

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

July 22, 2004

The regular meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Sheckler in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the Flag was led by Councilmember Sherman.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson [via telephone conferencing], Councilmembers Richard Benjamin [arrived at 7:35 p.m.], Gary Petersen, Dan Sherman, Maggie Steenrod and Susan White. Also present were City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Linda Marousek, and City Clerk Denis Staab.

AGENDA REVISION

Mayor Sheckler advised that Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson is participating in the meeting via long distance telephone, and for that reason requested that New Business be placed as the first item of business and requested Council's concurrence.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Steenrod, seconded by Councilmember White, to place New Business as the first item of business on the Agenda. Motion passed 6 to 0. [ED NOTE: Councilmember Benjamin had not arrived.]

NEW BUSINESS

Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments to Voter Pamphlet Argument Committee

Mayor Sheckler announced his appointees as follows:

PRO ARGUMENT COMMITTEE:

Mark Proulx
Stan Scarvey
Mysty Beal

CON ARGUMENT COMMITTEE:

Jeannette Burrage

7:35 p.m. Councilmember Benjamin arrived.

City Manager Piasecki advised that, at the request of Councilmember Steenrod, he had also interviewed John Thompson for possible appointment. After an explanation of the issues involved, Mr. Thompson indicated to him that he could not make a decision as to whether he was pro or con regarding a Levy Lid Lift and therefore Mr. Thompson felt he was ineligible to serve on either Committee and declined any appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember White and passed unanimously, to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the Voter Pamphlet Argument Committee in regards to the upcoming Levy Lift Ballot issue.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Walt Heft, 437 South 206th Street

Mr. Heft questioned when the dingy storage issue at the Marina would be scheduled for a Council Agenda.

Mayor Sheckler noted that no specific date has been established.

City Manager Piasecki informed Mr. Heft that he will be notified in advance of the meeting date. He noted that currently a meeting is scheduled for August 12th and possibly August 5th, otherwise it will be on the 1st, 2nd or 4th Thursday in September.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Waterland Festival

Councilmember Benjamin noted that Waterland opened yesterday and that the Fireworks show was nice. He advised that everyone seems to be enjoying the Festival so far, and thanked the Chamber of Commerce, volunteers and organizations that has made this years Waterland a success.

Sympathy

Councilmember Steenrod requested that the City's condolences be expressed to the family of Lon Hurd (Three H Communications Consultant) who recently passed away.

Memo - South 212th Street

Councilmember Steenrod noted that she has not been able to check her City Hall mailbox for the past week or so. She advised that a memo was in her box requesting input from the Councilmembers regarding South 212th Street and proceeding with repairs. She advised that by the time she received the information it was too late for any input. She requested that in the future, any correspondence or memos that directly impact the City also be e-mailed. She felt that this would provide Councilmembers with information that they may wish to act on or have placed on a Council Agenda for discussion.

Port of Seattle - ACC Actions

Councilmember Steenrod noted that Council has learned that the ACC has filed an appeal to the Puget Sound Pollution Control Hearing Board concerning the Port of Seattle and fill dirt. She requested that this topic be placed on an upcoming Council Agenda. She stated that she was under the impression that this type of decision should have come to the ACC member Councils before action was taken as a policy matter. She noted that she has received a letter from the Port Commissioners that since they have been served with the ACC appeal, that all the work the Cities have been discussing with the Port regarding economic development has been put on hold. She felt that as elected officials the ACC City Council's should be making these types of policy decisions. She requested that at the next scheduled Council meeting an Agenda Item concerning the policy of how ACC decisions are made and what is the relationship between the City Council and the ACC Executive Committee.

Councilmembers Benjamin, Petersen and Steenrod all requested that this topic be placed on the next City Council Agenda.

Councilmember Sherman suggested that an Executive Session be scheduled prior to the meeting to review what and what cannot be discussed during a regular Council meeting. Mayor Sheckler concurred.

South County Area Transportation Board Meeting

Councilmember Sherman reported no decisions were made at a recent meeting. Discussion centered around freight mobility needs and some discussion of the initial work going on during Phase II of Sound Transit.

