

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 6, 2001

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Terry Brazil, Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe and Don Wasson. Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, City Attorney Gary McLean, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Planning Manager Corbitt Loch, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Senior Services Supervisor Sue Padden and City Clerk Denis Staab.

Memorial - Larry Watson

Councilmember Sherman announced that long time community member Larry Watson passed away on September 4th. He noted that Mr. Watson had served on the Des Moines Planning Agency and the Zenith Land Use Council, was an active member of the Des Moines Lions Club, a Chamber of Commerce Waterland Commodore and was currently on the Des Moines Civil Service Commission where he had been elected Chairman in August. Councilmember Sherman requested a minute of silence.

Councilmember Sherman advised that years back, Mr. Watson had participated in the City's purchase a bench program, to commemorate his wedding anniversary as a surprise for his wife. He noted that the benches are now in need of repair at an approximate cost of \$600.00. He suggested that the Council donate \$100.00 of their "Hearts and Flowers" fund. Council unanimously concurred. In conclusion, Mr. Sherman stated he will be personally donating funds for this effort and encouraged others to do the same.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Human Services Advisory Board Briefing

City Manager Olander noted that the Board is required to provide Council with an annual update briefing on their activities. He introduced Stacy Montague.

Ms. Montague, along with Board Member Brenda Anders-Larson, proceeded to brief Council on the following:

Successes:

- Funded programs that helped citizens of all ages, from Pregnancy Aide to Senior meals on Wheels.
- Last year each agency that received a grant award presented their programs to the Committee.
- Helped foster a more positive police and community involvement in schools through the Community Schools Project.
- Faith based organizations provide services: Catholic Community Emergency Services, Love Inc., and Community Schools project coordinated over 100 tutors and mentors from four local churches.

Community Needs are Great:

- King County could be cutting up to \$3 million from the Human Service budget for 2002.

- South King County Multi-Service Center reports that 40% of incoming calls are for emergency housing, all of which are in the south end. They reported that of 11 families needing housing, only 1 family received it.
- Senior Meals on Wheels deliveries are up 16%, with over 500 meals delivered last year.
- Des Moines Food Bank requests are up with over 16,000 visits from Des Moines' residents alone.
- Senior Home Sharing program was discontinued to budget cuts, along with the Community Schools Project program.
- Child abuse and neglect figures for Des Moines have skyrocketed.
- Children participating in the schools needed lunch program are on the increase.

Goals:

- To recommend funding of those organization that are focused on three identified areas of importance such as: 1) Basic and emergency needs, 2) promoting healthy violence free families and self dependence, and 3) to maintain and enhance the quality of life in persons whose basic needs are already met.

Why a 1% Budget Allocation:

- Maintain and enhance existing programs.
- Address areas of need not currently met.
- Help to continue programs experiencing major cuts in funding.

In conclusion, Ms. Montague noted that the budget request for 2001, which would amount to \$78,414, would accomplish the following:

- Amount would fully fund all grant applications submitted for 2002 and send a strong message that we are a caring community.
- This would be a good first step to the 1% goal.
- Investing in people and helping to meet basic needs will help to improve the quality of life for all Des Moines residents, both immediately and in the future.

Councilmember Sheckler acknowledged Councilmember Towe's efforts as a strong advocate of human services needs and complimented him on his creative ways to seek funding, as the Council's Liaison to the Human Services Advisory Board.

Councilmember Towe acknowledged the Committee as a whole and commended them for their innovation and aggressive methods of investigating and identifying true community needs. He announced that they have done an exceptional job in determining what benefits the City's citizens are receiving. He concluded by stating that the Human Services area warrants Council's full support for funding.

City Manager Olander advised that the City has sent correspondence to County Executive Sims admonishing him for the proposal to cut human services funding to incorporated areas. He noted that incorporated areas, such as Des Moines, are paying their full share of taxes to support these services and should continue to benefit from same.

Draft Resolution No. 01-164 **/ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 910/** - Setting Street Vacation Public Hearing for October 11, 2001

Public Works Director Heydon advised Council that this resolution is housekeeping in nature, as it is only to set the hearing date, not to discuss the issue.

Mayor Thomasson read the resolution by title into the record.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Brazil, to approve Draft Resolution No. 01-164. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft Resolution No. 01-167 **/ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 911/** - Authorizing Boating Facilities Grant Application for Redondo

Planning Manager Loch reminded Council that the Marina master Plan, as adopted in June of 2001, called for the following improvements in and around the Redondo boat ramp. These improvements included:

- Improve the safety and utility of the boat ramp.
- Increase the efficiency and capacity of the ramp's parking lot.

Planning Manager Loch advised Council that staff has applied to the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation for grant funds for the planning and design of those improvements. Estimated cost for this study, engineering drawings and permit fees will cost \$98,826. The IAC application requests \$58,826 in grant funds, with the remaining \$40,00 to be from the Marina Depreciation and Improvement fund. He concluded by stating the draft resolution is required to be eligible for the IAC funds.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Sherman to approve Draft Resolution No. 01-167.

Mayor Thomasson read the resolution by title into the record.

Several Councilmembers cited the critical need for safety improvements to the boat ramp and the pedestrian vehicle problems that currently exist.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of Property for Pacific Highway South Project

Public Works Director Heydon advised that Council has previously approved staff to negotiate these right-of-way purchases as they are necessary for the Pacific Highway South Redevelopment Project.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Towe and passed unanimously, to purchase 4,394 square feet of land and improvements from K & R Group, LLC in the amount of \$83,000 plus closing costs, and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase and sale agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Towe and passed unanimously, to purchase 801 square feet of land and improvements from Kon II Hwang and

Song Chin in the amount of \$14,857 plus closing costs, and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase and sale agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

Community Center Development Plan - Funding Options

City Manager Olander reminded Council that at the June retreat, they took action to include the Community Center as a Strategic Objective and directed staff to develop cost estimates, financial packages, and conceptual design elements for the project. He advised the purpose of this agenda item is to provide a proposed frame work for moving ahead with the project development.

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that the new Community Center would provide an indoor recreation and meeting facility for Des Moines' 29,000 population. The interior spaces would provide for citizen-identified needs such as senior services and programs, youth and teen activities, general recreation, along with community events and rentals. She noted the facility would be situated on City owned property located at 21939 24th Avenue South. She advised that Des Moines Senior Advisory Committee fully endorses the project as it will promote the following community benefits:

- Focal Point for Des Moines - a place of pride for citizens to gather and interact, gain a better understanding of Des Moines' intergenerational and multi-cultural heritage
- Health and Wellness - provide opportunities to exercise, build muscle, fight obesity and illness, reduce stress through fitness, strength building and sports activities
- Safe and Secure Environment - a place for after school programs to keep youth and teens out of harms way during high crime hours
- Life Long Involvement and learning - provide opportunities to express individual interests and participate in activities that stimulate minds and keep people involved in the community
- Economic Development - a place that welcomes visitors to our community and provides spaces for public and private meetings and events.

Ms. Thorell introduced Georgetta Nupen of the Des Moines Senior Advisory Committee. Ms. Nupen presented Council with a printed Des Moines Beach Park Fact Sheet that was prepared by the Committee to address concerns about relocating the existing Sr. Center and to present factual responses to the many inquiries and false information as to what uses and/or construction activities can and cannot occur at the Beach Park. She advised that this information was compiled during a one year effort from 13 federal, state and City agency responses and documentation gathered by the Committee.

Council expressed appreciation for the efforts of Ms. Nupen and the Committee for preparing the extremely informative Fact Sheet and requested this information be included in the next issue of City Currents so more citizens can be informed of these facts.

Upon questioning by Councilmember Wasson, Parks and Recreation Director Thorell advised that although the current Sr. Center has handicapped accessibility ramp and restroom facilities, it is near impossible to get to the building. She cited broken paved walkways, uneven sloping floors and lack of adequate parking as a few of the obstacles that make navigation very difficult at best.

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell proceeded to review the proposed shared funding financing options as follows:

• City of Des Moines	1,200,000
State Capital Appropriation	\$250,000
Haunted House (city % through 2002)	\$330,000
Parks in Lieu Fees	\$260,000
Reschedule projects	
Woodmont Mini-Park	\$100,000
Woodmont Trail	\$115,000
Reduce City's portion of scheduled projects	
Des Moines Sports Park Phase II	\$145,000
• Des Moines Legacy Foundation	\$ 500,000
• Voter Approved Bond issue	<u>\$4,800,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$6,500,000

Councilmember Sherman requested that staff compute and include “operational costs”, recovery fees. He felt these need to be included to determine future, versus current, operational costs.

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell then outlined a proposed development plan with actions and timing beginning in September 2001, and concluding with the Community Center completion forecast for the fall of 2004.

After some Council discussion regarding design, City Manager Olander noted that any add-on features or deletion of options, would only be through decisions made by the Council as a whole.

Clark Snure, Chairman of Des Moines Legacy Foundation.

Mr. Snure informed Council, that as a non-profit agency, the Legacy Foundation stands ready and willing to raise funds and public knowledge for the much needed Community Center. He encouraged Council to move forward and with that commitment from Council, the Foundation will begin to move toward their goal of raising \$500,000 to support the project.

Councilmember Sherman voiced the opinion that it is time to get started on a community center. He noted that the City has the land and a community center is important to the vitality of the City.

Councilmember Towe stated that a multi-generational facility is needed, but cautioned that we need to be sensitive to costs as this is not a rich community. He noted there is a lot of initiatives and bonds that will be competing for funding. He felt that the project can always be added on to at a later date as more funding becomes available.

Councilmember Kaplan expressed some concerns with being sure that City services remain fully funded. However, he felt a foundation for a Community Center is needed and therefore Council should proceed, with careful study of all the issues.

Council's unanimous consensus was that the information and material presented this evening is a reasonable general plan to initiate private fund raising and additional staff work.

9:26 p.m. Mayor Thomasson declared a 10 minute break.

Draft Resolution No. 01-168 **/ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 912/** - Supporting Highline School District No. 401, Proposition No. 1, School Capital Facilities Bond

City Manager Olander advised that this item is on Council's agenda because three members of the Council so requested. He noted by law the Agenda has been publicly advertised and Council must allow time for comments from the public

Mayor Thomasson read the Draft Resolution by title into the record and called for speakers.

Jerry Guite, P. O. Box 98010, Des Moines (21317 1st Ave. S., Normandy Park Resident)

Mr. Guite noted that the City has a lot of financial challenges ahead including redoing the Marine View Drive Bridge and the Marina improvements among others. He voiced opposition to the proposition, citing current hard economic times and reminded Council that the government does not have money, but that it is the taxpayers money. He felt that this issue is not in the children's best interest. Mr. Guite concluded by reading a letter to the editor in opposition to the School District Bond Issue submitted by his wife.

Ed Pina, P. O. Box 98085, Des Moines

Mr. Pina spoke in support of the Highline School District Bond Issue. He advised that the District's schools, especially in Des Moines are in bad shape and it is important that children have a safe environment to learn in. He especially voiced concern for lack of sound insulation and poor air quality and concluded by feeling that everyone benefits from a good educational environment for the children.

Catherne Carbone Rogers, 22516 10th Avenue South, Des Moines

Ms. Rogers spoke in support of the proposed resolution, informing Council that the cities of Burien and Tukwila have already passed similar resolutions. She cited unsafe and unhealthy conditions in the schools. He further advised that Des Moines will gain the most with noise mitigation for schools that will come from outside of the City's tax base. She felt the improvements are greatly need to ensure the quality of life and requested Council's endorsement to look toward the future.

Rob Back, P. O. Box 98587

Mr. Back encouraged Council and citizens to seize this opportunity to take advantage of school improvements.

MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan to approve Draft Resolution No. 01-168.

Councilmember Brazil, as a retired school teacher, spoke to the importance of safety to our educational system to create quality of life. He noted that he personally respect people who stand up to help and not just complain.

Councilmember Sherman advised that, although he has no children, he strongly supports the bond issue. He feels that it is a privilege to pay taxes for education. He felt a sound and safe educational system is the basis of civilized society and democracy. He further stated that education is a critical basic service and those who are well educated are less likely to be involved in criminal activity.

Councilmember Towe stated that he enthusiastically endorses the School bond issue. He cited the deteriorating schools in the area are contributing to illness and sagging morale of students. He noted this also hurts the school district's ability to attract quality teachers, which in turn hurts learning and, in the end, hurts families. He felt a quality school system is the root of the community.

Councilmember Wasson stated that he will support the endorsement by voting for the resolution, but invited citizens to vote for a change on the School Board Membership.

Councilmember Kaplan noted that he has no children and has not always supported bond issues, but he will this one. He advised that he has been inside Mt. Rainier High School, Midway Elementary and Pacific Middle School and stated that they are dumps. He further reminded everyone that these schools were built long before current noise codes, and that the electrical wiring cannot support modern uses such as computers without encountering problems, such as outages. He reminded citizens that they do need to hold elected officials accountable and if they are not doing the proper job, they should be voted out. He concluded by stating it would be foolish not to take advantage of this opportunity and he encouraged citizens to go and inspect the schools in person and vote yes on this important issue.

Mayor Thomasson advised that he prefers not to take positions on issues outside of the City. However, the Councilmembers determined at their summer retreat that there is a great need to encourage the School Board to improve facilities. He feels this is an investment in Des Moines' future to support this school issue, or there may not be a future.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Soccer Field Dedication

Mayor Thomasson reminded everyone that the Olympic School Soccer Field Dedication will be held on Saturday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson announced the next regular meeting will be September 13, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk