

SPECIAL MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

December 7, 1998

The special meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Scott Thomasson at the Des Moines Creek Restaurant at approximately 6:25 p.m. Councilmembers in attendance were Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, and Councilmembers Don Wasson, Bob Sheckler, Gary Towe, Dave Kaplan and Dan Sherman. City Manager Bob Olander was also in attendance with special guests Representative Karen Keiser and Representative-elect Shay Schual-Berke.

Mayor Thomasson invited the Representatives to present any comments or observations they might have on the upcoming legislative session. Representative Keiser indicated that with the 49-49 tie between Republicans and Democrats in the House, bipartisanship will be the order of the day in order to forward any legislation. She also indicated that everyone expects budget difficulties in that any available revenues will already be allocated toward education and school salary increases, with little or nothing left over for additional programs. Representative-elect Shay Schual-Berke indicated that her main interests continue to be in health care, education and transportation and that she hoped to obtain committee assignments in some of these key areas.

Mayor Thomasson then led a discussion review of the City of Des Moines 1998 Intergovernmental Policies and Positions as they relate to state of Washington issues. Items reviewed were criminal justice funding, transportation, electric utility deregulation, tort reform, mobile home zoning, sales tax equalization, labor relations, high speed train transportation, street vacation statutes, SR509 right-of-way, city legislative authority, and other general city issues.

Councilmember Towe mentioned that our state legislators could help us by assuring that state agencies exercise due diligence and oversight on the Port of Seattle environmental violations, that the City could use the Department of Transportation financial and professional assistance on Highway 99 right-of-way acquisitions, and that municipal concerns should be taken into consideration if any regional governance disputes between King County and the suburban cities are raised at the state level.

Councilmember Wasson mentioned that cities could save a considerable sum of money if the state would modify the requirements for prevailing wage in public contracts. Karen Keiser indicated that it was unlikely that the legislature would modify these provisions.

Mayor Thomasson thanked the legislators for their time and attention and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Olander
City Manager