Police Department Anti-Graffiti Brochure

Councilmember Sherman noted he has received a copy of the Anti-Graffiti Cleanup and Prevention Products and Resources brochure created by the Police Department. He noted the brochure contains great information to back-up the recently passed anti-graffiti ordinance. It offers suggestions on how to remove different types of graffiti and where paint can be purchased at discount prices if you are a victim, among other relevant information. He complimented Police Chief Baker on the departments creation of the brochure.

Police Chief Baker noted that the anti-graffiti ordinance will go into effect later this month and the Police Department will be considering mailing the brochure to all residents, and it will be distributed in public places and to neighborhoods that are impacted. It was pointed out that anyone can call the Police Department with questions and request assistance.

Budget Issues - Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember Sherman encouraged everyone to get involved in discussions and become informed on the City budget issues and the proposed Levy Lid Lift. He acknowledged that Council has received a few e-mails with comments regarding budget issues and citizens priorities.

Police Ride-along

Councilmember White noted that she recently rode with Police Master Sgt. Harris to get a first hand look at the graffiti problem in the City. She remarked it was quite astounding how much there is. She remarked that if everyone gets together it can be handled and that will help with economic development efforts.

Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember White advised that the City will be providing as much information as possible regarding the Levy Lid Lift and plan to hold neighborhood meetings to help educate the public.

Economic Committee Meeting

Councilmember White requested that a Committee meeting be scheduled soon to review where we stand on the RFPs for consultants to get moving on Economic Development Issues.

City Manager Piasecki advised he will confer with Councilmember White and set a meeting time and Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Budget Issues

City Manager Piasecki noted that he has scheduled a series of open meetings with City employees to keep them involved and apprised of all budget issues. He reminded Council that they are encouraged to attend these meetings, but cautioned that no more than three members can attend any meeting or it becomes a quorum. He noted the meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday and Friday in August, September, October and November. He suggested since Councilmembers are the ones ultimately making the budget decisions it is important that they attend at least one of the meetings with employees.

Upon questioning by Councilmember Benjamin, City Manager Piasecki advised that the employees have been informed that the voters approved I-695, and it was found unconstitutional, however the State Legislature took the part of the Initiative regarding the MVET and implemented it. He noted that the employees are receiving the same presentation that was given to Council a couple of weeks ago.

City Manager Piasecki advised that he is putting together a series of community budget meetings to be held during the month of August, as many as nine and at various locations. The plan will be to present the same budget presentation as was made to Council and allow an opportunity for questions. He urged Councilmembers to attend these meetings, but again no more than three at any one meeting.

He also advised Council that an edition of City Currents is being prepared for a mailing in August to present factual information about where the City's budget is and what is going on.

Councilmember Benjamin expressed the opinion that Council should be looking at ways to reduce expenses and only after that, should be looking at raising taxes. He felt initially the Levy Lid Lift was designed to off-set the "Eyman Initiative" which has now become a moot point. He felt that it is premature and irresponsible to campaign for tax raising.

Passing of Lon Hurd

City Manager Piasecki advised that the City's Cable Consultant Lon Hurd passed away suddenly, late last week. He noted that Mr. Hurd was the City's contractor for the upgrades to the City Council Chambers and the Channel 21 system. He stated that the City's condolences do go out to his family and co-workers. He advised that he has been in contact with Mr. Hurd's company and they have assured him that they will be able to continue on with the project as contracted.

CONSENT CALENDAR was read by City Clerk Staab.

1. Motion is to approve the regular minutes of July 1, 2004.
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 42.24.090, 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 checks #95060 through #95257 & electronic fund transfers in the total amount of \$1,660,251.71

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$371,874.96

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Steenrod and passed unanimously, to approve the Consent Calendar as read.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Sheckler announced that the next meeting will be a Study Session on August 5, 2004.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:03 p. m. City Attorney Marousek announced that the City will now go into an Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City is, or is likely, to become a party and about which public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the City.

All Councilmembers were in attendance except Councilmember Thomasson. Also in attendance were City Manager Piasecki and City Attorney Marousek.

No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:39 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Sherman and seconded and passed unanimously, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk