

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Medina City Hall Council Chambers
June 11, 2007
6:30 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened in Executive Session at 6:30 pm to hold discussions per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f). City Council Members Adam, Blazey, Lawrence, Phelps, Rudolph, and Vall-Spinosa and City Attorney Tanaka were present. Executive session adjourned at 7:00 pm and no action was taken.

CALL TO ORDER

Miles Adam called the June 11, 2007, Medina City Council Meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Miles Adam, Lucius Biglow (*via telephone*), Drew Blazey, Jim Lawrence, Katie Phelps, Robert Rudolph and Pete Vall-Spinosa

City Staff Present: Mark Weinberg, City Manager; Wayne Tanaka, City Attorney, Ogden Murphy Wallace; Jeff Chen, Police Chief; Joe Willis, Director of Public Works; Joseph Gellings, Director of Development Services; Bob Rohrbach, Building Official; and Rachel Baker, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor requested to move Other Business before Public Hearings in order to accommodate Council Member Biglow who was participating via telephone from the east coast and also asked for time at the end of the meeting to gather Council input regarding an SR-520 update. The agenda was approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Adam announced there would be an SR-520 Open House on June 26 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Bellevue High School and a King County Charter Review Commission meeting on June 14 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Bellevue Community College.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND VALL-SPINOSA TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1,2 & 3 AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:11 PM.

1. Minutes from May 14, 2007 City Council Meeting
2. Minutes from May 29, 2007 City Council Meeting
3. Approval of May 2007 Checks/Finance Officer's Report

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation

REPORTS

Police Department (7:12 pm)

Chen was available for questions, however no questions were posed.

Development Services (7:12 pm)

Gellings presented monthly report. Blazezy inquired about and Tanaka explained procedures for quasi-judicial matters. Lawrence asked if Mr. Ebel's concern regarding the View and Sunlight Ordinance was addressed and Gellings said the topic has been scheduled for Council discussion July 9.

Public Works (7:17 pm)

Willis said the City received a letter today from the Muckelshoot Indian Tribe in which its recommendations were listed for the Medina Beach Park project. Willis stated that he did not yet know if the Corps will implement the recommendations or not and explained the Corps position and authority on the matter.

Willis summarized report in meeting packet and answered inquiries from the Council.

Phelps thanked Willis for applying for federal grant money available for winter storm disaster relief.

City Manager (7:20 pm)

Weinberg highlighted report items and summarized the King County Library issue raised in 2006. He requested council direction on library matter and council consented to consider it closed. Weinberg stated Public Works staff assessed the tree blue herons nest in Medina Park and determined all possible repairs have been considered and that there is not much else that can be done. Lawrence inquired about the Council Communications matter and Weinberg indicated vendors and recommendations are still under review.

OTHER BUSINESS

Appointments to Vacant & Expiring Advisory Board/Commission Positions (7:30 pm)

Weinberg recommended Anthony Shapiro to Position Three of the Medina Civil Service Commission for the six-year term and summarized his qualifications.

MOTION VALL-SPINOSA AND SECOND LAWRENCE TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY SHAPIRO TO POSITION THREE OF THE MEDINA CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:32 PM.

Adam recommended appointment of Susan Greenberg to Position Two of the Medina Park Board for a four-year term.

Adam summarized skills and qualifications taken into consideration for all candidates considered for an appointment to the Medina Park Board and Planning Commission.

MOTION LAWRENCE AND SECOND PHELPS TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN GREENBERG TO POSITION TWO TO THE MEDINA PARK BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 (PHELPS ABSTAINED) AT 7:38 PM.

Adam recommended appointment of Vic Demetre to Position Five of the Medina Park Board for a four-year term.

MOTION VALL-SPINOSA AND SECOND BLAZEY TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF VIC DEMETRE TO POSITION FIVE OF THE MEDINA PARK BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 (PHELPS ABSTAINED) AT 7:39 PM.

Adam recommended appointment of Matt Kochel to fill the remaining term of Position Seven of the Medina Park Board. He said the term was vacated in February and will expire in one year.

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND LAWRENCE TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF MATT KOCHER TO POSITION NUMBER SEVEN OF THE MEDINA PARK BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 (PHELPS ABSTAINED) AT 7:40 PM.

Adam recommended appointment of Kirk Beardsley to fill the remaining term of Position One to the Medina Planning Commission. He said the term was vacated in February and will expire in two years.

Rudolph expressed his general objections of the appointment process and Phelps explained her abstentions to the motions were made because of the appointment process and her belief that the appointments should be decided by the City Council as a whole. She relayed her support for the Park Board and Planning Commission and the volunteers that donate their time.

MOTION LAWRENCE AND SECOND BLAZEY TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF KIRK BEARDSLEY TO POSITION NUMBER ONE OF THE MEDINA PLANNING COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 (PHELPS ABSTAINED) AT 7:47 PM.

Adam recommended appointment of Molly Goudy to Position Two of the Medina Planning Commission for a four-year term. Adam disclosed to the City Council that Ms. Goudy is his sister-in-law and that he had previously discussed the matter with the City Attorney. Tanaka conveyed that he and the Mayor had discussed the matter and said that it would not be a conflict of interest in general to appoint Ms. Goudy, but certain situations of a quasi-judicial nature may present implications of legal prohibitions. Discussion followed.

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND LAWRENCE TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF MOLLY GOUDY TO POSITION NUMBER TWO OF THE MEDINA PLANNING COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED 4-1-2 (PHELPS OPPOSED, RUDOLPH AND VALL-SPINOSA ABSTAINED) AT 7:53 PM.

Adam recommended the re-appointment of Bret Jordan to Position Four of the Medina Planning Commission for a four-year term.

MOTION VALL-SPINOSA AND SECOND RUDOLPH TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF BRET JORDAN TO POSITION NUMBER FOUR OF THE MEDINA PLANNING COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 (PHELPS ABSTAINED) AT 7:54 PM.

Tanaka confirmed terms would begin immediately for Matt Kochel and Kirk Beardsley as the appointees would be filling positions which were vacated prior to term expiration.

Building Official Position (7:55 pm)

Weinberg summarized report and recommended an amendment of 2007 budget to add a full time Building Official position to City staff. City Council discussed matter and addressed questions to City Manager.

MOTION PHELPS AND SECOND ADAM TO AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO CREATE STAFF BUILDING OFFICIAL POSITION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:14 PM.

MOTION PHELPS AND SECOND ADAM TO APPROVE ORDINANCE PREPARED BY STAFF TO MODIFY THE 2007 SALARY SCHEDULE WITH REGARD TO THE BUILDING OFFICIAL POSITION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:15 PM.

Police Wage Decompression (8:15 pm)

Weinberg summarized report and recommended City Council adopt salary schedule. City Council discussed matter and addressed questions to the City Manager. City Council discussion followed.

Weinberg conveyed the Lieutenant job description would be updated to include routine patrol duties.

MOTION PHELPS AND SECOND ADAM TO MODIFY THE 2007 SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE POSITIONS OF POLICE LIEUTENANT AND POLICE CHIEF AND TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS SET BEFORE US IN ITEM J-3. MOTION CARRIED 6-1 (BLAZEY OPPOSED) AT 8:52 PM.

City Hall Space Evaluation (8:52 pm)

Weinberg began to summarize report prior to the Mayor calling for a recess at 8:55 pm. The meeting was called back to order at 8:58 pm and Weinberg continued his report summary. He recommended locating funding sources and to engage in a process to build a new police facility and to restore the current City Hall building, retaining the character and rearranging space to efficiently conduct municipal services. Weinberg also recommended the creation of a Facilities Planning Committee to enlist the assistance from the community to assist with needs assessment and facilities planning.

City Council discussion followed. Weinberg conveyed he would provide City Council with a more succinct recommendation outlining composition and charge of the committee.

Mayor Adam opened floor to public comment at 9:39 pm.

Resident Betsy Johnson said that although she is not a proponent for expanding City Hall, a committee would be a good idea to study City Hall space. She said including a cross-section of citizens would be a good way to get people behind idea.

Resident Heija Nunn agreed with Ms. Johnson and suggested there may be creative solutions not yet considered available in the community. She expressed life safety issues would need to be addressed no matter what the building may used for.

Resident Paul Edelhertz said a committee would be a great idea for the same reasons Ms. Johnson suggested and added that design expertise and other general use interests be included as a component of the committee.

Resident Pat Boyd said there are two ways to approach the issue and one would be to get community participation and to gain public approval and the second would be to do what the Council believes to be right and to have the courage to make the decision.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Six-Year 2008-2013 CIP/TIP (9:44 pm)

Willis summarized plan and answered inquiries from the City Council.

Mayor opened floor to public comment at 9:57 pm.

Resident Betsy Johnson conveyed she lives near 78th NE and NE 32nd and expressed that many people use the pathway in the area and that she and neighbors would be happy to have the pathway connected there.

Resident Heija Nunn conveyed she has discussed pathway matter as a member of the Park Board. She questioned if there would be any value in holding off on storm drainage work until undergrounding utilities matter has been taken care of and stated, in relation to the pathway on 28th in front of the school, that there are safety standards for pathways in front of schools.

Audience comment period closed at 10:01 pm.

MOTION RUDOLPH AND SECOND VALL-SPINOSA TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE, TWO AND THREE OF THE SIX YEAR TIP AND MOTION CARRIED 7-0 AT 10:02 PM.

Council Member Biglow ended teleconference and did not participate after 10:02 pm.

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND PHELPS TO EXTEND MEETING THIRTY MINUTES. MOTION PASSED 6-0 AT 10:02 PM.

Adoption of Building Code Updates (10:03 pm)

Gellings summarized report and answered Council inquiries. Building Official Bob Rohrbach was present, distributed fire flow drawings to the City Council and answered questions from Council Members.

Mayor Adam opened floor to public comment at 10:16 pm.

Resident Pat Boyd said recommendation would be onerous to those at the low end of property value in Medina and expressed that he would like the fire-sprinkling threshold raised to 4000 square feet.

Resident Heija Nunn expressed her curiosity for average cost figures between a homeowner renovating in Medina and that of other cities which have adopted a fire sprinkling code. She questioned why there would be a different set of standards for Medina than Bellevue. Ms. Nunn said the requirement should be simpler and clearer for residents and the 3000 square foot threshold is too low and the stated costs are too high.

Resident Betsy Johnson explained that she has been in the process of remodeling her house and is thrilled and feels safer to have a fire sprinkler system. She suggested the Council not just consider the cost of the system itself. She said her total costs were driven up as a result of the need to replace the water line from street to the house and also because all rooms in the house were touched in order to install the system.

Resident Mark Nelson stated that Mercer Island requires a fire suppressant system on all houses no matter size or location if the Fire Marshall deems it required, such as on lanes that would be difficult to get to. He suggested an appeal period be considered to overrule the Fire Marshall decision. Mr. Nelson continued to say that the 3000 square foot trigger might not be enough and that that size does seem small. He said it would be onerous to sprinkler the whole house if only adding a small room.

Mayor closed the floor to public comment at 10:23 pm. Rohrbach addressed concerns addressed by public comment.

MOTION PHELPS AND SECOND BLAZEY TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF BUILDING CODE UPDATES OF JUNE 2007 WITH AMENDMENT THAT THE SPRINKLER REQUIREMENT DOES NOT AFFECT NEW CONSTRUCTION UNTIL 4500 SQUARE FEET, UNLESS FIRE MARSHALL OVERRULES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0 AT 10:36 PM.

There was unanimous consent of the Council Members present to extend meeting 15 minutes at 10:36 pm.

Substandard Properties (10:37 pm)

Gellings summarized item. Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 10:37 pm, no public comment was submitted and the hearing was subsequently closed.

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND ADAM TO APPROVE ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY STAFF. MOTION CARRIED 6-0 AT 10:37 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

SR-520 (10:38 pm)

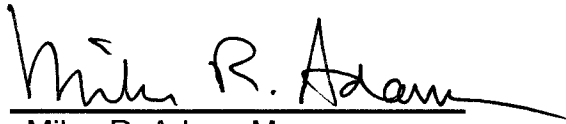
Adam conveyed he needed feedback from the Council regarding transit stops. Council expressed its position that two transit stops are still important to the citizens of Medina and to leave recommendation as originally submitted. Adam said he would follow up with WSDOT regarding the proposal for advance tolling.


ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BLAZEY AND SECOND VALL-SPINOSA TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 11, 2007 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING. MOTION PASSED 6-0 AT 10:42 PM.

The June 11, 2007, Regular Meeting of the Medina City Council adjourned at 10:42 pm.

The next Regular Meeting of the Medina City Council will be held Monday, July 9, 2007 at 7:00 pm.


Miles R. Adam, Mayor

Attest: 
Rachel Baker, City Clerk