

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 2, 1998

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 7:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Bob Sheckler, Dan Sherman, and Gary Towe. Absent: Councilmember Don Wasson (excused later in meeting). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Civil Engineer Jim Seitz, guest Director of Suburban Cities Association Lynda Ring-Erickson and City Clerk Denis Staab.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Regional Finance and Governance

City Manager Olander informed Council that the issue of the Regional Finance and Governance (RFG) Plan has been coming to the forefront as the Suburban Cities Association, the Growth Management Planning Council and King County continue taking steps to implement the policies in Chapter X of the Countywide Planning Policies. He advised Council that implementation of the RFG Plan in its current form would prove costly for Des Moines. He noted the most critical areas of concern are human services and swimming pools.

In regards to human services, Mr. Olander stated that the Plan calls for cities to continue funding local services as they currently do, and transfer revenue to the County for provision of regional services. Using a \$7.00 per capita formula for analysis purposes, the City of Des Moines would be required to transfer \$189,210, a net revenue loss of \$133,210.

City Manager Olander noted that under the Plan, Des Moines would be given Mount Rainier Pool and \$175,000 a year for 3 years to cover operations and capital expenses. He advised Council that Des Moines would be required to either keep the pool open for those 3 years, or close the pool and spend the money on construction of a new pool. He stated that despite requests to the County for cost information regarding the pool, to date the County has not responded. Therefore, it is impossible to determine the full financial impact on the City in operating the pool.

Lynda Ring-Erickson, Director of Suburban Cities Association, detailed the history which led to the establishment of an Oversight Committee to direct analyses of financing and governance issues in order to develop and recommend a regional finance and governance plan to provide agreement on who will provide services and facilities in the rural and urban areas of the County, as well as a process for transition of services from one service provider to another. She reiterated City Manager Olander's comments

regarding lack of cooperation from King County in obtaining information regarding level of staffing in different departments and financial facts for operations of swimming pools.

Considerable Council discussion ensued with highlights as follows:

Councilmember Kaplan stated that he feels it is important that the entire revenue stream of the County's finances needs to be carefully looked at to hold the County responsible and accountable.

SCA Director Ring-Erickson reminded Councilmembers that Suburban Cities Association is an educational and advocacy group and cannot enact this Plan on its own. She encouraged the Council to be very involved in the public process and contact County Councilmembers directly with questions and concerns. She strongly urged Council to put their comments, concerns and particularly any new language to be incorporated into the plan, in writing.

Councilmember Brazil reminded Council that this proposed plan needs a lot of work and at this time, there is not strong support from neighboring cities. He advised that Council, as a whole, needs to send a position statement to the Oversight Committee.

In regards to the swimming pools, Ms. Ring-Erickson informed Council that the cities might want to consider forming a metropolitan park district which could open up new areas for creative parks and financing packages not available to them now.

Councilmember Towe stated he felt there should be clearer definition of regional and local services and this should be addressed in the draft plan.

Councilmember Sherman stated that he feels this draft plan goes way beyond the state mandates regarding duplication of services.

After further discussion, Council consensus was to have staff draft a letter with clear policy direction and Des Moines' concerns to the committee, with final approval to be authorized by the Council as a whole.

In conclusion, Ms. Ring-Erickson informed Council the first full public hearing is scheduled for May 20th. She also reminded Council that if the cities take no action, then the State Legislature will take action and will most likely allow the County to do as they wish. She once again strongly encouraged Council to address all their areas of concern of the Plan in writing.

9:10 p.m. Mayor Thomasson declared a 10 minute break.

Excused Absence

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Wasson.

METRO Bus Routes

Councilmember Sherman advised Council that METRO requested suggestions for service within Des Moines, which Council's Public Safety and Transportation Committee has met to discuss and now requests Council's direction on this evening.

Civil Engineer Seitz reviewed the following priorities as recommended by the Public Safety and Transportation Committee:

#1. Create New Shuttle Route #189

Serves Major City Center High Density Areas, Kent-Des Moines Park & Ride

#2. Extend Route 166 to Downtown Des Moines

Provides East-West Connection between Des Moines and Kent

#3. Create New Shuttle Route #188

Serves South-end Neighborhoods, Highline College and Star Lake Park & Ride at S. 272nd

Several Councilmembers expressed the opinion that they would prefer that #3, New Shuttle Route #188, go further south to Redondo to provide access to the pier and parks in that area.

Mayor Thomasson remarked that sometime in the future, he would like to see a route from Redondo to Federal Way to access the shopping malls and medical facilities in that area.

After further discussion, Council's consensus was to not list the routes as priorities for fear Des Moines would only get the first one listed.

City Manager Olander stated he will prepare the proper letters to METRO stressing these items are the essential additional services needed in the City of Des Moines' for METRO service.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Next regular meeting will be April 9, 1998.

Absences: Councilmember Sheckler noted he will be on vacation. Mayor Pro Tem Brazil will be authorized to attend a Corps of Engineers Hearing regarding the Port of Seattle's application to fill Wetlands the same night and will receive normal Council pay for this excused absence.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk