

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 4, 2001

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Terry Brazil, Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman and Gary Towe. Absent: Councilmember Don Wasson. Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Public Works Director Tim Heydon and City Clerk Denis Staab.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Des Moines Legacy Foundation

Park and Recreation Director Thorell introduced members of the Legacy Foundation in attendance: Keith Noess, President, Hallie Marks Treasurer and Board Member Don Clayton. She advised that the Foundation was created in October 1999 to support Des Moines' parks, recreation and senior services programs and facilities. She noted that as a tax-exempt, 501c3 non-profit organization, the Legacy Foundation provides a conduit for tax-deductible resources and allows it to receive grants from other non-profit organizations, memorials and other options that are not available to government entities.

Mr. Noess reviewed the Vision and Mission statement of the Foundation as follows:

“Together with you, we can build a brighter future through parks, recreation and senior services in the Des Moines community:

- To pool assets to maintain, improve, and create community park and recreation services
- To promote interest in and opportunities for charitable giving
- To respond as a positive force to the changing needs of the community
- To enhance services for all ages

Mr. Clayton informed Council of the following accomplishments by the Foundation during the past year highlighting the following:

- Obtained 501c3 non-profit status
- Received Senior Homesharing Housing Program Grant from United Way
- Raised funds through the Legacy Foundation Tree Sale
- Hosted an Estate Planning Workshop
- Contributed to youth, teen and seniors program scholarships
- Assisted the Des Moines Rotary Club with the Water Tower Park Playground Equipment Project
- Raised funds through the Bayside Brunch and Auction hosted at Anthony's Restaurant

Ms. Marks proceeded to review the financial status of the Foundation as follows:

Source of Funds

• Grants	\$20,000 = 29%
• Contributions	20,503 = 29%
• Fund Raising Events	28,167 = 40%
• Interest Income	<u>982</u> = 1%
	\$69,652

Use of Funds

• Homesharing Program	\$ 20,000 = 58%
• Senior Center	5,155 = 15%
• Water Tower Park	6,150 = 18%
• Recreation Scholarships	1,000 = 3%
• Brochures & Overhead	<u>2,030</u> = 6%
	\$ 34,335

In conclusion, Mr. Clayton advised Council of the following projects slated for the year 2001:

- Seek funds and grants to support the construction of the Des Moines Sports Park
- Seek funds and grants to support development of a Community/Senior Center
- Assist in developing and improving neighborhood parks and playfields
- Encourage ongoing senior and youth programs
- Host 2nd Annual Bayside Brunch and Auction at Anthony's Homeport on November 4, 2001

City Manager Olander noted that these types of foundations are becoming much more common. He noted that some charitable organizations will only give to non-profit status groups and he feels this is a great long range opportunity for the City to partner with the Des Moines Legacy Foundation.

Upon questioning by the Council, Mr. Noess remarked that there has been no problem in making it clear that the Foundation is not part of the City government, but is a non-profit group of diverse citizens interested in supporting the City and the quality of life.

Councilmember Sherman noted that it is somewhat confusing since the Foundation is using a City facility address for mail. However, he applauded the Foundations efforts and citizen involvement and interest as it provides a great opportunity to better the community.

Mr. Noess advised Council that by their Charter, all funds stay within the Des Moines community.

Councilmember Sheckler noted that he feels that the Foundations has accomplished much in a short period of existence and can only see great things in the future.

Councilmember Kaplan praised the efforts of the Legacy Foundation, but expressed concern about the City promoting the roll of the Foundation over other charitable foundations.

Councilmember Sheckler remarked that there is support for other organizations like Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, who also help the community, but noted that these groups provide a much broader scope of assistance from national to international projects.

City Manager Olander responded that staff time and resources are used in an appropriate manner and that the City actively participates yearly in the United Way Campaign and that the Police Department takes an active roll in the Ronald McDonald Foundation and the yearly Christmas Cruise. He felt that a public/private partnership is appropriate at a reasonable level.

City Attorney McLean advised Council that as long as there is no commercial involvement and the activities are strictly non-profit, and employees are getting all their work done, there is no violation of any state statutes.

Water District #54 Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Public Works Director Heydon informed Council that when the District decided to build their own storage tank and emergency equipment an amendment to the District's Comprehensive Plan was required. He advised that in evaluating documents submitted by the District, the City staff had very specific overall objectives. Those objectives were that the Utility should supply a safe and reliable supply of water in aesthetically acceptable condition with enough capacity to supply present and expect future community needs. The water system should be operational in normally expected emergency conditions, such as during power outages and during fire flow situations. He noted that he has reviewed the documents submitted and believes that his planning level concerns have been satisfactorily addressed. He informed Council that the District plans on updating their whole Comprehensive Plan this year which will provide one document, in one format. Council will review this document upon completion. He introduced Mr. David Hedges of Hedges Consulting and Engineering, Engineer for Water District #54. He noted that other members of the District's Board of Commissioners are in attendance to answer any questions that Council may have.

Mayor Thomasson remarked that the Districts plan of 1995 was never brought before Council for review. He advised Council that upon his personal review of the documents before Council this evening, as well as earlier documentation, that he found erroneous calculations and has no confidence any item actually meets states regulations or is in the best interest of the citizens. He expressed disappointment with the level of work for this amendment to the District's plan and he feels it falls short of being a good planning document and cannot recommend approval.

Mr. Hedges remarked that the Water District intends to completely update the Comprehensive Plan this year.

Mr. Mealy, President of the Board of Commissioners, agreed with Mayor Thomasson that the facts are confusing as some of the figures do not appear to be correct.

City Manager Olander commented that the figures are confusing and that the Public Works Director is still working on the reservoir configuration and that the reservoir is a major change, but the City wants to keep the project moving forward.

Mayor Thomasson stated he would be pleased to meet, as early as tomorrow, with the City's Public Works Director, Mr. Hedges and Mr. Mealy to trace all the figures to make sure they meet

proper state requirements to his satisfaction. He questioned whether the district planned on a permanent generator.

Mr. Mealy responded that the District will have emergency power and the proper back-up for all pumping facility requirements.

Council's determination was that Mayor Thomasson possesses the expertise to review and understand these documents. After further discussion, Council's consensus was to allow Mayor Thomasson time to review the proposal along with City and District staff, to determine that the proposal meets all requirements to his satisfaction, prior to total Council approval.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Wasson.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson announced that the next meeting date will be January 11, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk