

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 2, 2006

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheckler at 7:37 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the Flag was led by Mayor Sheckler.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Carmen Scott, Dan Sherman and Susan White. Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Grant Fredericks, City Attorney Linda Marousek, Police Chief Roger Baker, Police Commander Kevin Tucker, Police Commander John O'Leary and City Clerk Denis Staab.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jim Heath, 28120 Redondo Beach Drive S #212, Member of the Des Moines Leadership Summit's Enhanced Public Safety Committee

Mr. Heath advised that the Committee is made up of a group of citizens which meet to discuss issues regarding the Police Department with a focus on a safer community, free of crime and the fear of crime. He distributed a report to the community regarding law enforcement issues. He concluded by advising that the Committee unanimously supports more police services, a police sub-station, and a Levy Lid Lift.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Police Sub-Station, Redondo Square

Police Chief Baker informed Councilmembers that the Joshua Green Corporation has indicated that their previous offer of a 1,950 sq. ft. store front space at no monthly or yearly lease costs for 5 years, and to front all necessary funds for leasehold improvements and infrastructure requirements in the amount of \$67,405, is still open to the City. He advised that these funds would be re-paid to Joshua Green over the term of the 5 year lease with interest, if the City will accept their offer to provide the Police substation in Redondo. He stressed the importance of being able to keep officers in the field where they are assigned and noted it would be more efficient and effective as they would not have to travel back to the main station. He felt the use of a sub-station would also give the community a place to go in their own neighborhood to report crime, meet with officers, gain information on programs or crime prevention, and even a place to hold small community meetings. He stated that the partnership with Joshua Green provides an excellent opportunity to realize more of the strategies and goals of the Police Departments Strategic Plan and the proposed substation would also be utilized for the following activities:

- Small meeting area for the community
- Can be used by Code Enforcement, Parks Department, Public Works, Marina, Engineer, Planning and City Administration for business contacts and small meetings
- Can be used by Federal Way and Kent Police Departments, Washington State Patrol and King County Sheriff for business use since all these agencies meet jurisdictional boundaries in this area
- Facilities can be used by Dept. of Corrections, Liquor Control Board, and Federal Housing & Urban Development Agents in conjunction with City of Des Moines investigations

- Sexual Offender Notification meeting space
- Police Dept. volunteer training area
- Volunteer programs can be based out of the facility
- Provides additional training facility for Police department personnel

Councilmember White felt this is a great opportunity as community policing is effective and she hopes Council will support the Chief on this issue.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan, to authorize staff to complete a lease for space at the Redondo Square Shopping Center to establish a Police Department sub-station with the Joshua Green Corporation at no monthly or year lease cost for 5 years and to bring the lease back to the City Council for final approval on the next available Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Sherman expressed agreement that there is a need to restore police services. He felt the efficiencies expressed by the Chief are marginal. He noted we need staff to provide services, as the officers are what make the difference. He expressed disappointment that the former Levy Lid Lift did not pass. He advised that he wants to feel safe when walking the streets and shopping in certain areas of the City, and noted that crime hurts property values. While he supports the idea of a Police substation he hopes for more investment from the community. He advised he will vote yes, only if the Council has the strength to make cuts necessary to provide police services if a new Levy Lid Lift fails.

Councilmember Pina noted that the Police dept. is clearly understaffed, but this substation will provide a location for the officers already serving this area and save huge amounts of time, thereby creating efficiency.

Councilmember Kaplan noted the Redondo area is concerned with the large amount of time for officers to respond to problems and he feels these residents are not getting the level of service that were promised to them when they were annexed. He also noted that having other jurisdictions being able to share the facility will provide a great benefit to all residents and businesses in that area and he will support the idea.

Upon questioning, Chief Baker advised that the \$51,630 will be for capital improvements and the Finance Director and City Manager have found funds in the 2006 Budget. Furthermore, Joshua Green has offered to put the money forward for the development of the station, for a monthly fee over 60 months, at 7 ½ % interest.

In response to Councilmember Scott, Chief Baker advised that hours of operation will be greatly determined by the needs of the community. He further advised that a police presence helps to deter crime.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson felt this is another budget issue, in that this is a non-budgeted item and represents money the City does not have. He further felt without passage of a Levy Lid Lift we will not have officers to staff a sub-station.

Councilmember Kaplan stated that the City's first priority is to restore police services and he is willing to re-adjust the budget for this much needed service.

Councilmember Sherman hoped that there is renewed interest in balancing the budget and creating a desire to make appropriate cuts and set priorities in order to restore Police services. He expressed concern by opening this substation we may set expectations we cannot keep.

Councilmember Scott stated she feels citizens must take some responsibility. She felt Council has already made significant cuts and staff is near to "bare bones" now, and she does not want the public to think there is much more to cut.

Mayor Sheckler voiced concern over where any additional cuts may come from if a new Levy Lid Lift fails. He felt the vast majority of citizens are in favor of a substation, but expressed hope that citizens will vote for a Levy Lid Lift and hopes citizens, such as Mr. Heath, will campaign positively on the issue.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Pina to direct staff to bring back comparisons regarding impacts to the budget and/or available funds based on the two alternatives (accept Joshua Green financing or we put the money up front). Motion DIED for lack of a second.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to authorize the use of \$51,630 of excess 2005 Real Estate Excise revenues for use in completing the necessary tenant improvements in the lease space at the Redondo Square Shopping Center for use as Police Department Sub-Station and direct staff to prepare a budget amendment to appropriate these funds to be placed on the next available Consent Calendar.

As a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson suggested that the motion should actually direct the City Manager to amend the CIP to show this expenditure and reprogram the money as needed. He expressed concern that making time payments to Joshua Green would look like lease payments. He would rather spend as capital upfront, one time, or pay time payments out of the general fund. He felt it best that if Council is spending capital funds, we need to mention the CIP.

MOTION with FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Councilmember Sherman reworded his motion as follows: To authorize administration to present reprogram funding for necessary tenant improvements to establish a Police Department Sub-Station in the lease space at the Redondo Square Shopping Center with the Joshua Green Corporation and direct staff to prepare a budget amendment to appropriate these funds to be placed on the next available Consent Calendar. This friendly amendment was acceptable to the seconder of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2005 Police Department Accomplishments

Police Chief Baker began by reviewing the Part I Crime Statistics noting the following percentage increases or decreases from the prior year:

2000 -6%

2001 +4%

2002 -8%

2003 +10%

2004 +23%

2005 +9% (Note: not certified by Washington Assoc. of Sheriff's & Police Chief's
Uniform Crime Reporting Program)

Chief Baker pointed out that the population is not increasing, but the Part 1 Crime (most serious) is along with calls for service. He advised that recently passed ordinances regarding graffiti, hotel/motels, and crime free rental housing have helped, but not completely curtailed criminal activity. He informed Council calls for service statistics were:

2000 19,156 = -2%
2001 20,670 = +8%
2002 24,963 = +21%
2003 22,823 = -9%
2004 23,216 = +2%
2005 23,521 = +1%

Police Commander Tucker distributed the Police Department 'Calls for Service Report & Analysis Breakdown from Jan. 1 through July 15, 2004 compared to 2005". He referenced the ordinance passed in early 2005 concerning "crime free rental housing" and pointed out how Police Calls for service have dropped from 2004 to 2005. He felt overall the ordinance has had a good impact as manager's have become more responsible. He noted that the Alarm Ordinance and the Hotel/Motel ordinances are being reviewed by the Public Safety and Transportation Committee for some minor 'tweaking' and will be before Council later.

Police Commander O'Leary proceed to review the Alarm and Graffiti ordinances that were passed by Council at the Police departments request.

Graffiti - Degree of compliance has been outstanding, with volunteer compliance to clean up approximately 91% of the time. Only 4 cases referred to Code Enforcement but none resulted in a civil violation. Incidents of graffiti have been reduced.

Alarm - Significant reduction in false alarm calls: 2004 1,151 calls; 2005 939 calls, or a reduction of 22.6%. 700 systems have been registered. Cost savings due to reduction of labor hours and savings in dispatch fees to department = \$9,596. Total dollars generated through registration & penalties = \$17,150.

Upon questioning by City Attorney Marousek, Commander O'Leary confirmed that the money that is coming in is still way less that the cost of City labor and dispatch costs for false alarms

Chief Baker concluded the presentation by noting that Department's 5 Year Strategic Plan has been reviewed with the newly elected Councilmembers. He noted that in the first year of the Strategic Plan the department has accomplished much with the limited resources available. He distributed a written report for Council's review.

Upon questioning by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson about door-to-door contact regarding unlicensed pets, Chief Baker advised he will provide a report at a later time. However he advised that in the past door-to-door canvassing has not proven to be very effective when you consider the staff time involvement, and that brochures, flyers and other media information appears to be more beneficial. In conclusion he thanked Councilmembers for their support to the Police Department.

9:08 p.m. Mayor Sheckler called for a 10 minute break.

Draft Ordinance No. 05-074 [ASSIGNED NO. 1374] Cabaret Licensing - 1st Reading

City Attorney Marousek informed Council that in 2001 Council passed an ordinance amending the licensing of cabarets by removing them from the unclassified use permit process and added them to the administrative business license process. However, in making this amendment, the ordinance failed to remove references to cabaret licensing and single event uses from the zoning section. Therefore this ordinance is basically housekeeping in nature.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember White and passed unanimously, to suspend Council Rule 26(b) to enact the draft ordinance on a first reading.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and passed unanimously, to enact Draft Ordinance No. 05-074, relating to business licensing, removing the references to cabaret licenses and single event use cabaret licenses from the unclassified use permit process, and amending DMMC 18.24.050, 18.26.050 and 18.32.020.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Sheckler noted the next regular meeting will be March 9, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:27 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk