

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

July 13, 2000

The regular meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Thomasson in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, Suite B.

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

ROLL CALL – Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe, and Don Wasson. Absent: Councilmember Terry Brazil (business). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Planning Manager Corbitt Loch, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan, and passed unanimously to excuse Councilmember Brazil from attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

City Manager Olander confirmed that materials received from Water District No. 54 and letters from Geraine Strong and Bruce Wiseman had been distributed to Council.

Water Supply Control Petition – Judson Park

City Manager Olander read a petition submitted by Judson Park residents regarding water supply control. The petition contained thirty-eight signatures. He said that the petition would be distributed to Council.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Street Light Utility

City Attorney McLean explained that the street light utility was a utility rather than a tax. He said that revenues received through the utility were solely dedicated to maintaining street lights, regulating traffic flows, and increasing safety through street lighting systems. He noted that these projects were previously funded through the city's general fund. City Attorney McLean explained that the formula for the fee was based upon trip generation. He said that payment plans could be arranged for specific properties.

City Manager Olander noted that the street light utility was adopted in the context a tight budget situation. He reviewed the employee layoffs that also resulted from the budget discussions. He noted that several public meetings discussing the issue had been conducted.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

In light of the number of individuals wishing to address Council, Mayor Thomasson asked that people wishing to speak about the street light utility speak first. Comments regarding the water district assumption would be taken later in the meeting.

Karen Keiser, 25657 Marine View Drive South

As a member of the State Legislature's Appropriation Committee, Rep. Keiser reassured Council of the legislature's intent to continue funding to the City. She noted that \$2,162,836 had been allocated to Des Moines to address the impacts of I-695. She asked Council to reconsider the impact of the street light utility on schools, churches, and the college. In regard to the water district assumption issue, Rep. Keiser recommended that Council conduct a public vote on the matter prior to assuming the district. She cautioned Council on creating confusing boundaries.

James Kubal-Komote, 25701 14th Place South

Rev. Kubal-Komote asked Council to exclude 501c organizations from the street light utility. He voiced his sympathy with the city's budget needs, but noted that churches were being asked to do more as government cut back on its services.

Gene Snyder, 1701 South 234th Street

Mr. Snyder voiced support for Rep. Keiser's comments. In regard to the formula used for determining street light utility fees, he felt that the Des Moines Theater's number of parking spaces did not necessarily reflect its number of available theatre seats. Mr. Snyder asked that non-profit agencies be excluded from the street light utility.

Melissa Thienes, 26225 13th Place South

As a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Ms. Thienes asked Council to exempt the churches from the street light utility. She felt that it was unfair to charge based upon pew space while the pews were not necessarily full. As a resident, she felt that she was being asked to pay the utility twice, at home and at church.

Harold Bernhardsen, 1114 South 244th Place

Mr. Bernhardsen felt that it was not necessary to pay \$30 per year for lights that were not needed. Mr. Bernhardsen said that drivers took turns at South 240th Street prior to a streetlight being installed.

Frank Linseke, 18646 48th Place South

As a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Mr. Linseke asked Council to reconsider the street light utility and exclude non-profit 501c organizations from the utility. He noted that many of the funds from the 501c agencies were used for the good of the community.

Dale Decker

As a member of St Philomena Church, Mr. Decker questioned where staff had obtained its figures for the street light utility. He felt that the utility was over-budgeted and that the burden was being placed on non-profit organizations.

Valerie Rogan, 21836 32nd Place South

As a member of Des Moines First Baptist Church, Ms. Rogan asked Council to exempt churches from the street light utility. She noted that churches provide services that benefit the community and were involved in non-commercial endeavors. Ms. Rogan also asked Council to consider how often the church parking lots were used.

Wayne Pederson, 22975 24th Avenue South

As a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Mr. Pederson said he was opposed to the street light utility bill. He voiced concern that the bill would put smaller churches out of business. Mr. Pederson said that he felt the utility was a tax rather than a utility.

John O'Neal, 22975 24th Avenue South

As pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Pr. O'Neal asked Council to exempt 501c3 organizations from the street light utility. He reminded Council that churches, unlike businesses, were supported voluntarily and could not recoup fee costs.

George Minnich, 22701 19th Avenue South

Mr. Minnich said that he did not feel that the formula for determining the street light utility fee was fair. He said that he had three vehicles that were not parked on the street while his neighbor had several more vehicles that often blocked mailboxes and driveways. Mr. Minnich also asked Council to consider the impact of the utility on seniors living on a fixed income.

George Ishii, SeaTac

On behalf of St. Philomena Church, Mr. Ishii informed Council that the street light utility fee would be difficult for churches to pay, as it was not budgeted. He felt it was unfair to charge non-profit organizations as they relied on voluntary contributions to meet their obligations. Mr. Ishii noted that several parishioners were not citizens of Des Moines and only traveled in the City on Sunday.

Laura Braach, 23634 Thunderbird Drive

Ms. Braach stated her belief that the street light utility was a tax rather than a utility. She felt that citizens should have the right to vote on revenue increases. Ms. Braach suggested that church fees be based upon membership rather than number of pews. She noted that churches contribute to the wellbeing of the community and felt that the fee placed a hardship upon them. Ms. Braach also questioned how much the utility would cost next year.

Marian MacKenzie, 401 South 216th Street

Ms. MacKenzie voiced concern that the street light utility would require increased bureaucracy. She said that she also appreciated the problems the fee presented to the churches and charitable organizations. She asked for tax relief for herself also.

Debbie Petersen, 17328 SE 373rd Street

As a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Ms. Petersen voiced concern that the street light utility considered churches to be businesses. She noted various service projects provided by her church and said that much of the church's money was used for community projects.

Karen Snyder, 1701 South 234th Street

As a member of Midway Covenant Church, Ms. Snyder informed Council that the brochure announcing the street light utility had said that vacant land and parcels not involved in commercial or residential use were exempt from the utility. As churches were not involved in commerce, Ms. Snyder questioned why they had received a bill.

Jerry Guite, 21317 Marine View Drive, Normandy Park

Mr. Guite stated his belief that the City of Des Moines was overstaffed and its employees were overpaid.

V. Bergen, 21628 28th Avenue South

Ms. Bergen said that the City could have received money from the Port of Seattle. She confirmed that Council had received her correspondence stating that pay phones could be a source of drug problems. Ms. Bergen noted that the police have a difficult job to perform. She felt that the tenant law was illegal.

Charlene Scammon, 1016 South 200th Street

As a member of Des Moines United Methodist Church, Ms. Scammon voiced her support for exempting churches from the street light utility as they were not businesses. Ms. Scammon noted the Food Bank as an example of a service provided to the community without charge by the churches. Ms. Scammon recognized the need for additional lighting but felt the budgeted amount was excessive. She asked that Council inform the public of how the utility's budget figures were determined.

Earline Byers, 22315 6th Avenue South

Given Rep. Keiser's assurance of funding, Ms. Byers asked Council to reconsider the street light utility. She also voiced her support for exempting non-profit organizations.

Hong Louie, 22508 6th Avenue South

Mr. Louie voiced his opposition to the street light utility. He noted that the city's parking requirement for a restaurant was based upon square footage rather than capacity. He felt that the city should strive to attract businesses rather than drive them away. In regard to the budget situation, Mr. Louie advised Council to not spend beyond the city's means. He also questioned how the city could purchase parks and land if it had no money.

Wayne Bader, 21938 Marine View Drive

Mr. Bader felt that Council had acted irresponsibly by not providing a larger facility for the public meeting, by limiting the issues that the speakers could address Council regarding, and by increasing charges to businesses. He felt that the increased charges would cause inflation.

Dick Krattli,

As a business owner and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Krattli noted that the city was working hard to promote the Pacific Ridge area. He cautioned Council regarding taxation of the businesses they wanted to promote.

Mary Lee Johnson

Ms. Johnson asked what the population of Des Moines was.

Mayor Thomasson announced that the city had approximately 27,000 residents.

Robert O'Brien, 23023 Thunderbird Drive

Mr. O'Brien voiced his agreement with the church members' comments regarding the street light utility. He felt that the utility hurt seniors, churches, businesses, and low income families. He thought that apartment owners would pass the fee on to their residents.

Joseph Coomer

Mr. Coomer encouraged Council to allow the people to vote on the street light utility. He felt that the level of service should be based upon what the people were willing to pay. He urged Council to be honest with the people.

Unidentified Speaker

In response to an unidentified speaker's questioning, City Manager Olander explained that Council had requested a list of proposed cuts and revenue sources to meet the budget challenges. The street light utility had been one of the revenue sources proposed by staff.

Joe Firstein, 702 South 281st Street

Mr. Firstein reiterated that State Representative Karen Keiser had said that the state would provide on-going support for the city. He asked Council to provide their individual views on the street light utility.

Councilmember Sherman noted that the requested information was part of the public record of the meetings in which the topic was discussed.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Airport Communities Coalition

Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler announced that former Port of Seattle employee Barbara Hinkle had been hired by the Airport Communities Coalition to serve as its Senior Environmental Planner.

CONSENT CALENDAR*

1. Motion is to approve the minutes of June 29, 2000.

2. Findings: Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.080, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the City Council.

Motion: As of this date the Des Moines City Council, by unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers and payroll transfers included in the above list and further described as follows:

Claim check #72170 through #72402 in the total amount of \$566,230.80

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$298,716.87

3. Motion is to authorize the City Manager to approve all vouchers for payment of the following claims during the period of July 14, 2000 through July 27, 2000:

- a. All vouchers for payment of payroll checks, including Marina payroll, and
- b. All vouchers for payment of claims and Marina checks, provided that all vouchers and checks approved by the City Manager in accordance with this motion shall be presented at the August 10, 2000 meeting.

4. Motion is to award the contract for construction of the Des Moines Field House Ball field Lighting Renovation Project to Razok Electric, Inc. in the amount up to \$189,725.80 including tax, plus \$1,250 contingency and authorize the City Manager to sign said contract substantially in the form as submitted.

5. Motion is to award the contract for construction of the Olympic Elementary School Soccer Field Renovation Project to Fore, Inc. in the amount of \$105,885.00 including tax, plus a 10% contingency and to authorize the City Manager to sign the contract substantially in the form as submitted.

6. Draft Ordinance No. 00-140 [Assigned Ord. No. 1264] - Title: An Ordinance of the City of Des Moines, Washington relating to commute trip reduction (CTR), adding a new definition to DMMC 16.16.010, and amending DMMC 16.16.020, DMMC 16.16.030, DMMC 16.16.080, DMMC 16.16.100, DMMC 16.16.120, DMMC 16.16.160, DMMC 16.16.170, DMMC 16.16.190, DMMC 16.16.200, and DMMC 16.16.260.

TWO MOTIONS: First motion is to suspend Council Rule 26(b). Second motion is to approve Draft Ordinance No. 00-140 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Interlocal agreement with King County for Commute Trip Reduction grant funds.

MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler and seconded by Councilmember Sherman to approve the consent calendar as read.

Councilmember Kaplan confirmed that the final bill for the city hall renovation project had been paid.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Pacific Ridge Neighborhood Improvement Plan - Draft Ordinance Nos. 00-009 [Assigned Ord. No. 1265], 00-101 [Assigned Ord. No. 1266], 99-015 [Assigned Ord. No. 1267] and 00-098 [Assigned Ord. No. 1268] - 2nd Reading

Mayor Thomasson introduced the subject.

Planning Manager Loch said that Council's prior direction had been incorporated into the draft ordinances. He noted that the draft ordinance establishing Pete's Towing as a conditional use would be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Loch explained that the SEPA appeal period for the plan would expire July 17, 2000. As the issue was legislative, rather than quasi-judicial, Council was permitted to take action on the proposed ordinances if they wished.

City Attorney McLean confirmed that Council action would not harm anyone's right to appeal the SEPA determination.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan and seconded by Councilmember Sherman to enact Draft Ordinance No. 00-099, adopting amendments to the Greater Des Moines Comprehensive Plan relating to Pacific Ridge.

MOTION was made by Mayor Thomasson to designate the four parcels south of South 222nd Street and west of 29th Avenue South as park area.

Planning Manager Loch confirmed that the parcels had already been designated park area on the map.

Mayor Thomasson withdrew his motion.

MOTION was made by Mayor Thomasson to extend 30th Avenue South between South 221st Street to South 222nd Street.

Planning Manager Loch displayed a map of the area in question.

Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler and passed unanimously to enact Draft Ordinance No. 00-101 adopting the Pacific Ridge Neighborhood Improvement Plan.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan and seconded by Councilmember Sherman to enact Draft Ordinance No. 99-015 adopting zoning regulations for the Pacific Ridge area.

MOTION was made by Mayor Thomasson and seconded by Councilmember Kaplan to zone the four parcels designated for future parks as Suburban Estates. **VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed, 5 – 1, with Councilmember Wasson opposed.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Sherman and passed unanimously to enact Draft Ordinance No. 00-098 adopting amendments to design review regulations.

At 9:03 p.m., Mayor Thomasson declared a ten-minute break.

Utility Study

Assistant City Manager Piasecki provided the background of the issue. In response to Council's request for additional information, he noted that representatives from Water District No. 54, Fire Chief Jim Polhamus, and State of Washington Department of Health District Engineer Bob James were in attendance.

On behalf of Water District 54, Carl Mealy thanked Council for the opportunity to share information regarding their utility. He stated his belief that it was not in the best interest of the water district's ratepayers for the City to assume the district. He felt that the assumption would result in increased rates and taxes and in a loss of direct representation of the constituents. Mr. Mealy introduced Consultant Engineer David Hedges of Hedges Engineering and Consulting, Inc.

Mr. Hedges stated his qualifications. He addressed Council regarding the district's water supply and quality, water rights, and infrastructure. In regard to the water quality issue, Mr. Hedges reported that the well that had a high manganese reading would be retested as the high jump in numbers could indicate that faulty test results were obtained with the first sample. Mr. Hedges explained that the District currently had a 250,000 gallon reservoir and had received funding for an additional reservoir that was now in the design stage. He noted that an automatic intertie had been established with Highline Water District to meet any emergency needs for water beyond the District's resources. Mr. Hedges voiced his belief that the water district's infrastructure was well maintained.

Mr. Mealy informed Council that the district employed two state certified operators. He noted that minerals being stirred up in the pipes caused “dirty water”. He said that the district’s emergency procedures, communication plans, and maintenance cleaning program had recently been reviewed. An interlocal agreement for equipment and staff had been entered into with the surrounding area water districts. Mr. Mealy stated that the district would chemically remove the manganese from the water if the citizens wanted it removed but that they had not heard any requests for change.

On behalf of Water District 54, Katy Issaksen, a Financial Planner with Issacson and Associates spoke regarding the district’s financial status. Ms. Issaksen stated her qualifications. She noted that the Water District’s 1999 figures were not available at the time city staff had prepared their report. She said that the 1999 figures were vastly improved over the previous year’s figures. Ms. Issaksen displayed a chart of 1996 – 1999 year-end cash and cash equivalents for the district. She said that the Water District was proud of their low rates and lean operation, but was willing to insure that reserves were maintained and loans were paid back. Ms. Issaksen displayed a chart of net operating income for 1996 – 1999. She noted that the 1999 rate was significantly higher than the previous three years. Ms. Issaksen encouraged Council to consider the impact to Water District 54 customers should the city assume the district. She felt that the assumption would result in increased rates for them.

On behalf of Water District 54, Robert Verzani addressed Council regarding the public policy considerations. He stated his qualifications and reviewed the city’s prior assumption efforts initiated in 1972. He felt that customer rates would increase if the City assumed the water district. He stated his belief that the assumption would provide no benefit to Water District 54 customers. He also said that Water District 54 was neutral in respect to Port of Seattle actions.

Mr. Mealy said that the district actively sought to insure that Port of Seattle actions would not contaminate or deplete the groundwater supply. In closing, Mr. Mealy voiced the district’s commitment to serve its citizens and to maintain improved communication with the city. He asked Council to withdraw their assumption efforts.

In response to Councilmember Kaplan’s question, Mr. Mealy said that the district was working on a complete revision to their Comprehensive Plan. He said that he would provide a copy of the Plan to the city.

City Attorney McLean noted that the resolution involving the changes had not yet been provided to the City.

Mr. Mealy said that the changes could have been adopted by motion. He said that he would provide a copy of the amendment. Upon questioning, Mr. Mealy said that officials from Water District 54 and Highline Water District had met one week ago to discuss a possible merger. He said that the districts had not yet committed to a merger. Mr. Mealy felt that the district owed it to their citizens to provide details of all their options. Mr. Mealy said that the district had asked for citizen input regarding the options. The citizens had overwhelmingly indicated their desire to maintain the district as it currently was.

Upon request, Mr. Hedges explained the formula for determining the flow level and size of a reservoir.

Mr. Mealy said that the district had budgeted for a 500,000 gallon storage tank.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Sheckler, and passed unanimously to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember Sherman questioned whether Water District 54's water would need to be treated if the intertie with Highline Water District was utilized.

On behalf of the State Department of Health, Bob James explained that the EPA had developed standards for water quality. He noted that all surface water must be disinfected. He said that the State's definition of "emergency" and "temporary" situations was subjective. He felt that the issue of chlorinated water once it was in Water District 54's water distribution system should be addressed. He said that a problem could arise if the system drew in surface water. He said that the building of a second tank might handle the issue.

Mayor Thomasson questions whether it was a requirement for Highline Water District and Water District 54 to keep the intertie automatic rather than manual.

Mr. James said that the plan adopted in the early 1990's assumed an automatic intertie. He said that changes to the agreement should be submitted to the state. Mr. James said that he was not clear on what commitments were made for specific situations.

Upon questioning regarding the district's fire flow capability, Mr. Mealy said that the district's system could operate one to two hours before requiring the intertie. In regard to the district's "dirty water," Mr. Mealy said that the district's historically low leakage rate had caused the manganese to settle in the pipes which resulted in "dirty water." He said that the district would flush the system in the fall.

Mr. James noted that manganese could react with the chlorine if Water District 54's water met with Highline Water District's water. He thought that flushing the system should contain the manganese.

In regard to water staining, Mr. Mealy said that the district could investigate whether the citizens wanted to treat the water to reduce staining if Council was concerned about the issue.

At 11:00 p.m., **motion** was made by Councilmember Wasson and seconded by Councilmember Sherman to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. **Vote on motion**: Motion passed, 4 – 2, with Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler and Councilmember Towe opposed.

Upon questioning from Councilmember Towe, Mr. James said that the State was reasonably pleased with Water District 54. He said that he did not have indepth knowledge of their system but felt that communication was good between the two agencies. Mr. James explained that as long as the intertie was in place, the State was satisfied with Water District 54's storage capacity.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC, CONTINUED

Mayor Thomasson called for speakers wishing to address Council regarding the assumption of the water district.

Penny Lawrence, 816 South 216th Street

Ms. Lawrence felt that the City Council had enough to do without also taking over the utility. She felt that cuts should be made to address the budget problems.

Brad Bryan, 21811 12th Avenue South

Mr. Bryan voiced his appreciation for Council. He felt that assuming the Water District was not justified. He noted that the district had never experienced any water restrictions. Mr. Bryan said that he did not want to pay for overlays or water hook-up fees. He encouraged Council to spend more time on public safety needs. He felt that the City needed more police, a drug task force, and a 24-hour police station.

Chris Gower, 801 SW 168th Street, Normandy Park

Mr. Gower distributed a Department of Ecology sheet regarding the Port of Seattle. He urged Council to deny the Port of Seattle water needed for expansion. He felt that if a water district merger was formed, the water could augment the stream and allow approval of a required Department of Ecology permit.

Larry Corvari, 19458 1st Place SW, Normandy Park

Mr. Corvari stated that he was impressed with Water District 54 but that he was concerned with the Highline Water District. He asked Council to consider the issue in the context of providing adequate services to all citizens. He felt that decisions made by Highline Water District had forced the city to consider assuming the water districts.

Ted Lawrence, 816 South 216th Street

Mr. Lawrence encouraged Council to consider the water assumption issue carefully. He was pleased with the information presented but felt that more information was still needed. Mr. Lawrence said that he did not believe in bigger government but felt that private industry could do a better job.

Bob Ricketts, 815 South 216th Street, #G-342

Mr. Ricketts informed Council that he had served twenty-three years as a Water District 54 Commissioner. During that time, he said his goal was to provide the best water at the lowest rate. He felt that the new tank would help the manganese problem. Mr. Ricketts suggested that the district and city work together. He encouraged Council to allow the district and their commissioners to continue providing water service to its customers.

Al Furney, 24718 Marine View Drive South

Mr. Furney distributed his comments to Council. He reiterated Mr. Corvari's comments. He felt that the critical issue involved Highline Water District. Mr. Furney said that Highline Water District had been mismanaged in recent years. He cited excessive expenditures, a 2 – 3 vote of the commissioners to fire the General Manager, and a failure to respond to the request of 170 constituents to reconsider their agreement with the Port of Seattle as examples. Mr. Furney felt the fire flow issues of Water District 54 needed additional study.

Collins Swope, 815 South 216th Street, #336

Mr. Swope felt that Water District 54 provided the best tasting water in the area. He believed the district had good plans for expansion, no shortage of water, and the lowest prices in the state. He

questioned why the citizens would want to abandon those attributes for higher rates and altered water taste.

Stuart Weiss, 9612 55th Avenue South

Mr. Weiss stated his belief that Seattle supported the Port of Seattle and their expansion efforts. He felt that Seattle had encouraged the Highline Water District to allow their water rights to lapse. Mr. Weiss felt that Highline Water District's management decisions were shortsided and lacked planning. He voiced his support for local citizen control of water.

At 11:30 p.m., **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Wasson and passed unanimously to extend the meeting five minutes.

John Raybeck, 22022 11th Avenue South

Mr. Raybeck stated that the city's Water District 54 assumption study had ignored the district's assistance agreements with other water districts, had failed to mention its \$350,000 reserve fund for infrastructure replacement, and had inaccurately stated the district's water storage condition. Mr. Raybeck believed that Water District 54 did not have a fire flow problem as they had an intertie agreement with Highline Water District. Mr. Raybeck stated his belief that rates would increase if the City assumed the utility.

At 11:35 p.m., **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan, and passed unanimously to extend the meeting to midnight.

Dan Caldwell, 19547 2nd Avenue South

Mr. Caldwell confirmed that his written statement had been distributed to Council. He felt that the disadvantages of the City assuming Water District 54 included

- Rates would increase,
- Purchase of a new complex would be necessary,
- The City would not control its own water, and
- Rate payers would lose elected representation.

Mr. Caldwell said that other districts had merged to form Highline Water District due to problems within their own systems. He said that Highline Water District had clout as it was the fourth largest water district in the state.

Jerry Guite, 21317 Marine View Drive, Normandy Park

Mr. Guite felt that the City did not have the credibility to operate the water district. He said that it did not operate the Marina very well. Mr. Guite asked Council to consider the cost of separating the districts. He cited Mill Creek as an example of increase costs.

Dietrich Hardy, 22227 10th Avenue South

Mr. Hardy said that calling the street light utility a "utility" was an insult. He said that the surface water management utility had increased 14% since 1991 under the direction of the city. Mr. Hardy asked Council to allow Water District 54 to exist under its present situation.

Connie Midget, 303 South 216th Street

Ms. Midget recounted the beginnings of Water District 54 when the pipes were wooden and the controls were located in a citizen's basement. Ms. Midget said that she had only had "dirty water" two or three times since becoming a customer of the district. Ms. Midget felt that the citizens would not support the assumption of the district by the City.

Earline Byers, 22315 6th Avenue South

Ms. Byers asked Council to reconsider their decision to study the assumption of Water District 54. She felt that the citizens had gained valuable information regarding the condition of their water district and had gained confidence in the permitting process of the staff. Ms. Byers stated her belief that the water district was healthy and should be left alone.

Hong Louie, 22508 6th Avenue South

Mr. Louie voiced his opposition to Water District 54's potential merger with Highline Water District and the city's assumption effort. He felt that the staff of Water District 54 was doing a good job.

Wayne Bader, 21938 Marine View Drive

Mr. Bader questioned whose responsibility it was to patch the area south of Saltwater State Park. He said that he did not trust the City with taxes and he did not want to trust it with his water.

Frank Harris, 815 South 216th Street

As Vice President of Wesley Terrace and Cottages, Mr. Harris felt that Water District 54 was doing an excellent job. He asked Council to not try to fix something that was not broken.

Street Light Utility

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan and seconded by Councilmember Wasson to direct staff to draft an ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1248.

As the nature of most non-profit agencies generated several trips, Councilmember Kaplan thought it would be difficult to exclude the non-profits from the utility.

City Manager Olander agreed that it might be difficult to exclude them but thought that there might be some flexibility to reduce the rate for churches.

Councilmember Kaplan suggested that the issue be brought back at the September 7, 2000 meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Council concurred that the remaining bills should not be mailed to the residents. Council also directed staff to provide a list of potential budget cuts should the utility be repealed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting August 10, 2000

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at midnight.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufty
Deputy City Clerk