcommittee of the city

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council and the Planning Commission to draft that housing element and so the economic development workg groups work

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really began in the um in the summer of 22 um began uh they began looking at the

2:00:54

public input we were getting and preparing um their initial policy

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direction for that element um at the same time through the summer and fall of

2:01:06

22 the Planning Commission considered the land use and transportation elements

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um working towards uh preparing a public hearing draft um and then at the same and then

2:01:18

in the late Autumn of 2022 in into the winter of 23 some technical documents

2:01:25

the economic analysis housing needs assessment those were presented to the city council of Planning Commission to

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form some of the Baseline uh the basis for the policy work that would follow um then in the winter of 2023 the

2:01:40

economic development work group really kind of cranked up their work on the economic development element and and um

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refined a draft uh of that element uh to provide to the Planning Commission at

2:01:54

the same time this is when uh the winter of 23 is when the Planning Commission took up review of the capital facilities

2:02:01

and utilities elements then in the spring of 23 the

2:02:06

economic development work group uh provided their recommendation to this um

2:02:12

to the Planning Commission um the initial Economic Development workg Group draft of the economic development

2:02:19

element um that was provided to the Planning Commission in the summer of 23 and the Planning Commission began

2:02:27

review of that in June of that year um at the same time the city council

2:02:32

approved an addendum to the scope of work for the project um to incorporate those additional steps that were uh that

2:02:40

were necessary based on the house bill 1220 and some of the guidance that was

2:02:45

coming out from the state so we expanded the scope of work in the summer of 2023 to incorporate those additional

2:02:53

tasks uh the planning commission's review of the economic development element continued into the fall of

2:02:59

2023 um and then in the winter of 202 uh 3 into

2:03:06

24 um they uh we began working on that housing element with the housing work

2:03:12

group um after completing some additional technical analyses the land

2:03:17

Capacity Analysis supplement and the racially disparate impacts evaluation

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at the same time in the winter of 24 um The Parks and Recreation element um work

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on that began with the Parks and Recreation Commission um and they consider both the parks and recre or

2:03:36

parks and open space element and the the potential creation of a new open space

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Zone um all of that began in the winter of 2024 uh moving forward from there into

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this this last spring the Planning Commission completed its review of all the other elements um and then conducted

2:03:57

an open house on May 1st of this year um that was open to the public um we had

2:04:03

about uh roughly 40 participants um come and participate in

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some different um activities to give us some feedback on those draft elements uh

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to help the Planning Commission refine it further before making a recommendation then in May on May 29th

2:04:21

uh the Planning Commission held their public hearing then deliberations were continued to June 5th and the 12th um

2:04:29

until they ultimately arrived at the recommended draft that's before you here today um and so that's my box here

2:04:37

highlighting where we're at now this summer the city council will review that Planning Commission recommended draft

2:04:44

and provide staff with any comments um on that draft and then we'll bring back

2:04:49

um some recommended changes in the fall with a targeted uh adoption of the

2:04:55

comprehensive Plan update again before that deadline at the end of the year this year so that's a a quick overview

2:05:03

of the process um that we went through um the next section here I'll just touch

2:05:09

on some of the elements uh or touch on the elements that are have a proposed

2:05:15

amendments and then we'll look at some of the new elements in the cop plan so the the land use element was updated

2:05:21

ated um and primarily to remain consistent as we were updating other

2:05:27

elements um so as we were incorporating our new growth targets um as we were

2:05:33

working on the housing elements and some of the other um the economic development

2:05:38

element we were constantly referring back to that land use element and making sure that it was consistent with those

2:05:44

new changes so most of those changes were limited to maintain consistency

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with the other uh other amendments throughout the plan the transportation element uh was updated um to ensure that

2:05:58

our our plan uh population growth uh through the planning period uh wasn't

2:06:04

going to outpace our infrastructure's ability to serve that population growth

2:06:09

um and that's primarily looked at through level of service or Los standards um making sure that as um

2:06:17

areas of the city grow um intersections and Roads uh

2:06:22

maintain Pace with that um that growth um similarly the capital

2:06:28

facilities and utilities elements uh both were updated based on those new T

2:06:33

growth targets uh the capital facilities element looks at um city capital

2:06:39

facilities um like uh Community the community center our um our Parks those

2:06:46

those types of capital facilities and they the capital facilities element evaluat

2:06:52

those facilities for their level of service um to make sure that our projected growth won't cause those

2:06:58

facilities to fall below our um adopted standards um the same with utilities

2:07:05

again ensuring that um our utilities can keep Pace with our projected growth uh

2:07:12

through the planning period so there's there's three new or

2:07:17

substantially Rewritten elements in the comprehensive plan the Economic Development element and the parks and

2:07:23

open space element are both new elements um the Planning Commission reviewed um the economic development

2:07:32

element again uh last summer through fall and then the parks and open space

2:07:37

element was reviewed um earlier this spring then the housing element as Jeff mentioned is a is substantially

2:07:44

Rewritten so the proposal here is that the existing housing element would be repealed and replaced with the proposed

2:07:51

housing element and the reason for that is because those um the requirements for

2:07:57

the housing element again were substantially changed um by recent

2:08:02

housing legislation so throughout the process of

2:08:07

drafting the economic development element uh we undertook several public

2:08:12

participation activities to gather public input um and incorporate that

2:08:18

into um into the draft element and then ALS also there was a a key part early in

2:08:24

the process of Performing this economic analysis which was a report that uh

2:08:29

collected some economic data for the city to help us understand the current

2:08:34

conditions in the city and ways that we may want to support um economic growth

2:08:39

um through policy um then once we had completed the first round of public participation and

2:08:47

um that data analysis uh we began staff began working with the Economic Development work group to put together

2:08:54

that initial draft of the element um and that was a process that took uh about nine months um meeting

2:09:02

intermittently through the process skipped ahead um from October to

2:09:08

June last year then the Planning Commission reviewed that element um this

2:09:13

was over the course of three meetings the Planning Commission uh refined the draft Economic Development

2:09:19

element and this establishes our strategies projects and programs that the city will undertake in

2:09:27

the next 20 years to retain existing businesses attract new businesses

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support the local Workforce and then grow Partnerships with organizations um throughout the

2:09:40

throughout the city um and then really it's it's outlining overall the

2:09:47

strategies that we want to deploy over the next years um and one of the one of

2:09:54

the uh key pieces of this element is also the the final set of of policies in

2:10:02

the economic development element outline a process by which that element will be

2:10:07

implemented um this is a new thing that some of the elements have um through

2:10:14

this update that will help us make sure that the plan doesn't uh just stay in a

2:10:19

binder on a shelf but um it is implemented and becomes a reality over the next 20

2:10:26

years the parks and open space elements um is primarily exists to adopt the

2:10:33

parks recreation and open space plan by reference into the comprehensive plan um

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so it's it's fairly light on new policy Direction and relies primarily on the

2:10:44

pros plan to um outline how we'll address parks in open space um it does

2:10:51

the element does provide some policy direction for the adoption of new zones um as I mentioned with the comp plan

2:10:58

update we've been looking at um a potential open space Zone um and then

2:11:05

following the comp plan update at at some point is there's a plan to revisit and and pick up a park zone um so a Zone

2:11:14

specific for Parks um but that will be after the comp plan is after the comp

2:11:20

plan update is adopted the housing element had a little

2:11:26

bit more protracted of a process than the other elements um there were three

2:11:32

main technical reports that were prepared by staff in advance of the housing element draft um there was

2:11:38

housing needs assessment which was prepared early in the process uh from June to November of 22 and that looked

2:11:45

to um it was some data analysis to see how we might accommodate our housing

2:11:51

needs um our projected housing needs for the next 20 years whereas the land Capacity Analysis uh supplement looked

2:11:59

at in light of um the housing need that we have at different income levels What

2:12:05

types of housing might we need to um accommodate our projected growth um so

2:12:11

the land capacity looked at whether or not um the current zoning allows enough

2:12:17

housing units to accommodate that projected growth um and then the racially disparate impacts evaluation

2:12:24

was a data analysis that staff prepared at the end of last year um to evaluate

2:12:30

um policies as required by the GMA um and based on guidance from the Department of Commerce for any potential

2:12:37

racially disparate impacts that may have resulted from those housing policies so all three of those reports were really

2:12:44

combined together and and considered as the housing work group picked up uh

2:12:49

drafting a housing elements um at the in the early part of this year um

2:12:55

eventually producing a draft um an initial draft of the housing element to the Planning Commission for their review

2:13:02

in March of 2024 uh the Planning Commission then undertook two rounds of review on the

2:13:08

housing elements um prior to the um the

2:13:13

public hearing that was held in May of this year um and the end result is the

2:13:19

draft that's before you today and some of the key pieces of the housing element are addressing our

2:13:27

strategies and programs that we'll uh undertake to address our requirements

2:13:32

for planning for a affordable housing um as you'll remember we talked about this quite a bit at the beginning of the year

2:13:39

looking at ways that we need to um address housing at the different income segments um as projected by the state um

2:13:49

it also is important the housing element is important because it helps uh plan for the our adequate capacity to meet

2:13:56

that 20 year 20 years of housing need um projected through

2:14:02

2044 and then there's also it incorporates some of the other requirements that were St set in

2:14:07

Statewide legislation um such as the racially disparate impacts evaluation um piece

2:14:15

that was part of House Bill 1220 um the focus of the housing element

2:14:20

is primar um on increasing the supply of affordable housing um particularly for

2:14:28

those households that earn below the area median income so it includes a whole raft of of strategies that can be

2:14:35

deployed again over the 20-year time frame of the plan um to increase that

2:14:42

supply and um address some of the affordability issues um that face the

2:14:47

city long term um as with the economic development element the housing element

2:14:54

also includes a set of policies to implement and track that implementation um with a specific

2:15:00

process um those are the the final um policies in there and those should all

2:15:06

help those policy should really help us keep track of again like how far we've come because in in one of the

2:15:15

things that we are required to do following the update is is a fiveyear check-in so having those impementation

2:15:21

policies in place will give us a good basis to keep track of how far we get

2:15:27

implementing the plan as noted in the agenda bill um

2:15:35

there we have received some agency comments and we expect some comments to come in from the Department of Commerce

2:15:42

um we expect to receive all of our um comments on the plan from other state

2:15:47

agencies by the end of the month um and we plan to um compile all of those uh

2:15:54

agency comments for you and then present a recommendation for how to address those comments uh when we meet again in

2:16:02

September um so this is the piece that uh Jeff had mentioned in terms of a schedule kind of

2:16:10

moving forward um I don't know if uh Jeff wants to speak to this piece now um

2:16:17

yep thanks Adam um just just to begin to wrap up here Council

2:16:24

um we uh we did describe in the agenda bill um to make it a little bit easier

2:16:31

on you if you wish to take advantage of it um a little bit of a rolling three three- week window where um we just

2:16:40

don't have one deadline that we're asking for all your proposed amendments if you have if you end up having uh some

2:16:47

to submit to staff but uh to break it out over a little bit of a um window

2:16:52

here into the beginning of the summer recess so you see here on the screen um we've got the first couple elements land

2:16:59

use and housing um and then uh August 5th uh

2:17:04

Transportation utilities couple of facility elements and then wrapping up on August 12th with the economic development parks and wreck and

2:17:11

Shoreline master program um we don't um we always encourage early participation

2:17:18

so um the sooner you'd like to uh um send any proposed amendments you may have to us we welcome that but uh we

2:17:25

would ask if the council is agreeable that we set some deadlines though um uh

2:17:31

in this type of fashion to allow you to systematically work through um you know

2:17:38

chunks of it and um go from there so mayor when you get to your point in in

2:17:44

the discussion if there's um motion to be made if Council wanted to to

2:17:49

formalize uh this in a motion that'd be great if not we can also just go with um

2:17:54

with whatever dates the council decides works for you yeah why while you have that on the screen I just want to ask

2:17:59

Council if there's any um conflicts with those dates does anybody need more flexibility these are due dates not

2:18:06

submit date so you can submit whenever you want but staff is looking for certain elements um having a cut off

2:18:14

before others due to the agency dependencies Council M Reynolds just a quick question of clarification

2:18:20

should I interpret these as Target due dates or absolute deadlines like will they be considered if they come in after

2:18:26

that date uh we will do our best to compile

2:18:31

and roll them into your packet materials for September 3rd um optimally we would

2:18:36

have everything in by August 12th to give staff time to go through them um and prepare the materials for September

2:18:43

3rd for the beginning of your deliberations yeah the these will be due dates Council uh in terms of the SE September

2:18:51

3 and the materials you're going to provide to the council how far in advance of September 3rd do you plan on

2:18:57

uh providing that information uh well the worst case scenario would be when the packet's

2:19:03

issued but I do understand your point council member Jacobson and we will work diligently to get some of those

2:19:08

materials if not all of them to you as quickly as possible after the August 12th deadline okay because I'm I'm sure

2:19:16

there will be other things that will be raised and uh since that's right around Labor Day weekend and I don't know I

2:19:23

guess Labor Day weekend is the following weekend I would guess I think it may be the weekend

2:19:29

before the September 3rd meeting if I'm not mistaken pardon me I believe I

2:19:34

believe the Labor Day weekend will actually be right before the September 3rd council meeting if I'm not

2:19:43

mistaken so Labor day is September 2nd yeah

2:19:48

MH okay Council any other objections to the dates get Council M anderol um not

2:19:54

objection per se but if we're not going to get information on agency comments

2:20:00

until the end of July that coincides with the first due date of July 29th for the introduction

2:20:06

land use element and housing element and so I see a little bit of a log Jam

2:20:12

there we'll be um we we are anticipating on having all final agency written

2:20:19

comments to us right there at the top of August so we will be working to present

2:20:24

to Council on September 3rd and provide council um as as soon as we're able to

2:20:31

um the not only the letters the final written comments but also um any staff

2:20:37

recommendations that come out of those letters so for September 3D what I Envision is we'll have uh two sets of uh

2:20:46

proposed amendments um one set will be city council General generated proposed amendments so that was the schedule that

2:20:54

was just up on the screen there that we would be pulling all that together for you and then the second set of proposed

2:21:00

amendments would be um agency uh recommendations that staff would be

2:21:05

making based on the agency comment okay I I have a better understanding how

2:21:11

that's going to work thanks so just to say council's mind at EAS any agency comment that results in a proposed let's

2:21:18

say amendment is going to be subject to council debating deciding okay so no agency is

2:21:25

going to come in and make an amendment that the council is not going to be able to uh consider fully correct basically

2:21:32

opens the door okay uh C clerk do you have this motion

2:21:37

that you can put on the screen while I read it so Council I'm going to ask for a motion to set the following due dates

2:21:44

for city council to provide any proposed amendments to the June 12th 2024 Planning Commission draft proposed

2:21:49

amendments are welcome to be submitted earlier but no later than the due dates below due July 29 introduction land use

2:21:57

element and housing element due August 5th Transportation element utilities

2:22:02

element and capital facilities element and due August 12th Economic Development Parks and Recreation element and

2:22:09

Shoreline master program would anybody like to move that move okay moov by Deputy Mayor Rosen

2:22:15

Bomb secutive by council member wer all right I have an amendment

2:22:21

council member I would like to add that the uh uh City will have to the city council 10 calendar days prior to

2:22:28

September 3rd uh the uh the finished work product for us to

2:22:37

consider second okay moved by council member Jacobson seconded by council member

2:22:46

Weinberg let me let her finish tying

2:23:00

okay does that capture your motion council member

2:23:08

Jacobson uh finished product is a little bit vague I would I would say

2:23:15

the well just leave finished product packet materials

2:23:21

the city staff will have the September 3rd packet materials probably published

2:23:27

10 days in advance of the meeting yeah that's

2:23:40

better I think that puts us publishing those materials on around Friday August

2:23:48

23d

2:23:53

quick calendar counting uh Jeff do you have any any concerns with that deadline

2:23:59

the alternative is we pull the items off the third and

2:24:05

push them to the next meeting but I know that creates a bit of a problem Downstream given the

2:24:11

calendar okay council weberg is that are you uh approving that yeah those

2:24:17

modifications all right so it's moved in seconded not hearing any objection from staff

2:24:23

unless Jeff we lost Jeff no uh no you haven't lost Jeff um yeah it I mean if

2:24:31

we get 400 Council amendments I'm not gonna I'm not going to um you know tell

2:24:38

you it's all going to be okay that's going to be problematic um so you know we'll see what we get in from the council um the

2:24:46

the earlier I would stress and I think the mayor has mentioned it here already on the earlier you can get proposed

2:24:51

amendments to us that allows us to get going with the compilation process and

2:24:57

um you know preparing materials so okay Council any questions on that

2:25:04

motion all right to clear please call the

2:25:13

RO moment there we go

2:25:20

Deputy Mayor Rosen bone hi council member R Weinberg I council member

2:25:26

Reynolds hi council member Jacobson hi council member wer hi mayor nce hi and

2:25:33

council member andrel hi okay motion passes now we open it back up to

2:25:38

questions for staff does anybody have any general comp plan process questions I do council member and yeah so looking

2:25:46

at the comp plan and looking at the marked up version of the exhibit B or 1B

2:25:53

um how do we know which of these changes are strictly required by law and which

2:26:01

ones aren't so the housing element um is the

2:26:09

one I actually wrote this in an email to um another council member here just

2:26:14

yesterday I believe the housing element is annotated I guess per se with with um

2:26:22

uh that's work that the housing work group requested when they were drafting the new element to make sure that they were capturing all of the um statutory

2:26:31

requirements that had come to us from the state um in terms of the other elements and I'll let Adam jump in here

2:26:39

um we um starting with the Baseline of the

2:26:45

2019 comp plan update um there's a lot of material in those other element elements that um you know or changes

2:26:54

that were made either in terms of updating based on updated information or on uh Planning Commission

2:27:02

um U Planning Commission thoughts I guess and discussion so Adam do you do

2:27:09

you want to chime in a little bit more on the land use element perhaps and the transportation element with some of the

2:27:15

the core requirements I'm sorry let let me interrupt I I don't think actually

2:27:20

asking answering my question I mean as I look go through it red line by Red Line

2:27:26

mhm How will I know whether that is something that the Planning Commission is recommending or that staff wanted

2:27:33

or and whether if whether it is because it is required by law or whether it is

2:27:40

because the collective wisdom thought it was a better way to do it yeah so that

2:27:47

that annotation has not been done in the material that you have um so we can

2:27:54

we're happy to answer questions if you have questions that come up as you move through the materials uh and we'll provide you in

2:28:01

the council answers to those questions um to make sure that we're getting you

2:28:07

clarification on whether it's something that must be in there or it's something

2:28:12

that uh is not required to be in there necessarily

2:28:19

well okay so I'm going to have that question on every single change

2:28:25

I thought that that would have been being recorded as the changes were

2:28:32

made well working we started with the we started with the 2016 comprehensive plan

2:28:38

so um if that's something the council would

2:28:44

like us to do is go back through the Planning Commission recommendation line by line and annotate that then we can

2:28:50

certainly have that discussion to do that yeah if the council would like the document annotated at that level then i'

2:28:57

respectfully ask the last motion um we'll need a new motion and we will need to push this out this work out uh by at

2:29:05

least a month to October I I don't recall and and I appreciate while you're answering the

2:29:10

question council member Andor it's it's not our standard to annotate a planning document that way

2:29:17

but if the council desires for that to be done uh we we we will need to regroup and revisit the schedule yeah I I guess

2:29:24

this is my my first rodeo with the comprehensive plan so

2:29:29

um I I could have asked that be being done on an ongoing basis and then not

2:29:35

overburden staff now had I known then would I know now yeah as the

2:29:42

city manager just mentioned it it certainly is not a standard that is has

2:29:48

been historically done here or or anywhere else that I'm familiar with the reason why we did it with the housing element specifically was because of the

2:29:55

flood of requirements through recent legislation that all came at once and

2:30:01

the and the mayor and council member wer and Reynolds were on the housing work group um that worked on the draft

2:30:08

housing element uh there was care that went into that to make sure that we weren't missing anything with all these

2:30:14

new requirements that were coming in in the manner in which they arrived

2:30:21

okay any other question I'm gonna go with a question well Deputy Mayor

2:30:27

rosenball let me just ask do um Adam you had made a comment about the

2:30:33

comprehensive plan having some expectations on gos goals and

2:30:38

policies being uh completed and that that may be somewhat new to this draft

2:30:44

of the comprehensive plan when there's something like an Economic Development Goal or policy

2:30:51

and we want to illustrate an expectation for completion for a goal or policy what

2:30:56

is the best way to do that and what should we not do give us the best practices there sure so first anything

2:31:05

that's in the plan should be should be something that the the city is planning to do at some point it doesn't have to

2:31:12

be today or tomorrow but in general it's a if if we're not intending to do

2:31:19

something that policy maybe shouldn't be in the plan unless it's unless it's something that's required in terms of

2:31:26

like how decisions would be made about implementation the the process for the

2:31:32

economic development element or the housing element out it outlines a process whereby the city council will

2:31:38

decide which items to implement by um adding those to the CPD or other

2:31:45

departmental work plans um through the budgeting process so it's not necess necessarily um the the city council has

2:31:52

that discretion of what would be implemented at the time that it's making those decisions and something couldn't be even

2:32:00

even in those policies it talks about that one there's a policy specifically that talks about if we don't have the

2:32:07

resources to do this today we could put that on a future work plan or delay

2:32:12

implementation of that process so the city council ultimately has a fair amount of leeway in what policies it may

2:32:20

Implement um but certainly we don't want to have a policy in the plan that we

2:32:25

don't have any intention of doing okay so goals and policies in let's say an

2:32:31

economic development absent a due date if you want something done sequentially

2:32:37

let's say you have an 8.1 8.2 8.3 and you want them done in that order but we're being told not to put dates in

2:32:43

there do we just take 8.1 to proceed 8.2 to proceed 8.3 or does that need to

2:32:50

be kind of built into the policy framework of that section these are sequential goals and policies they

2:32:56

should roughly be completed in this order you you could probably word the the policy in a way that specifies that

2:33:04

8. 8.2 would follow 8.1 and so forth so if you wanted to lay out a sequence you

2:33:11

would just need to structure that policy that way um currently there aren't policies that outline that kind of order

2:33:18

of operations um in the draft um again leaving that up to Future councils to

2:33:25

make that decision so but if you wanted to do that you certainly could structure the policy that way Mr Mayor if I may

2:33:31

add on to Adam's comments I I agree we can add some language that that sort of

2:33:37

describes the order of operation but it's a recommendation right this isn't a document that mandates things it's it's

2:33:44

it's overarching uh policy the council's future councils current Council then

2:33:50

takes you know uses this this document to set the work plan uh for each bium

2:33:57

and and that is really where you know we lay out specific action steps and back

2:34:03

it with resources to complete the work I'm not sure if that helps answer your question well as long as we can

2:34:09

reconcile that with what Adam said which is don't put something in there you're not going to do I take that to mean you

2:34:15

know it is essentially the beginnings of a work plan a commitment to do do a thing it absolutely is and it it we may

2:34:23

not you know the pros plan is a good example that that is a a document where we're working through a very long list I

2:34:28

can tell you at the end of uh the current Pros plan we will have not completed all of the action items uh but

2:34:37

we'll reconsider them and and put them into the next plan so it is if there's something we're putting in that we're

2:34:43

never going to do that's that's not appropriate uh it's okay you know to reach and um you know be thoughtful out

2:34:50

the next 20 years we really don't know what will happen in that that planning cycle okay Deputy Mayor the

2:34:58

comprehensive plan is a 20-year Horizon document that currently is required to

2:35:03

be updated every 10 years so all right I've got an anxious

2:35:09

Council here so I gotta feed them council Jacobson wouldn't wouldn't it be simpler well first of all a future

2:35:17

Council can just say you know what we don't want to do that for whatever reasons there may be resources or

2:35:24

because everybody thinks that we you know they they don't like the policy and

2:35:29

I don't think we can bind a future Council uh and wouldn't it be simpler to

2:35:34

say that on these these policies subject to the council's uh implementing this

2:35:41

through a work plan because that's the way it's really going to work and and in

2:35:47

the end isn't it m yeah I think that that's an understood

2:35:54

caveat to these policies you okay you might

2:35:59

want to add that list of amend I'd be more comfortable that that if we State

2:36:04

these kinds of things and not say well it's assumed or it's implicit or something like that because that just

2:36:10

creates an argument later point in time I'll suggest some language okay Council

2:36:15

Reynolds uh two quick things one uh just want to respond to council randle's complaint uh not complaint her comment

2:36:22

um the uh having worked through the the housing element um I think it would be extremely

2:36:30

difficult to Define which of these changes are mandated by state law because state law requires that we

2:36:37

address a problem and meet a need but it doesn't Define how we do that and so any

2:36:43

given change that is in the document may not be explicitly required by state law but it was a way that was but it was

2:36:49

motivated by state law so I think it's important to to keep that distinction in mind the second thing is I just want to

2:36:55

raise a quick point of order I and I apologize I may have missed something but on on the the schedule that we had

2:37:02

um we had an original schedule put up and then we had an amendment offered to add the 10 days before the end of August

2:37:10

Was the vote we took on the amendment and if so did we ever pass the original motion I I think I only heard one vote

2:37:16

that was a good point you you did not you passed the amendment but you didn't vote on the

2:37:22

main motion so you can have more amendments you have more I I have no more amendments but I think we should

2:37:27

close the loop and vot on the original one I think I've used my quota

2:37:33

tonight that almost got pushed to October so all right Deputy Mayor roson yeah

2:37:40

first um I I want to thank uh I think we still have the the Planning Commission chair in the virtual room here but I I

2:37:47

want to thank them for their work uh you know I served on the economic development um element development team

2:37:55

uh and that was a lot of work and I know that the housing element was as well and I know the staff has put a lot of effort into it and and the the Planning

2:38:02

Commission had many many many many many hours of discussion on this uh so I just

2:38:07

want to say thanks I know a lot of thought and effort went into that the question that I have is around the review schedule um from Commerce and

2:38:16

other folks at the state agency at state level do we the first one is do we

2:38:21

believe that we have commits for them to meet the deadlines that we're trying to meet here and also do we have any

2:38:27

expectations of additional rounds beyond the current one with them the expectation is that we will get

2:38:34

final comments from commers um [Music] here uh about three weeks out within

2:38:41

three weeks and then that should conclude the agency comment uh commenting on um the comprehensive plan

2:38:50

um our goal our goal as I previously stated is then to compile those comments

2:38:55

make determinations as to um what comments uh staff will recommend to

2:39:02

council that Council consider further um and then there will be some that we are

2:39:07

will likely I suspect recommend that Council does not consider further um

2:39:14

there will not be it's it's not quite like a building permit where we may have multiple rounds
OFW view going back and

2:39:20

forth um so this process will conclude uh with a council action later in the

2:39:26

year which would be adoption of an ordinance um the agencies will receive

2:39:32

in Commerce that that final ordinance with the final version of the comprehensive plan um
if there was an

2:39:39

agency that was not satisfied with the city's work the recourse of that point would be to
appeal the council's action

2:39:47

to the Washington State growth management hearings board great thank you but Jeff just
for

2:39:52

clarity there there is going to be post comp comp plan adoption agency review

2:39:57

that happens for everybody's comp PLS right the ahc

2:40:02

psrc there's psrc certification um there is as I mentioned Commerce will receive

2:40:09

the final version of the conference of plan um but it's it's it's a the review

2:40:17

process is now the more of the judicious process would be later okay just setting the stage
make

2:40:24

sure everybody knows that it's going to go on for a while Council wer so I'm just going to
thank Angie and everyone

2:40:29

for all their work over 30 meetings two years and one public meeting and I plan on following
the format of exhibit two

2:40:36

where you list the element and the language you propos so that staff can say yay or nay or
point to whatever

2:40:44

dialogue we're going to have on September 3rd so uh is that how you prefer to get
amendments like an table

2:40:49

like this with specific language to reject or modify over hours and hours on September

2:40:55

3rd yeah the the more specific a proposed amendment is in terms of change

2:41:02

this word don't change this word is really helpful um for this

2:41:08

process okay Council any other discussion all right see clerk please call A

2:41:14

R thank you Mr Mayor Deputy Mayor Rosen bom

2:41:19

hi council member andrell hi council member Jacobson

2:41:25

hi council member Weinberg hi council member wer hi mayor ni hi and

2:41:33

council member Reynolds hi thank you all right motion is adopted last call for

2:41:38

any questions council member yeah Council Jacobson I was curious I noticed

2:41:44

in back in I think one of the exhibits at the end of uh the uh exhibit 1B uh

2:41:53

mention of the school the school district and the school board and capital facilities why are we discussing

2:41:59

the school board so part of the um part of the

2:42:06

capital facilities element looks at our school's capacity to keep Pace again with our projected population growth um

2:42:13

and that's to make sure that we're not planning for growth that would outpace our um or school's capacity um to serve

2:42:23

the school board we coordinate with them um or the school district rather we

2:42:29

coord coordinate with um as we're planning our Capital facilities out um

2:42:35

again to make sure that those things are

2:42:41

aligned okay any other questions all right Jeff Adam thank you for your work

2:42:48

chair pzo rest of the Planning Commission thank you move to our next item of regular business which is AB

2:42:53

6514 Town Center parking regulations and we will welcome Senior Management analyst Robbie Cunningham Adams welcome

2:43:01

thank you mayor good evening Council again for the record uh Robbie your Senior Management analyst in the city

2:43:07

manager's office I'll be joined by Amilia chayan a management analyst in the city manager's office we also have

2:43:12

folks from PD and from Public Works available uh to answer questions as they come up um I'll have Casey share

2:43:20

PowerPoint presentation um so I'm going to give just a quick introduction and I'm I'm

2:43:25

going to hand this off to Amelia uh so council tonight we're discussing Town Center parking regulations uh go ahead

2:43:32

go to the next slide uh I want to give a little bit of background as to why and how we're here right now um we're going

2:43:38

to give some information on the parking counts uh that we conducted two months ago we're going to discuss some of the

2:43:44

implementation actions uh we're hoping to get feedback from Council tonight

2:43:49

um and then we'll talk next up in questions next slide Council you may remember late last

2:43:55

year that you adopted the Town Center Parking plan uh this plan uh result of a

2:44:00

lot of work and discussion uh and study you know the plan strives to activate Town Center by making parking more

2:44:07

functionally available accessible for different users and supportive of other options for non-driving travel like

2:44:12

walking and biking to around town center so we're here tonight in response to that to start chipping away at some of

2:44:19

the uh recommendations um of that plan next slide please so this presentation

2:44:24

we're explore five main discussion items uh and we're hoping for your kind of input and feedback and we'll come back

2:44:31

to you to take final action on them so that includes increasing the parking citation fee from 20 to \$54 adding

2:44:37

language to the code to specify the distance a vehicle must move to be legally rep parked standardizing time

2:44:43

limits in town center implementing potentially implementing an on street parking management system that would

2:44:49

facilitate a 2 hours of free parking with an option for paid extension and finally sunsetting the Town Center

2:44:55

parking permit program next slide please and with that I'm G to hand it off to

2:45:03

Amelia thank you Rie uh good evening Council my name is Amelia chayen management analyst and I will be guiding

2:45:10

you through the rest of tonight's presentation next slide please starting with the Town Center Parking counts so

2:45:17

parking counts have been conducted annually since 2022 on the 2750 on and off Street spaces in town

2:45:24

center this year the parking counts were conducted in the second full or the second week of May being Thursday May

2:45:31

9th and Saturday May 11th these dates were chosen to represent the normal conditions in the parking system in town

2:45:37

center being that school is still in session and that there are no major holidays uh idax a data collection con

2:45:43

company conducted the parking counts using both in-person observation and cameras next slide

2:45:51

please the parking count showed that uh Peak parking demand occurred at noon on

2:45:57

both the weekday and the weekend count during the weekday count the parking uh

2:46:02

peaked or on street parking peaked at 81% and during the weekend count it peaked at

2:46:08

76% a common practice in parking management is to compare the occupancy rate to an 85% threshold meaning that if

2:46:16

occupancy is above the 85% threshold then demand Dem exceeds Supply but if it is below then Supply exceeds demand the

2:46:23

parking counts show that we are nearing this threshold which is important to keep in mind as changes like the sound

2:46:28

transit Light Rail station open hopefully next year and the future commuter parking project on the former T

2:46:35

site come into play next slide please so this brings us to the bulk of

2:46:42

our presentation tonight which are the implementation actions next slide please uh and as a reminder Council we are not

2:46:48

taking any action tonight this item is for discussion only so we will take whatever feedback you have and translate

2:46:54

that into something actionable to bring back to you for final approval before implementation next slide

2:47:01

please whatever we come back to you with uh for the implementation actions we'll have a comprehensive communication

2:47:07

campaign that includes an active let's talk page Outreach to the business community and Community Partners as well

2:47:13

as the Chamber of Commerce and then broadcasting widely on social media in the Mi weekly and in the reporter next

2:47:20

slide please um our first uh implementation

2:47:27

action is the parking citation fee So currently the parking citation fee is

2:47:32

\$20 the city defaulted to the state established fee of \$20 in 2022 when an

2:47:38

audit of the Municipal Code by the administrative office of the courts revealed that the fee was not established in code this low C citation

2:47:46

fee does not deter people from overstaying their parking making street parking less functionally available

2:47:52

raising the citation fee could improve compliance with parking regulations and improve turnover rates staff recommends

2:47:58

increasing the citation fee to \$54 \$54 was chosen as this is the rate that the

2:48:04

city of Bellevue uses for their parking citation fees and this rate would create parity between the city and its

2:48:10

neighboring jurisdictions next slide please our second implementation action

2:48:16

is the distance of vehicle must move to be considered rep parked so currently the city operates three police vehicles

2:48:23

with automatic license plate reading cameras or alpr cameras uh to and for or

2:48:28

for to track frogging duration uh the municipal code does not currently

2:48:33

specify how far a vehicle must move to be considered repared and our alpr cameras are only accurate to around 30

2:48:40

ft so this means that a car could roll forward one space and be considered repart but that movement may not be

2:48:47

detected by the cameras which which limits the ability of the police support support officer to create enforceable

2:48:52

citations in court and as such the police Support Officer must manually chalk tires to issue parking citations

2:48:59

so the image you see on screen is what the chocked tires look like next slide

2:49:05

please staff recommend adding language to the municipal code that would require a vehicle to move uh to a different

2:49:12

block to be considered report many definitions of block exist but a regional definition is the stretch of

2:49:19

roadway between two closest public Street intersections on either end of the stretch next slide

2:49:25

please this change would allow the alprs to fully function for parking enforcement and greatly improve the

2:49:31

capacity and efficiency of the police department this change would also encourage tone over in parking in town

2:49:38

center which would make parking more functionally available next slide please so with that Council I'm going to turn

2:49:44

it over to you to discuss increasing the citation fee from \$20 to \$54 and adding

2:49:50

language to the municipal code that would specify the distance a vehicle must move okay thank you for that council

2:49:56

member andand yeah I um I'll just start by saying I I don't have any problem

2:50:01

with increasing the citation fee um I do have concerns with how do we effectively

2:50:08

notify people about the distance issue I mean I know if I were parked on a city

2:50:14

street and it was a two-hour limit and I hustled back um and I saw that there was

2:50:19

an empty space across the street and I was able to make you know make a U-turn a legal U-turn of course um and parked

2:50:26

in that I would I would feel 100% confident that I had a fresh two hours and so is there Street signage I

2:50:34

mean putting it in the code is just unrealistic to expect that people would um would read the code um or know to do

2:50:43

that so while I I get the point well how do

2:50:48

how do we implement that in a way that's that's fair to Residents and let me give you

2:50:54

residents and visitors alike let me tell you a story about Vancouver Washington where we were at AWC I exclusively

2:51:00

parked on the street and the app that they had was able to tell me that the exact thing that you're talking about it

2:51:07

said you can park here for two hours but when your time is up you cannot park here for another two hours and it told me where I must move like how far so I

2:51:15

think part of the discussion that we're going to have tonight is which app should we use and there's a matrix in the ab on a series of apps but well

2:51:24

we're using an app but but it's free parking it's free parking but it requires a session to begin right so you

2:51:31

have to start a session so you're saying you have to have a phone to park on mer around so

2:51:37

you have your two free hours obviously this is for discussion but there is a section of this AB that contemplates

2:51:44

which app would you like to use is am I understanding that correctly yeah Mr Mayor Al been here so tonight Council

2:51:50

you're considering a variety of potential options and so your correct mayor if we were to give receive

2:51:55

direction from Council to uh Implement an app based system we could certainly have that as an option as a

2:52:01

communication tool should Council not choose to give us Direction but want us to add the uh moving distance regulation

2:52:08

uh in addition uh we would certainly do the communications campaign and you know

2:52:13

we have you know communicated widely so the change is known uh PD could would be

2:52:19

happy to explain more we could also do a grace period where we would give warnings and do education um so there's

2:52:25

there's a variety of options uh you council could consider us giving feed uh direction to add signage that would

2:52:31

explain the regulation um I do know that signage can be there's trade-offs certainly of too much signage sign

2:52:37

clutter versus wanting to clearly communicate what the regulations are so happy to we're happy to hear feedback

2:52:43

and uh requests on how we would go about that thank you okay

2:52:49

does that do you have further commentary on that you let just let that soak in a little bit well I I

2:52:55

just wasn't contemplating that we were going to be like the buildings that I

2:53:03

dislike intensely that require you to have a phone to get your quote unquote free parking so I think I'm against that

2:53:11

part of it but okay Council council member Jacobson I have a vague recollection

2:53:18

that chalking tires was some racist practice or something that the court had said we can't do is that recollection

2:53:28

incorrect Council Mike Cipher the operations Commander with the police department and the courts they did have

2:53:33

a period of time where they said we were not allowed to chalk tires that has since changed they have taken that and and changed it and realized it as one of

2:53:39

the feasible ways to make sure the parking is enforced thank you I have another question when go ahead um in in

2:53:47

terms of citing people we're talking about setting people who are parked on streets is that

2:53:53

correct that is correct so parking lots such as the one that uh I think it's

2:53:59

Islandia Center uh they uh were

2:54:05

uh out books and terabella all that that's up to those people to enforce

2:54:11

whatever parking rules they want to enforce yes that would be correct okay

2:54:19

okay card officer cir can you talk about how alpr would work instead of an app or

2:54:26

with an app like give me some technology training here so what we're fighting right now is the alpr the difficulty it

2:54:32

presents is it's able to tell us you know that this vehicle was here in a period of time we marked it we saw it

2:54:39

and then you have to see it at a second point in time to know that it's been there beyond the time it's allowed to be there for free so the issues we have

2:54:46

with that are making sure that an officer is there at both points in time which due to the you know Staffing

2:54:53

levels we have we have one officer that's primarily focused on parking um and just other calls things that other

2:54:59

people are dealing with that's not going to happen very consistently probably not consistently enough to where there's going to be a real risk of enforcement

2:55:06

occurring if you're taking the risk of parking improperly the other issue we have with the alprs without the movement is that

2:55:14

the alpr will recognize that your car was where it was when the police car

2:55:19

that has the LPR was at a certain location so the the Geo tagging that occurs is on the police car so if I see

2:55:27

everybody in this room and then you have moved to the other side of the room my car might think that you haven't moved

2:55:33

so we have to do a little bit extra enforcement it's it's it's not a heavy lift by any means but it's not a very

2:55:38

simple this car is allowed to be here this car is not allowed to be here which is where the app where the the moving a

2:55:43

block we having the the style of parking enforcement where it's either your legally parked or illegally parked as

2:55:49

opposed to having a a gap of time where the officer has to establish the beginning of that time and the violation

2:55:56

of that time does that make sense Commander Cipher if if could you just

2:56:01

elaborate a little bit we've had uh some feedback from our judge about uh needing

2:56:07

to do this very specifically when we're in uh in front of him in court and I I

2:56:12

think it's that he wants us to to to be able to document that we can prove there

2:56:18

was a violation can you say more about that yes so so basically what happened was the the the PSO at the time had

2:56:26

complete faith in the system that it was telling her everything that was accurate um so for instance if you moved across

2:56:32

the room we cited you for being in the same location uh without putting the extra investigation um you complained to the

2:56:39

court saying hey I I did the legal U-turn went across the street and I still got a parking ticket we looked at

2:56:45

the photographs we looked at the information that was provided by the LPR and realized oh you're right you did so

2:56:51

it was kind of an air in the system that we didn't know was there um and it created a basically a need for whoever's

2:56:57

the the officer issuing the ticket to say I've confirmed that that car was in the same location um the the judge would

2:57:06

not accept that just based on the alpr loan without the person confirming

2:57:11

everything was the way it was that we would not be able to issue those tickets okay Council
M weberg yeah all

2:57:18

my apologies for speaking out of turn a moment ago um so I am in support of uh

2:57:25

the in the proposed increase uh up to 54 um I I think it's uh uh important

2:57:33

also to provide guidance that we are looking for uh increased enforcement but

2:57:39

also uh Grace periods uh as as was suggested I think that any type of change um there's
communication is going

2:57:47

to be imp uh we can't get to absolutely everybody um and knowing that there's a chance to

2:57:53

get a warning so that so we can learn what the new rules are would be appreciated by the

2:57:58

people thank you Custer Reynolds I I just want to make sure I

2:58:04

understand I'm not trying to do at the moment if we make this Chang that

2:58:09

requires moving to the next block do we still need to chalk tires or have an app

2:58:14

or will the arpr alpr by itself be enough to make an enforceable

2:58:20

citation it would make it easier for the alpr to identify that a vehicle has

2:58:25

clearly moved um from one location to the other where it's not just a few steps away or across the street um in

2:58:34

theory that would make that part easier as as a police officer mindset if we want perfect enforcement that comes from

2:58:42

removing the having a time limit be what you're looking for having a a vehicle

2:58:47

that is um as Marin said you sign in I know there's there's some you know not

2:58:53

wanting to do that because it requires extra steps but if if the officer can be in the area at one single point in time

2:59:00

and know that the vehicle is illegally parked it's going to allow much more consistent enforcement as opposed to

2:59:05

having to witness the vehicle at two separate points in time so if if I make ask quick followup my my understanding

2:59:11

is without the app somebody might park somewhere at noon and the officer comes

2:59:17

by the first time at 3:00 and then again at 5: if the car's

2:59:22

gone at 5: he or she may think there's been no violation when really there was already at the time of the first stop

2:59:28

right is that the and I would say that's that's a very likely situation with the saturation of enforcement we have

2:59:34

focused on parking but if we have the app would he be able to know every car

2:59:39

that he sees that it's been there for three hours already when he sees it the first time I don't want to say for sure

2:59:44

yes but in theory that's the intent the intent yeah what we see from the products that are available to us yes

2:59:50

okay and I have one unrelated question if I may or okay um talk to us a little

2:59:55

bit about what the enforcement process is for payment of these fines like if I get a hundred of these things is

3:00:02

somebody going to boot my car and and if so how bad does it have to get before you do that um or what else do you do

3:00:09

instead of it yeah that's uh from the police standpoint that's not a question I know how to answer that would be something that the courts would deal with um presumably what I've heard

3:00:16

anecdotally with other cities is if you have a lot of tickets on your vehicle eventually you can't register your

3:00:22

vehicle anymore then you start to get tickets for having an unregistered vehicle which leads to your license being suspended so it's kind of a chain

3:00:29

of of worsening events and worsening punishments see maner Bon thank you yeah

3:00:35

Commander Cypher don't go too far um I wanted to just call out that the

3:00:41

ordinances for these items are not written yet um we we need to write them

3:00:46

but there is an advantage to using an application system where we have po the

3:00:52

potential to enforce based on time not necessarily location so you get two

3:00:58

hours free parking in town center it could be if we write the ordinance this way

3:01:05

wherever after two hours you know if we establish a parking window it becomes

3:01:11

paid so it it there there is an opportunity through our our future work on this to eliminate the location and

3:01:17

the the block moving and to just say it's based on time but that app is

3:01:23

really key for us because it requires you to register your car uh we then do

3:01:28

all the programming which is it's a considerable lift right to take the parking app and have it talk to our own

3:01:35

uh aop software but but we have you know there there's several you know flavors of ice

3:01:41

cream here and what what I'm going to be advocating for ultimately is efficiency

3:01:47

uh I can't come to you and recommend that we add two more police officers for parking enforcement I have to recommend

3:01:52

that we implement tools and and modern ordinances that make our job easier and

3:01:57

that also achieve your goals that you laid out in your Town Center Parking

3:02:04

plan all right Council Waker um so two hour parking during the day would there

3:02:09

be free overnight parking is it two hours 247 like what did we already talk about this or no we there's actually a

3:02:16

sec second part of the presid I'm wondering Mr Mayor if you'd like us to run through that deck since we jumped

3:02:22

already there's so many dependencies here I just go on the record and say I support your uh approach here which is I

3:02:28

believe an app which requires starting a session uh that is two hours for free

3:02:35

and then can have some paid component after that am I understanding correctly if we do just that we don't need the

3:02:41

move your car a block or any of that business because everybody should have an active session and if they don't

3:02:47

don't then they would get a ticket is that the way this would work yeah it's

3:02:53

um if if you would like if Council would like us to set up a system where it's not location based it's only time

3:03:00

based then if we had an app system we would not necessarily need to I'd want to confirm and come back to you that

3:03:05

there's not a a reason with court or the code that we would need to have some sort of location item in the in the code

3:03:11

but I believe that we could do that so what I just explained is what is currently happening at the boat launch right you if you're parked at the boat

3:03:18

launch and you don't have an active session you're illegally parked that's correct you're either

3:03:24

illegally parked or you're not legally parked there and when the enforcement officer goes through at that point of

3:03:29

time they're able to tell this car is allowed to be here or is not allowed to be and the alpr is doing that job correct okay all right that's what I

3:03:36

support all right carry on go for it Casey could you pull up the

3:03:42

slide deck please and next

3:03:49

slide all right well thank you for your comment this uh okay so this brings us

3:03:56

to our second set of recommendations so hopefully we can get some of these questions answered so as you can see um

3:04:03

in the map on screen uh Street on street parking in town center is currently

3:04:08

regulated sorry this is giving meble uh through various time limits and

3:04:13

restrictions next next slide please the the Town Center Parking plan recommends

3:04:19

converting all on street parking in town center to 2hour time limited parking this would exclude uh adaa spaces

3:04:26

loading zones and then the three minute zones so unfortunately this map is a little difficult to see but the map is

3:04:32

showing where these changes would take place so areas encircled in either a red or a blue box are where they would be

3:04:40

subject to the new 2-hour time limit a few things to note about this map is that the parking restrictions for

3:04:47

the former T site at the end of East Sunset Highway which is the purple culdesac encircled by a blue box um may

3:04:55

change as the project comes online and then we will discuss this later but the Town Center commuter parking permit um

3:05:02

which are the areas where the roadway is highlighted in yellow and then there is a red box those regulations might also

3:05:08

change next slide please implementing this potential

3:05:14

action would require changes to the existing signage in and around town center so as you can see in the photos

3:05:20

below our signage is currently inconsistent with how it is listed and the the information that it is listing

3:05:27

to implement this the time limit standardization we would need to replace and install around 100 new signs which

3:05:34

would have a cost for of about \$5,000 for placards posts and bindings next

3:05:39

slide please a second consideration for this are the applicable hours for time limits

3:05:46

So currently in the municipal code there are no standardized hours for when parking restrictions are applicable so

3:05:53

staff explored two common options for applicable hours the first one being 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through

3:05:59

Friday which would accommodate a workday schedule meaning that people commuting to two and from Town Center would be

3:06:05

unable to park on Street all day the second option is 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday which again

3:06:12

uh promotes turnover during the day but also maintains street parking for evening activities like shopping and

3:06:17

dining next slide please so to build off of the time limit

3:06:23

standardization staff explored a system where motorists could register their vehicle in exchange for two hours of

3:06:29

free parking and to take this one step further motorists could have the option to extend the two hours for payment

3:06:36

which would mean the first two hours would be free but a motorist could pay for an additional amount of time next

3:06:42

slide please to implement a registration or a payment system this City could be

3:06:48

required to use a mobile parking payment service like pay by phone or Park Mobile uh the city could also be

3:06:55

required to use a second registration system like a kiosk or a pay station for

3:07:01

people that do not have cell phones or credit cards and then finally the city would need an integration with the city's existing parking enforcement

3:07:07

software these changes would apply to the 250 on Street spaces in town center

3:07:13

next slide please staff explored a few of the park in Management Systems used in the area

3:07:19

pay by phone is a regional player that is used by the city of Seattle and it is what we currently use at the Mercer

3:07:25

Island boat launch Park Mobile is also used regionally they are the parking payment provider for Diamond Parking and

3:07:33

they are used at the Island Square garage again Council I would like to remind you that this agenda item is for

3:07:38

discussion only we are not taking any action tonight so should Council decide to explore a parking registration system

3:07:45

staff would conduct additional research and provide a recommendation for you that being said what I'm hoping to show

3:07:51

you with this slide is that should the city pursue either a registration or a payment system there would be a cost to

3:07:58

that that could either be assumed by the city or passed on to the user and that cost would come in the form of transa of

3:08:04

a transaction fee which would be either 35 cents or 45 cents or a monthly subscription

3:08:10

fee the other thing I'm hoping to show you with this slide is that different vendors provide different Services which

3:08:16

is something to keep in mind as we move forward next slide

3:08:21

please our last implementation action to discuss is the Town Center commuter parking permit program which was

3:08:28

established to provide an alternative to the parking ride essentially if you are a permit holder between 7:00 a.m. and

3:08:35

9:00 a.m. you are able to park in designated on Street spaces in town center Monday through Friday the parking

3:08:41

in those spaces is then unrestricted after 9:00 a.m. all Island residents are eligible for permits and permits permits

3:08:48

cost \$5 per year per vehicle um as you can see in the table on screen the

3:08:53

permit numbers have slowly been declining over the last few years next slide

3:08:59

please the 2024 parking counts also showed that the permit program is underutilized during the 8: a.m. weekday

3:09:06

count only 7% of the vehicles parked in the area had valid permits that is two vehicles out of the 27 vehicles that

3:09:12

were parked there with the opening of the future commuter parking project at

3:09:17

the former T site increasing capacity for commuters in the area staff recommend sunsetting the Town Center

3:09:23

commuter parking permit program to preserve valuable on street parking create consistency in parking

3:09:29

restrictions and better facilitate future changes in town center next slide

3:09:35

please so with that Council we are seeking your feedback on standardizing the time limits in town center to 2

3:09:41

hours implementing an on street parking system that would facilitate 2 hours free parking with the option for time

3:09:46

extension with payment and sunsetting the Town Center commuter parking permit program I will turn it back to you okay

3:09:53

thank you so um council member

3:09:58

andal thanks I I don't know if I missed it or not was there a recommendation as to the um cost for extending past the

3:10:06

two free hours uh as part of this agenda Bill we did not ex go into any rates for

3:10:11

parking okay all right while you have the mic what is your opinion on permit Park

3:10:17

parking should it stay or should go I think permit parking should go okay and I also think that I do like the 2-hour

3:10:24

standardization and I'm kind of on the fence about extending for money you know for a paid fee because it kind of tends

3:10:31

to defeat the you drive to turn over spaces which is what the two are is

3:10:37

supposed to do okay so Council can we tackle this permit parking issue does anybody have

3:10:42

an object objection to sunseting it Council Reynolds I I'm generally supportive but the uh I have one

3:10:48

question about it which is are are we sunseting the individual portion of that or are the grandfathered businesses

3:10:54

who use it for employee parking also being suned um I think we're open to your uh

3:11:01

feedback and Direction on that but I think my my Baseline assumption would be we' sunet the end the whole program but

3:11:09

happy to discuss further for for what it's worth i' I'd like to preserve the the business employee parts that have

3:11:14

been grandfathered in what you say it is it's happened but it hasn't grandfathered in is a concept you would

3:11:20

have to create I I think you want to I think they were describing that it was already grandfather day that it was

3:11:26

these were permits given to individuals or there was a special program for employee par Council would it be helpful

3:11:32

to hear the number of permits that we are grandfathered in in the specific yeah maybe you can add some color on

3:11:37

this concept there are currently two businesses that are grandfathered into this program um Mercer Island dental and

3:11:44

advanced Orthodontics and collectively they they have about 20 permits that represent and is the distinction that

3:11:51

those permits are are owned and paid for by them rather than by the individuals is that correct yes the businesses pay

3:11:58

for their permits okay because the individuals right now could pay the five bucks and get it on their own

3:12:05

right it's only open to Residents oh it's only open for residents yeah Council we're not making a decision

3:12:10

tonight uh I I understand you we'll need to bring back

3:12:16

you you know the action that you would need to take and it that I will tell you my recommendation is going to be to end

3:12:22

the program in its entirety uh continuing to Steward and grandfather is is just another practice that's

3:12:28

inefficient for the staff uh stewarding those few permits um if at that time uh

3:12:35

you would like to propose an amendment to do something different you know to grandfather

3:12:41

someone in I would look for that action um my my position is to Sunset the the

3:12:47

program in its entirety you convinced me council member wer okay so turning our

3:12:52

attention to the map um I get we're trying to bring turnover to Town Center

3:12:57

businesses but I'm worried about those multif Family Properties that won't have guas parking for folks that want to stay more than two hours or have to pay four

3:13:05

hours to spend an afternoon with their grandma or something so if we could build in a little more unrestricted

3:13:11

parking closer to the multifam I'm looking at 32 and

3:13:17

79th I think kind of in that corner above the thrift store and maybe over

3:13:23

towards uh met Market in 27th and I

3:13:28

think it's 76 so creating a little more grace for guests of our multifamily

3:13:34

homeowners and renters feels a little more uh hospitable to letting people

3:13:39

stay to visit folks in multifamily buildings may I offer you a staff

3:13:45

perspective yes you will yeah if you haven't noticed I feel pretty strongly about this uh we

3:13:52

currently have a patchwork of mish mash regulations throughout Town Center uh

3:13:57

which is just ridiculous for us to enforce it's really inefficient and

3:14:04

while I sympathize with the special needs of the grandma visiting um we are

3:14:10

really strongly advocating for consistency uh for enforcement and

3:14:15

management and if we start to carve out areas of our town center and some of the streets
you mentioned while they are

3:14:21

adjacent to multifamily they also have businesses right there that need that parking as
well and that is some of the

3:14:28

places we have the most uh Vehicles overstaying right so um ultimately it

3:14:35

will be the council decision I just don't want to leave tonight without you know speaking on
behalf of my colleagues

3:14:41

here that have to enforce the system so fully appreciate that and I I

3:14:47

think living a little more On The Fringe might give us a little Grace for 20 or 30 parking spots
CU we're taking the

3:14:53

yellow away we're taking the green away we're putting two hours everywhere all the time so maybe a little Grace on the

3:14:59

perimeter we don't have as much uh commercial activity but more multif

3:15:04

family residential activity maybe some options okay Council anybody want to

3:15:11

comment on the private parking yeah um

3:15:18

I I guess I I've spoken with some of the uh uh businesses that do continue to use

3:15:25

uh the uh uh the permits uh and it's uh

3:15:30

would be a burden on their employees uh to say that okay now you've got to actually pay out of pocket uh it they

3:15:38

probably wouldn't lose their employees as a result of that but it would just be and uh taking essentially making things

3:15:45

more convenient for the city and less convenient for the people who live here uh or or who work here um if the

3:15:52

majority of the council wants to do that to simplify it uh and and make it uh harder for employees to park then I

3:15:58

guess the majority wants that but uh I think we should be considering the people we

3:16:03

represent well what I will add to that is that you know you only have a limited number of on street parking stalls and

3:16:09

this is a public benefit that should serve the benefits of the public and using it for employee parking which is a

3:16:15

commercial activity who could put that commercial activity onto the site in which they uh lease their property is to

3:16:22

me the right thing to do to preserve the access to the public benefit so I support sunseting the plan sunseting

3:16:29

the permits and you know those those folks can fall into a paid permit or

3:16:35

paid parking um session or they can park on the the grounds of their you know

3:16:41

least location I I would I would prefer the consistency and the certainty of

3:16:47

standardized parking hours and and out all right anybody new want to speak

3:16:54

Deputy Mayor rosom you have thoughts on this yeah I I think we got to kind of go through our nth star here which is that

3:16:59

we are trying to create additional parking for folks to visit businesses and anything that trickles down from

3:17:05

that that would be a hindrance that I think we should strongly consider doing away with and I think in my mind that's

3:17:11

where the permit comes in where you have someone in theory you know paying \$5 a year

3:17:17

correct that we would value much higher under the new um the new plan so I think

3:17:24

we have to have consistency there okay so I'm getting the sense we're not going to get there without a thumbs up on this thing so I'm going to be looking for

3:17:30

some consensus on eliminating or grandfathering the permit parking if you want to do that thumbs up looks like you

3:17:37

have your consensus there what's the next thing that I can give you some consensus on single thing single thing

3:17:44

um the next thing to give consensus on would be the free 2-hour parking with

3:17:49

registration Okay so we've consistently called it two-hour parking even though it could mean 4-Hour parking can we find

3:17:55

a way to describe this that is maybe more uh the question that we're trying to

3:18:01

answer should should people get two hours of free parking on a session that could last longer than two hours I mean

3:18:09

do we need to take two bites of this council do you do you want to decide on 4 hours 6 hours 8 hours but the first two

3:18:16

hours is free or do you want is there inclination to have only two hours and all of the two

3:18:22

hours is free I'm in I'm inclined to go only two

3:18:28

hours and it's all free okay and the alternative to that

3:18:34

would

3:18:39

be okay that doesn't turn the spaces over

3:18:45

you yes so some level of payment will will create some turnover but I I could see

3:18:52

both perspectives Deputy Mayor rosan I think I'm in favor of the two hours and then and that and that be it

3:18:59

um if if the goal here is to get some some turnover in the spot okay that be

3:19:05

supportive of two hours free and then a fee thereafter okay so I'm seeing some

3:19:11

level of interest in having a fee beyond the two hours can I mean would it be enough direction to provide staff to

3:19:18

figure that out and come back some sort of ordinance proposed ordinance Mr Mayor I just wanted to clarify is is that when

3:19:25

those of you that were saying just two hours and that that's it was that two hours free and that's it or two hours

3:19:31

paid and that's it two hours free two hours and that's it okay think I think

3:19:38

we've got maybe if well I'm G I take some consensus once we can get this but if if you in terms of looking for

3:19:45

consensus do you would you be comfortable just not knowing how many the maximum is but yeah work work

3:19:51

staff's going to need to do after this um I'm hearing two hours free with some amount of paid extension so Mee and I

3:19:58

are going to do some research on what is an appropriate rate and a payment amount you know what's the app that would best

3:20:04

and most optimally manage that um something that would be helpful feedback right now would be if there's initial

3:20:10

thoughts we don't need to make a final decision on is it extended for as long as you want all the way to the 72h hour

3:20:16

rule is it maximum of 8 hours are the applicable hours only 8: a.m. to 8:00 p.m. so on so forth if that makes sense

3:20:23

gotcha Deputy Mayor Rose yeah I think on that point that I'm trying to think of like Seattle and Bellevue here just to

3:20:29

you know on the consistency front trying to figure out what they do and then can we Seattle might be harder but I don't know if BW is something we can look into

3:20:36

for that question we can probably answer that question

3:20:41

tonight uh city of Seattle uses an 8 a.m. to 8:00 P.M Monday through Saturday um city of Bellevue does not charge for

3:20:49

on street parking so I do not currently have a reference point but can come back to you with that okay but I think his question was

3:20:56

more like is four the max is six the max is eight the max that you could make a

3:21:01

park variable so in in areas that are larger than the

3:21:09

Mercer Island Town Center you can have a 2hour 4 Hour 6 hour um so I I again

3:21:15

don't necessarily have a compar right now but could come back to you with it yeah I think Seattle is just they've got

3:21:21

a little more complicated situation than we do so it's not the best comparison we could come back to uh with more

3:21:26

information on the variety of applicable hours in in bellie or in the the ways it

3:21:33

varies in Seattle yeah I shouldn't ask about Seattle because they also have like time changes if you're in a stadium Zone all these other things but maybe

3:21:39

like Kirkland I think and there and their public Lots I think has something four hours four hours uh and then City

3:21:45

of Vancouver Washington has a 1our Zone 2our Zone and a 10hour

3:21:51

Zone one thing to keep in mind is we're comparing ourselves to other cities is uh particularly Seattle uh and even to

3:21:58

some extent Bellevue has uh quite a bit of structured public parking so places

3:22:04

that people can go and and legally park that are not on the street uh we do not have that same luxury we have uh some

3:22:13

parking and garages to support businesses uh but what we're we're trying to manage is our very limited

3:22:18

supply of on street parking okay so council is there

3:22:24

consensus on two hours free of parking on a session that could last longer than

3:22:30

two hours that staff will come back and make recommendation on okay

3:22:36

so it looks like you got support for that right every there's C is that a question C

3:22:44

Reynold yeah I I hav't an additional related comment this is on the similar topic and I want to make sure I think

3:22:50

this is the place to introduce it it strikes me that to the extent we have a problem with parking um I think it's

3:22:57

exacerbated by residents in town center who Park their cars on the street all

3:23:03

the time um and I I think we need to consider a plan to that would enforce

3:23:10

the parking rules 247 rather than just until 8:00 p.m. to give the people who

3:23:17

live in those uh buildings incentive to buy the building parking rather than taking up what should be business

3:23:22

parking on the streets I think that Point's I think that Point's well taken because when

3:23:28

seen W comes on stream you can imagine people are going to putay say I'll park on the street rather than incurring 300

3:23:35

bucks a month which is what uh was in some materials earlier about this that's

3:23:41

3600 bucks a year which is after tax money

3:23:46

so that's going to become a a huge problem When sin W it's even though you

3:23:51

know some people feel that those people aren't going to have any cars we you know we know differently so okay

3:24:00

Council well I one of the things that we need to keep in mind is that for Merch

3:24:06

businesses to remain competitive we need to be thinking not just about the first two hours being free but also that

3:24:13

parking needs to be a pleasant experience for the Shopper and by that I mean the customer needs to be able to

3:24:19

arrive by car they arriving by car at least need to be able to arrive Park do

3:24:25

their shopping get back in their car and go and they should not have to spend uh

3:24:30

30 minutes trying to figure out how to download an app how to click through a bunch of fine print uh and then how to

3:24:36

enter their location number license plate number and their credit card number when they're not going to be paying because they're only staying

3:24:42

there less than two hours I I think that the app should if we do uh uh start

3:24:48

using an app uh I recommend that it only be for the people that are staying longer than 2 hours and if we see a car

3:24:55

that's parks there that is not registered in the app uh that's somebody who's staying there less than two hours

3:25:00

and if you still see that car again you know two hours later uh then that's a violation uh but we shouldn't it

3:25:07

burdened everybody es including people who are just there for 5 minutes uh to

3:25:12

have to download and install an app and record who they are where they

3:25:19

are okay which is why I support two hours free and no app and no option to

3:25:25

pay for more okay got it all right

3:25:34

um so did did we get consensus on you're GNA you're gonna have council we didn't

3:25:40

get it so we're we're at two hours we're looking for consensus on this go ahead

3:25:46

question for I don't know it's for Commander Cypher but what would be the the I think we have to get a little

3:25:55

granula here about some of the nuts and bolts of how this technology actually works and if if what is being proposed of two hours no app but still being able

3:26:03

to enforce is even is possible or how if I remember correctly it sounds like the app is pretty critical to the to the

3:26:11

enforcement efforts and without enforcement don't don't have much here with the limited amount of res ources we

3:26:17

have focused primarily on on parking enforcement um the two hours with no app would basically be what we have now you

3:26:23

have to have two separate points in time it needs to be verified by the officer that the vehicle was here at 1:00 and

3:26:30

then again sometime after 3 o' without having moved um so you just you get very inconsistent difficult

3:26:37

enforcement with that cro wer I'm in favor of the app can

3:26:42

we have you guys look at that and figure out which one we all use apps everywhere all the time in this crazy crowded region so we all have

3:26:49

phones okay more more I here I'm more cemented on a two hours free on a 4 Hour

3:26:56

maximum 24 hours a day with an app

3:27:01

not I see a thumbs up there two hours free four hours maximum 24 hours a day

3:27:07

with an app that's got down

3:27:14

down so what is it going to make that like where are we going to go 8 to8 two up to four so 8 to8 is doing it for you

3:27:23

no have doing for

3:27:28

him all right this is a tough plan to land aren't you glad you're

3:27:34

mayor we need to elect a new mayor whoa whoa Let's uh let's not lose

3:27:41

it before the August recess was that a motion all right so I think same manure

3:27:47

you can see that this isn't getting anywhere productive this is uh you're going to have to come back with some options for Council that can be uh

3:27:55

cemented would include with an app without an app with with this caveat that police are suggesting that

3:28:01

something is enforcable and other things really won't be enforcable and I want Council to understand that you know I've

3:28:07

heard it may be very difficult to enforce without an app particularly if it's two hours and so I don't want anybody to

3:28:16

makx bones that you know that's going to help the parking situation are we if we do an app some

3:28:23

for clarification will we have to incur the expense of kiosks on every block for

3:28:29

people who do not have phones it it's it's really dependent on your your your preferences we've we've

3:28:36

already heard some feedback from folks that don't want to use their phone that that would be the alternative some apps

3:28:42

allow you to call a phone number and and register by phone you know as opposed to having an

3:28:49

app on your phone so you can actually call and use an automated machine or I think possibly talk to a live body

3:28:56

during certain hours uh it it will cost more and certainly clutter up town center to

3:29:02

install kiosks and we don't have that type of infrastructure in place right now

3:29:11

obviously okay so does it making the ability to make a phone call to begin session is that a trigger that allows

3:29:18

you to get over the of the app if they're making a phone call they have a phone they can use the

3:29:23

app I mean it's people who don't have a phone or and the people who are only you

3:29:29

know to Ted's Point staying for five minutes I mean it makes it a very unfriendly experience we are talking about the on

3:29:36

street parking stalls not the 1500 1600 total parking stalls that are available

3:29:41

right right on Street M yeah but if you're driving on to Mercer Island and your phone's a battery um you should be

3:29:48

able to uh pay for parking with cash uh and you shouldn't be required to leave

3:29:53

the island if we say you've got to have an app you've got to have a phone we're essentially uh not being

3:30:01

inclusive okay I don't know how you pay for parking with cash unless you put

3:30:06

meters up you do in Seattle I'm not going to ever vote for metered parking

3:30:12

on kiosk you do the card and you can also put in coins have credit cards is

3:30:17

not not inclusive a lot of people can't get a credit card don't want a credit card that's why we have the cash option

3:30:23

in Seattle Bitcoin ethereum all right council member wer I

3:30:28

would remind us all that this is about Town Center businesses and a lot of those businesses have have parking on

3:30:34

site so we're talking about the 250 spots in the public right away so I think an app for those public domain

3:30:40

spots is not too much to ask given if you're going to QFC or Island books they have a parking lot for free

3:30:47

okay CER Reynolds just going to note for the record that I despise parking apps I

3:30:52

hate them okay let me but but I think there but I think they a necessary evil here and the key thing is to pick one

3:30:59

that is as easy to use as possible that is the same all over T town center and

3:31:04

to the extent possible also the same app used by parking garages that have their own apps that are associated with it so

3:31:10

that people that live on the island have to suffer once to get it set up but after that it's probably easier than

3:31:16

stopping to put coins in a meter so I yeah I don't think you moved the

3:31:22

puck I mean does anybody change their mind over that you you just shouldn't start a speech with you ha a nap is the position

3:31:29

that you okay what about just two hours free parking no app 24 hours a day I

3:31:35

don't think that works for enfor I mean if you're going to if we're not going to go over here then we're not going to go

3:31:40

over there so if you don't like the no app 2hour option

3:31:46

we're back to having an app okay I I started this thing in the middle I was at two hours free 4 Hour

3:31:53

session with an app I couldn't get four for that what are we at where are we at now we're I'm going to go back to two

3:31:59

hours free 4 hour max 24 hours a day with an

3:32:06

app I mean I have to because I need your thumbs up so in that in that so what are you an

3:32:13

8 to 8 count so you're two hours free four hours max with an app 8

3:32:20

to 8 I can do that all right that's where we at you got it

3:32:26

run okay can can I raise one more issue no can you bring up the slides and go

3:32:33

back to the photos of the different parking signs we can start a committee of one

3:32:39

and it's you write the signs I like that idea they'd be very

3:32:45

long um I'm just G to note a pet peeve of

3:32:51

mine I don't hear it's but I I want to share and my current pet peeve is I

3:32:57

can't read that because it's too small but um there we go when I read a sign

3:33:02

like that I don't know what it means does it mean that outside 8:30 to 5:30

3:33:09

you can park as long as you want or does it mean outside 8:30 to 5:30 you can't park at all and the grammar does not

3:33:17

make that clear so when when you guys set up your signs please have somebody review the wording and make sure it's

3:33:24

unambiguous that's just my request we do okay now I'll shut up it's very serious

3:33:30

okay did we answer all the questions that I don't think you needed specificity on the which app but do you

3:33:36

want to get into which apps we definitely don't want to use like something you can't pay by phone like

3:33:42

the one that's called pay by phone that you can't pay by phone Council I think we've gotten enough

3:33:48

direction that we can come back to with a more specific recommendation of the specific app that we would recommend

3:33:53

based off of some of the guidelines we heard tonight did we do the the increase in the parking citation yeah I think we

3:34:00

got did we get to 54 on that everybody's good with the yeah good that so my my

3:34:05

only I think my initial thought is that if we are going to consider an app which it sounds like we're going to that we

3:34:11

may hold on the I need the let's I'm review of for City attorney and police make sure we would actually not need to

3:34:17

do the moving vehicle change the code if we did an app for enforcement instead um

3:34:22

but otherwise we'll come back to if the citation fee increase and the sunseting of the Town Center computer parking

3:34:28

permit probably sooner uh we'll take the some time to get a do some a little more analysis and come up of a recommendation

3:34:34

including potential pricing amount for extended parking to for the additional two hours at a later time can can we get

3:34:40

the City attorney or this ordinance this drafting to consider councilman Reynold's idea of this graduated um

3:34:47

repeat offense type um fine you know if any other jurisdiction will graduate

3:34:54

their Their fines based on the frequency or the number of parking citations for a single license

3:35:00

plate yeah I'll saff will look into it for City attorney okay question councilor Weber yeah do we want in the

3:35:09

interest of trying to ease the community into this change

3:35:16

uh because they've had something that uh certain spaces have been free um and

3:35:21

certain spaces have not or there's places where it hasn't been rigidly enforced and we're talking about

3:35:26

increasing the fines and increasing enforcement I'm wondering if there's a way that we could ease the community

3:35:32

into this uh such as uh having the funds

3:35:38

collected from the fees go into a uh

3:35:43

parking benefit District that would uh benefit the cleaning of the sidewalks

3:35:48

the cleaning of the curbs better uh Street lighting um uh and other things

3:35:55

that directly benefit the people that are uh paying more for the parking that they're

3:36:00

using okay I mean I think city manager bond has her hand

3:36:06

up I was actually going to respond to the the first part of where I thought you were going
council member weberg um

3:36:12

when these ordinances or ordinance comes back uh we will likely recommend adopting
with a long

3:36:20

implementation lead time because what's going to happen is as we set new regulations it's
going to take us months

3:36:28

uh to implement we have signage we have an app vendor to bring on we have coordination
with

3:36:33

PD um so just just know that there's you know upon adoption we're going to have

3:36:39

to set sometime in the future when it when it becomes effective that's a really important
window for communications as well uh when we start

3:36:47

rolling out what the new regulations are and notifying people hey this is coming um I would not recommend tying your

3:36:54

ordinance to the creation of a benefit District I would just keep those actions separate but if the council uh and the

3:37:00

council will need to direct if we end up being uh moving towards a Feebas system which it sounds like you wanted to

3:37:06

consider tonight uh you will then need to provide Financial Direction on where those resources go but I would keep

3:37:13

those actions separate okay okay anything else

3:37:18

staff no all right well I can assure you there's going to be a postmortem on this

3:37:23

agenda bill this is clearly a failure of leadership on my part this is not going to happen

3:37:29

again a free form push the string exercise to the council so don't expect

3:37:35

any more of these all right we now move to other business in the planning schedule we

3:37:40

welcome city manager Jesse Bond hey it's uh it's one executive session standing

3:37:46

ahead of us uh going to an August recess so I I will just point out we have an

3:37:51

incredibly busy fall with a comprehensive plan review and uh banal budget work um okay thank you for that

3:38:00

got council member any absences upcoming other than August no C Jacobson

3:38:05

September 3D oh okay I'll

3:38:11

be whether or not I'll be in some place that I can zoom in

3:38:16

I have no idea microphone please all right council member reports

3:38:22

Deputy Mayor rosenal anything to report Ted to schedule some parking meetings in L of our August recess uh I

3:38:30

don't I don't have anything to report okay I have nothing to report customer wer no weberg no

3:38:35

Reynolds Just note that I I did attend the Eide Transportation partnership meeting a couple of days ago and and it

3:38:41

was a the entire meeting or the vast majority of it was devoted to to considering uh shuttle options and Last

3:38:48

Mile Solutions and they presented several different options uh most notably the bellhop program in bellw

3:38:55

which is an on demand call for a free ride and electric shuttle around town from point too Transit and it it was a

3:39:02

very impressive program substantially less costly than I would have anticipated and I think it's it's would

3:39:08

be worthwhile for the council to consider exploring other options similar to that if not that itself in in the

3:39:14

future in particular if we proceed with our plan to upso in the commercial office property to to allow uh multif

3:39:21

family housing in that area um we're going to have an area with multif family housing and perhaps a fair amount of low-income housing with no access to

3:39:28

Transit and that's this is one option that's going to be available to address that that I look forward to discussing in the future thank you C member and

3:39:34

roll nothing to report Jacobson nothing okay the next hybrid meeting of the city

3:39:41

council is scheduled for Tuesday September 3rd at 5:00 p.m. the time is now 8:39 p.m. the city council will go into executive session for approximately

3:39:48

60 Minutes one for planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the city council during a course of any

3:39:53

collective bargaining professional negotiations or grievance or mediation proceedings or reviewing the proposals made of the negotiations or proceedings

3:39:59

while in progress pursuant to RCW 42301 404

3:40:05

B2B two to consider a selection of the site of acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge

3:40:11

regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price pursuing RCW 42311 01b and three to discuss with

3:40:19

legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42301

3:40:25

01i no action will be taken following the executive session please stay seated until the city staff is terminated the

3:40:31

broadcast good evening and thank you for joining us tonight

English (auto-generated)