REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES September 8, 2005

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

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Richard Benjamin, Gary Petersen, Dan Sherman (via telephone) and Susan White (arrived at 7:54 p.m.). Absent: Councilmember Steenrod (excused at end of meeting). Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Linda Marousek, Finance Director Paula Henderson, Police Chief Roger Baker, Planning, Building and Public Works Director Grant Fredericks and City Clerk Denis Staab.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Pond, 23116 30th Avenue South

Mr. Pond spoke against a proposed levy lid lift stating this is the wrong time to increases taxes. He also felt that since the levy proposition would fail the City would be wasting the $30,000 cost for placing this issue on the ballot. He felt the real answer to the crime problem in the Pacific Ridge area would be for Council to order the abatement of the Kings Arms and Three Bears motels.

Ed Pina, 24219 7th Avenue South

Mr. Pina noted as a candidate for City Council, he is concerned with the increasing crime of cars and homes being broken into. He stated he did not believe a levy lid lift would fail if citizens know and understand it is to restore Police services to previous staffing levels. He encouraged Council to put the issue to the voters.

Maggie Herbord, 21809 29th Ave. S #1

Ms. Herbord spoke in favor of a levy lid lift and felt citizens deserve the right to vote on this issue. As a 15 year resident she has noted that Police service has dropped. She informed Council she locks her door just to go out and get the mail for fear a drug addict will get into her home.

Debbie Roselieb, 22007 29th Ave. S, Space 12

Ms. Roselieb informed Council she goes to bed every night in fear due to the increased crime in her neighborhood. She stated she has noted a Police task force working in the Pacific Ridge area, but fears the rest of Des Moines is suffering and feels there is a need for more officers to keep the whole City safe. She encouraged Council to give citizens the right to vote on the levy lid lift for Police services.

Norm McDonell, 908 S 279th Place

Mr. McDonell advised Council that he has missed the motorcycle officers who helped to stop speeding traffic in his neighborhood and has learned they have been reassigned to the Pacific Ridge area. He noted that he had not realized how much the City's budget problems had cut into public safety and the loss of police officers. He informed Council that he believes most citizens will support the levy lid lift if they know it will restore needed law enforcement that has been lost. He concluded by stating that a Redondo Police sub-station is needed, as the Redondo area is no longer safe at night and noted this could effect businesses in the area.

Ann Klinebriel, 22017 30th Ave. S

Ms. Klinebriel advised Council that her home and car have been broken into and she for one is willing to pay for more law. She spoke in support of getting rid of the motels that are increasing the criminal elements. She spoke in favor of a levy lid lift to bring police staffing up to previous levels. She felt citizens are willing to accept responsibility to pay for their safety.

James Pennington, 21639 29th Ave. S #301

Mr. Pennington informed Council of constant problems in his neighborhood and reporting losing sleep over people throwing bottles near his home and car. He spoke in support of increasing Police services back to old levels and encouraged other citizens to support a levy lid lift.

Florence McMullin, 1018 S 246th Place

Ms. McMullin expressed distress over hearing other citizens concerns for safety due to increasing criminal activity. She spoke in favor of giving citizens the right to vote and felt they will support more police services and protection as everyone wants a safer City for all residents. She noted that felony crime is up 25% and it is not right that people live in fear in the Pacific Ridge Area. She stated that it is not safe to shop at Safeway and Bartells after dark. She noted all Councilmembers have expressed support for the Police Department and it is Council's chance to prove it by putting the levy lid lift on the November ballot.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Comments From the Public

Councilmember Benjamin thanked citizens for coming to the meeting and expressing their opinions. He noted he lives near the Pacific Ridge area and has concerns of criminal activity and its overflow and trickle down effect to the whole City. He stated he is concerned over law enforcement issues, but he has some problems with the proposed levy lid lift which he will address when the item comes up on the agenda tonight.

7:54 Councilmember White arrived.

Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember Sherman advised that the reason he is participating via telephone while on vacation is because he feels the issue of police protection is extremely important.

Association of Washington Cities - Hurricane Relief

Councilmember White read a brief message by AWC President, Pam Carter in response to the hurricane, expressing deep sympathy for the victims and applauding local officials in the area in protecting the health and safety of their citizens. It was noted that ACW will work with the National League of Cities as they identify needs and that information will be passed along to all Washington cities.

Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember White expressed concern for Des Moines' emergency preparedness and felt it is important to bring up the level of Police staffing, along with a proposed Redondo sub-station.

Mt. Rainier and Olympic School Openings

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson requested a report on how the school openings worked or did not work.

Levy Lid Lift Police Sub-station

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson noted that a citizen had commented that crime in the Redondo area could hurt businesses and that perhaps without a Police sub-station sales tax revenues could fall off. He felt this would have been the best argument to use to encourage Council to approve the $12,000 to secure a sub-station site.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mt. Rainier and Olympic School Openings

Mayor Sheckler reported his perspective on the openings of the schools in the North Hill area, advising that traffic at first was bad, but later went smoother. He noted while there are a few problems in students finding a new route, but feels it will smooth itself out. He felt that school staff and faculty, parents and police did a great job and deserve thanks for making it all happen smoothly. He noted that the new elementary school is impressive and he looks forward to attending an opening ceremony tomorrow morning.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance

Chief Baker noted the NIMS compliance goes along with the City's revamping of our Disaster Preparedness Plan. He advised that Council authorized by budget for the Police Department to contract to have the City's Disaster Plan revamped. He stated he has been working with King County Fire and a King County Emergency Management group. He advised that the contract is just about completed with McGomermy and Associates Disaster and Recovery Planning Service to work with the City and should be completely onboard by the end of this year. He noted that the department will begin training this month with the National Incident Management System.

Police Special Emphasis Team for Pacific Ridge

Police Chief Baker informed Council the task force has been working in the area for three weeks, and during that time they have accomplished the following:

- 235 individual contacts with residents, or other individuals
- 56 field interviews
- 12 trespass admonishments
- 20 crime case reports taken
- 26 citations and arrests
- 16 motel/hotel ordinance checks
- 51 code enforcement violation assists
- 12 calls by animal control
- 5 times outside agencies have come to assist

Chief Baker also advised another Saturday session of the Crime Free Rental Housing Training has been completed by owners and managers. The training class received great reviews and copies will be distributed to Councilmembers. He remarked that even though many class attendees had attended other classes there were remarks that they learned something new. He also advised that on August 31st the department met with owners, managers and residents of

Pacific Ridge in a neighborhood meeting. Participants were attentative and those who attended the meeting have been very involved. He felt the department is on the right track and feels this program will work well in other parts of the City and is community policing in its basic form, and is being hardily welcomed by the community.

Portable Defibrillator

City Manager Piasecki thanked Fire District #26 for supplying a portable defibrillator for City Hall. He advised the City now has one at the Field House, Activity Center and the Marina.

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager Piasecki noted that Consent Item #6 has been removed as the easement agreement is not ready.

8:09 p.m. Councilmember Benjamin left the Chambers.

City Clerk Staab read the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Motion is to approve the regular minutes of July 28, 2005.

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 #100452 through #100907 & electronic fund transfers in the total amount of $1,428,646.82

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of $1,321,142.21

3. Motion is to approve the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for Mt. Rainier Pool for the years 2004 through 2006 by Mount Rainier Pool Contributors and Mount Rainer Pool Owners, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

~~**4. Motion is to enter into the Consent to Construct Agreement with Midway Sewer District authorizing the City of Des Moines to have PSE and Qwest construct their facilities over Midway Sewer's Lines within Midway's easement on City property for the Pacific Highway South Redevelopment Project and to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted**~~. [ED NOTE: Removed by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson.]

5. Motion is to approve the surplus and disposal or Police Patrol Car VHS Cameras and Doppler Radar Units as requested on the submitted memos, and authorize disposing of by auction, sale or transfer to other departments or agencies.

~~6. Motion is to grant an electrical easement to Puget Sound Energy for the construction, operation and maintenance of electrical service to the Marina and authorize the City Manager to sign the easement substantially in the form as submitted.~~

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson requested Item #4 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and passed unanimously (5 to 0), to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

8:11 p.m. Councilmember Benjamin returned to the Council Chambers.

REMOVED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM

Consent Item #4 - Construction Agreement with Midway Sewer District

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson felt this is a very technical property issue and he needs much more information before he can make a determination whether to support. His understanding is the Sewer District had an easement across this property and the City then acquired those properties for the Pacific Highway South Project, by fee simple, as opposed to dedication, which is part of his question. Also, whether the phone and power company are there via easement on City property or operating as if it is right-of-way. He felt this item makes the issue of the power and phone over the sewer district the City's problem. He felt that if each entity has an easement it is a dispute among the easement owners on who has prior rights. He stated he would need to see the Sewer District's easement to review the language to understand their rights prior to the City's ownership.

City Attorney Marousek advised that this is an arrangement that was made when the Pacific Highway Project was being constructed. Former Assistant City Engineer Andrews negotiated with the Sewer District, knowing that the power and phone vaults had to go somewhere, and this property is now being treated as public easement. The property was acquired in fee simple and the phone and power companies are there as franchised utilities in that right-of-way. She advised that the sewer district held this easement and requested an agreement that would protect their rights and the agreement in front of Council is the one they requested. She acknowledged this should have been concluded during construction. She advised that the City wanted language that clarified that under the Tariffs the power and phone companies have the duty to move their facilities if the Sewer District needs to get to their pipes in certain situations, and the Tariffs by the Utilities and Transportation Commission governs who pays for that. The City has no control over who pays. This agreement was requested by the Sewer District to protect its rights, and after City review she felt that it is an appropriate document to protect those rights.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson expressed displeasure with the proposal as he does not think the City is well protected. He felt this is a dispute between the utility companies and not the City.

City Attorney Marousek advised that the alternative would have been for the City to buy additional public right-of-way to ensure separation between the utilities. She noted the City did not proceed to acquire additional land and this was the Sewer District's agreement to proceed without additional right-of-way.

Upon questioning by Mayor Sheckler, City Attorney Marousek stated that unless there is a major sewer break, there is no urgency to enter into this agreement. She advised she can see no other way to settle this other than having the power and phone companies dig up their utilities and the City buying more right-of-way for their installation.

Councilmember Petersen questioned whether only the three utilities are responsible for any costs for doing repairs or other things that might occur with those particular utilities.

City Attorney Marousek stated it depends on what requires the move or change to the utilities and then, the answer depends on what the State Utilities and Transportation Commission's Tariff says about who has to move the utilities and when. Thus, she noted the City may be responsible in some situation, the various utilities may be responsible in some situations, but in any event the

City has absolutely no control over it. She further noted that the Tariff document already spells out who does what, when.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Mayor Sheckler, to enter into the Consent to Construct Agreement with Midway Sewer District authorizing the City of Des Moines to have PSE and Qwest construct their facilities over Midway Sewer's Lines within Midway's easement on City property for the Pacific Highway South Redevelopment Project and to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson voiced the concern that this would put the City at a financial risk that he is not willing to accept. He felt that the sewer district most likely did not have an exclusive agreement. He noted that to say the City will pay the City's share of the tariff if the sewer district wants the power and phone lines to move, is what puts the financial risk on the City. He felt this agreement would give the sewer district more rights than their current easement probably allows them and it says the City is financially on the hook to pay the power and phone companies costs. He concluded by stating he would like to see the actual documents before he can approve.

Councilmember Sherman questioned whether since the sewer district had an existing easement, does that mean that all utilities have a right to that easement.

City Attorney Marousek advised that the power and phone companies are in that easement by virtue of their status as franchise utilities and right-of-way use permits under that status in City public right-of-way. Their obligation is to move their facilities if necessary, and their financial obligation, is governed by the Tariff.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson stated that the power and phone companies would not have to move unless the sewer district can prove that they have an exclusive right to be in that space. He noted this is not a normal easement provision.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion failed by a 3 to 3 vote. Affirmative: Councilmembers White and Sherman and Mayor Sheckler. Opposed: Councilmembers Benjamin and Petersen and Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Ordinance No. 05-155 2006 Budget - Potential Levy Lid Lift - 2nd Reading and, Appointment of Committees to Write Pro and Con Statements

Finance Director Henderson reviewed levy lid lift options distributed to Council as follows:

A. Multiple Year Lid Lift 104% (staff's recommendation) - Six years for specific purposes only.
B. One Time Lift for 2006 - Would not provide adequate revenues to cover proposed expenditures.
C. Lid Lift for 2006 and another for 2008 - Both would require voter approval and if no for 2008, City would have to face layoffs.
D. Multiple Year Lid Lift 103% - Revenues not sufficient as City moves forward beyond 2007.

Upon questioning by Councilmember White, Finance Director Henderson advised that a November ballot will not be as costly as a September primary ballot. She estimated the costs will be around $20,000.

City Manager Piasecki added that the cost is based on the number of registered voters in Des Moines, not on the number of people who vote.

MOTION was made by Mayor Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember White, to enact Draft Ordinance No. 05-155, providing for the submission to the qualified voters of the City of Des Moines at an election to be held on November 8, 2005, a ballot proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy in order to restore funds for essential law enforcement services within the City to previous years' levels, authorizing a maximum regular property tax levy rate for 2006 of $1.60 per $1,000 assessed value, authorizing annual increases in the levy amount by 4% for each of the five succeeding years, and increasing the levy each year thereafter as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW, directing the City Clerk to certify a copy of this ordinance to the King County Records & Elections Division, and setting forth the ballot proposition.

Upon questioning by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, Chief Baker advised that in order for the Police Department's five year strategic plan to be successful in all areas in reducing the crime rate in the City, it will require additional staff. He noted that each year the department will evaluate its progress through each one year cycle. He further advised that given the current level of staffing the department would be unable to accomplish all the objectives for each one year. He felt that bringing the department staffing levels back up would greatly ensure success in a good outcome in reducing the part one crime rate in the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson advised that he is favor of putting a ballot out for the citizens to vote on, but putting a five year increase in, where all of the money needs to be committed to police, and the implication being existing revenue cannot be cut, when the City is still struggling with a $400,000 short-fall, he felt it significantly limits the Council's ability to do budgeting and make appropriate financial decisions. Therefore, he stated he cannot support the issue with a five year package. He felt the most he could support would be two succeeding years. He advised he will not support the motion because of the six year budget restrictions as Council needs more flexibility to balance the budget.

Councilmember Benjamin reminded everyone that last year's lid lift was voted down because there was no guarantee as to where the money was going. He stated people do not like to pay more taxes unless they know they are getting something in return. He pointed out that the people in Redondo know they will get a police substation, but if given a choice between Redondo and Pacific Ridge, he questioned which area needs it more. He noted the City's biggest expense is Police services and most of their time and expense is occurring in the Pacific Ridge area.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin to insert the following language into the levy lid lift ballot language, in the most appropriate place, as follows: "The police budget will receive the same dollar amount received in the 2005 budget plus any money that is generated by this levy lid lift which will be used to open and man a substation in Pacific Ridge as long as the levy lid lift is in effect." Motion DIED for lack of a second.

Councilmember Benjamin commented that since Council is not committed to knocking out the problem where its root is, he questioned whether Council is committed to addressing the problem by at least issuing resources that will go to the Police and ensure that they do, to see that they direct those resources as they see fit. He felt that wording needs to be in the ballot to guarantee that this happens. Otherwise he felt the funding will go into the General Fund and the ballot issue will fail.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin, seconded by Councilmember Petersen, to amend the lid lift ballot language to read: The Police budget will receive the same dollar amount received in the 2005 budget plus any money generated by this levy lid lift which will used as long as the levy lid lift is in effect."

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson stated that it is his understanding of that guarantee is what the provisions of State law provide for. Also that the County limits us to 75 words so if this language is added, he questioned which words go away.

Upon questioning, Councilmember Benjamin stated he would be okay with the proposed language being added as a whereas in the ordinance and added to the ballot language. He felt the only way citizens will know the funds are going to police services is if it is in writing.

City Manager Piasecki pointed out that we can only put 75 words on the ballot title and there are certain words that are required to be in the ballot.

Mayor Sheckler stated that he feels it is already very clear that the funds are dedicated to police services.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that law enforcement is the number one service that the City provides to citizens and if this money is dedicated to that purpose, we need to put it into words.

Upon questioning, Finance Director Henderson confirmed that under provision of State law, this dedicated money needs to be used for the stated purpose and not supplant other funding. She noted that if it is stated it is for new law enforcement expenditures, then the State Auditor will audit the City to that effect. She advised the money will go into the general fund, but it will be reserved for law enforcement. She noted that if Council chooses they could potentially cut old positions, but not any new staffing.

City Attorney Marousek clarified that if the motion passes to put the language in the actual ballot proposition, we will have to cut some words that are legally required to be there. She advised that if Council wishes the language could be added to the ordinance, but the proposition is phased based on what is the requirement of the State law.

VOTE ON AMENDING MOTION: Motion failed 4 to 2, with Councilmembers Benjamin and Petersen voting in the affirmative.

MOTION to amend was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, seconded by Councilmember Petersen, that the five succeeding years be changed to two succeeding years throughout the document.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson stated he is proposing this motion as a compromise to get the revenues up, without carrying as long, but in 2009 it gives the Council the ability to solve whatever other budget crisis's may present themselves

VOTE ON AMENDING MOTION: Motion FAILED 4 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and Councilmember Petersen voting in the affirmative.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion FAILED 3 to 3 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and Councilmembers Benjamin and Petersen opposed.

8:58 p.m. Mayor Sheckler called for a 10 minute break.

Draft Ordinance No. 05-155 ***[ASSIGNED ORD. NO. 1367]*** 2006 Budget - Potential Levy Lid Lift - 2nd Reading

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin, seconded by Councilmember White, to reconsider the previous item.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson stated that this not the mechanism that we want to use because Council Rules are specific that a motion to reconsider will take place at the next following meeting. He noted he is not opposed to taking the issue up again, but it should be a new motion, not a motion to reconsider.

City Attorney Marousek permits reconsideration at this meeting, but upon passage of reconsideration, the subject matter is returned anew at the next regular Council meeting for whatever action the Council deems advisable. She felt Council's other alternative would be to suspend that particular Rule. Council needs to vote on the reconsideration motion and then make a motion to suspend the rest of the reconsideration rule.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by maker and seconder.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin, seconded by Mayor Sheckler, to change the proposition wording in the ballot language by inserting the word "exclusively" between 'funds and 'for' in the last sentence, and striking the word "increase" between the words 'maximum' and 'allowed' in the last sentence.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson questioned how the Council is going to balance the budget for the next six years.

City Manager Piasecki advised that the City will have some one time sales tax money coming in over the next several years from some of the large projects that are coming up. He advised that he is reasonably sure within the next year, the streamline sales tax provision will go into effect which could mean a minimum of an initial $500,000 of sales tax revenue. Also the Port of Seattle development is moving along very well, and he is confident that development will come to be, and that it will greatly add revenue to the City and have a positive effect on economic development in the City. He pointed out that the Highway 99 project has continued to draw interest with several properties changing hands and the City is getting inquiries from developers on what they can do in that area. Therefore he is confident the City will see more revenue from that area. He noted that on September 17th Council will be looking at the Marina Master Plan which will have a recommendation to include more commercial type activity and expand the guest moorage, which he feels will bring more revenue into the City. He noted that while he cannot guarantee all these things will happen, he feels that the odds that most of them will happen are reasonably good and the City's revenue picture in the next 3 to 5 years will be in much better shape.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 4 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and Petersen voting in opposition.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin, seconded by Mayor Sheckler, to approve Draft Ordinance No. 05-155 as amended. Motion passed 4 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and Petersen voting in opposition.

It was noted that at this time there is no appointment to be made to the pro and con ballot statement committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) - Potential Membership

Executive Director of PSRC Bob Drewel informed Council that PSRC is dedicated to long range planning for land use, transportation and the economy and is a place where the region comes together to assess long range needs, establish shared priorities and produce plans to meet challenges. He proceeded using a power point presentation to inform Council on benefits of membership with PSRC. Noting some of the following points:

- membership include 81 member cities, counties, state agencies and tribes, six associate members and 7 transit agencies
- provides a voice in regional decisions and distribution of funds for various projects and purposes
- economic development assistance and funding
- technical assistance on obtaining federal and state funds
- access to specialized data
- free standard and secondary data products and working data sets
- access to and assistance with regional maps and GIS information
- involvement with staff technical committees
- technical expertise in a variety of area
- has six foundation initiatives:
    1. Technology Commercialization
    2. New & Small Business Support
    3. Education
    4. Tax Structure
    5. Transportation
    6. Social Capital & Quality of Life

In conclusion Mr. Drewel advised Council that PSRC would love to have Des Moines as a member.

MOTION was made by Mayor Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Benjamin, for the City of Des Moines to re-join the PSRC.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson noted that there has been an awkward history between Des Moines and PSRC because of what PSRC did to south King County concerning airport expansion. He noted that PSRC has on its books to move forward and cause a second regional airport to come into existence. He advised this policy has been in place at least 10 years and he has seen no action to accomplish it. He noted it amazes him that PSRC can talk so much about economic development without having on the table a second airport development and where it should exist.

Mr. Drewel noted the issue of where the next airport should be placed is now in the hands of the State. He felt it became clear that the discussion of this issue needed to go beyond the four county region, or the State needed to be involved, which they are. He noted the State has legislation before them and their deadline to address the issue is somewhere around the year 2009. In regards to the Boeing-Southwest Airlines issue, they have dueling resolutions. Some members of PSRC believe it should go there and other members that believe it should not. He advised that this will be addressed by the Transportation Policy Board, was discussed earlier today, and there will be a full blown discussion in October.

Councilmember White felt strongly that the benefits of joining PSRC far outweigh not being there. She stated that she feels that the successes she has experienced in the past has been because she reached out to a bigger group that supports each other to get things done. She stated that in regards to economic development, Des Moines is the jewel of South King County, and we have the opportunities to reach our goals by being at the table in regional groups and supports joining PSRC for that purpose.

Councilmember Sherman stated that back in 1998, if the City had been getting benefits from PSRC, and the SeaTac Airport had been the only issue, he does not feel the City would have dropped its membership. However, it basically appears to him, the only benefits the City would receive by being a member is having a vote, and that is a very tiny vote, based on population, and we get to pay dues. He noted dues are around $8,500-$9,000. He felt the City does not need this expenditure.

Mr. Drewel advised that the weighted vote has been called into action very seldom. He stated that the City would gain representation to the Puget Sound Regional Council, and could participate on various policy boards concerning important issues such as growth management and transportation. Concerning dues he advised that Des Moines would have free membership from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, and after that if the City should decide to join it would have one year from July 1, 2006 to pay the dues for the following year.

Councilmember Sherman advised that the City already belongs to the Suburban Cities Association, including a Councilmember on the Board of Directors and participates in other regional organizations such as South County Area Transportation Board with gives us a voice in these matters.

Mayor Sheckler stated that with free membership for one year, and no dues having to be paid for another year, he felt this would give the Councilmembers, and any new members, to have an opportunity to review participation.

Upon questioning by Mayor Sheckler as what benefits staff may see in joining, City Manager Piasecki stated that having a more formal relationship with PSRC to be able to make a phone call to staff and ask for help with our funding activities when it comes to grants. In regards to specific issues that are being dealt with by PSRC Committees that are not being dealt with by other smaller groups that the City is currently involved in, it would be nice to be involved in those directly.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson advised that the last agenda item discussed had a lot to do with budget, and although PSRC is proposing to waive the first year dues, the ongoing dues are close to $10,000 which is close to the magnitude that the proposed Redondo Police Station was. He noted he would much rather spend the money on a substation that PSRC membership.

Councilmember Benjamin noted that PSRC is a group who has extensive collaboration in the Puget Sound region and the offer to try them for one year is an offer he cannot refuse.

Councilmember Petersen stated he can endorse belonging to an organization that can be of help to the City especially in regards to economic development. He would prefer Council address this question at another session and give an answer later.

<u>VOTE ON MOTION</u>: Motion FAILED by 3 to 3 vote, with Councilmembers Petersen and Sherman and Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson opposed.

<u>Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Manager Position</u>

Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredricks advised that this is a new position dedicated for contract and project management of projects in the Capital Improvement Plan and also management of Des Moines' municipal facilities. It is proposed to be funded by Capital Improvement funds which are available. He noted right now the City has a very decentralized process as each department currently approaches projects in different ways, applying different standards varying from department to department and program to program. He advised currently we contract out a substantial amount of work which he believes can be done more cost effectively in-house. The proposals objectives include accountability, more efficiency, greater standardization, all leading to more cost effective execution of the Capital Improvement Program and more effective facility management. He advised Council's packet outlines in detail the duties and responsibilities of this position. The packet also details where funds would come from, which is already in the Capital Plan. He noted it is not believed this will impact any general funds, and will provide additional benefits by way of improved efficiency and greater accountability.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson expressed amazement at this request, noting the City still has a $400,000 shortfall. He stated Council knew when they cut the Public Works Director position that less would get done. He agreed there is room for more efficiency in some cases, but if this one position can handle all departments, then we should be able to cut a half of an employee in each of those departments so there is no net gain of employees. He felt to have this conversation outside the budget process really surprises him because it goes contrary to things that Council is still trying to deal with in terms of balancing the budget and doing less with less. He stated he cannot consider this until it is packaged with the whole budget process.

Councilmember White stated she understands Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson's stance and questioned why this is before Council now.

Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredricks noted that there are a number of projects that remain to be done in this years CIP and felt it is important to get an early start for next year. He reminded Council that through this summer they have approved several service contracts, including inspection services and he feels a lot of the inspection services that the City is paying substantially for are services that he thinks can, and should be done, in-house and would be more cost effective. He further felt that property management currently is a reactive approach and feels the City should be more business like in facilities and property that the City owns. He noted this would be funded by redirecting money already budgeted and creates and supports a dedicated position.

After further discussion, it was Council's consensus that this item should be brought back at a later meeting with more detail.

Remaining Agenda Items: Paid Parking Plan in the City of Des Moines and Economic Development Matrix

MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, that the remaining agenda items be forwarded to the next regular Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absence

MOTION was made by Councilmember Benjamin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Steenrod.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Mayor Sheckler noted the next meetings:

Special Meeting Retreat September 17, 2005, 9 a.m. to Noon at Activity Center
Regular Meeting September 22, 2005

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:28 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, seconded by Councilmember Petersen and passed unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk