

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 1, 1998

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Bob Sheckler, Dan Sherman, and Don Wasson. Absent: Councilmember Towe (excused later in the meeting). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Police Commander John Ol'Leary, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, Senior Planner Robert Ruth, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Civil Engineer Jim Seitz, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Parks Manager Rick Still and City Clerk Denis Staab.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Potential Institutional Zoning

Community Development Director Kilgore informed Council that in the past three months two retirement centers, Judson Park and Masonic Home, have approached the City on major renovation and expansion projects. She noted that in addition, Highline Community College has also approached the City on expansion plans. She advised Council that as the Des Moines Municipal Code is presently written, each of these projects would be denied. Each of these retirement facilities were rezoned to RM 900B, which Council may wish to consider as outdated. She further advised that the main problems concern height, setback and lot coverage. Ms. Kilgore advised that the purpose of coming to Council this evening is to determine Council's direction on the following issues:

1. Do we want additional density at these types of facilities above what current code prescribes?
2. Should the classification be changed and if yes, should schools and other public facilities be under this classification?
3. Are there common issues to each site which uniform standards can be applied?
4. What is the most effective mechanism or process to ensure protection from these types of facilities on the surrounding neighborhoods (i.e. parks, street improvements, quality of life, views, shadows, etc)?

Mayor Thomasson stated that he feels housing for the elderly population is important, but struggles on whether they are really suited situated in and next to single family zoning.

Councilmember Sheckler advised that he would prefer that each location be studied separately versus across the board actions.

Community Development Director Kilgore noted that she does not recommend a one size fits all approach.

Councilmember Sherman noted that the existing retirement facilities and Highline Community College are unique and they were all developed prior to the City incorporation and or annexation of the areas they are located in. He feels that these facilities enhance the City by providing much needed services and educational opportunities. However, he reminded Council that the City has

developed around these facilities and has created a change in circumstances especially with single family development. He noted that he would rather see the RM 900B zoning stay and that a cluster density would be more suitable for development. He would prefer to be able to review a "master plan" for the development of any of these facilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil stated that he would prefer the Master Plan approach as each facility has unique environment land issues, parking needs and view issues.

Mayor Thomasson concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Brazil, but felt guide lines would still need to be established, so that any applicant would know where the City may draw the line.

After further discussion by Council, Community Development Director Kilgore reminded Council that parking and transportation impacts can vary greatly between a retirement facility versus a community college.

Community Development Director Kilgore advised Council that her preference would be to use the option of a Master Plan approach, which appears to be Council's choice. She noted that her department will need to research items for master plan standards that could be used for Council review before approval of such a concept.

Mayor Thomasson expressed concern over the amount of staff time this project could involve, especially since this is not something on Council's current agenda of projects, but a whole new item.

Community Development Director Kilgore advised Council, that although staff's schedule is full, she is extremely interested in this concept. She reported to Council that she will work closely with the retirement facilities and the college, and would expect to have something ready for Council review during the first quarter of 1999.

Councilmember Sherman felt that the master plan concept is very interesting and he felt staff and Council should move forward at a reasonable pace to accomplish the project. He felt this should be handled in the order received as with most other tasks.

Councilmember Sheckler remarked that the community college and the retirement facilities have been good neighbors for many years and he would like to see this item moved up on Council's priority list if at all possible.

Representatives of the following facilities addressed Council, each indicating a concern over the length of time this process may take, but noting that they are willing to work closely with City staff to develop a process in the best interest of the City and the facilities involved.

- Masonic Retirement Center
- Judson Park
- Wesley Gardens

Briefing - Domestic Violence Program

City Attorney McLean introduced the following staff to Council: Des Moines Police Commander John O'Leary, Des Moines Police Detective Marlene Goodman of the Criminal Investigations Unit and Assistant City Attorney/ Prosecutor Colleen Hartl. Staff proceeded to review for Council the history of the program in Des Moines to combat domestic violence, and

the continuing efforts to educate the public, assist the victims, and punish the offenders, highlighting some of the following:

- Detective Goodman was primarily responsible for applying and receiving a grant from the federal government. Since receiving the grant late in 1996 the Police Department has initiated officer training and community outreach, a Court Resource Advocate has been hired.
- Domestic violence reporting has increased 65% at the felony level as more victims are coming forward to report their crimes and seek police protection. 75% of these violent crimes are now being successfully prosecuted.
- In 1997 the Police Department responded to 375 criminal domestic violence reports of which only 28 were repeat calls for services. This is a 33% reduction in repeat calls over 1996.
- Educational youth school programs to help break the domestic violence cycle.
- Community task force formed as this is a community problem.

Commander O'Leary informed Council that Detective Goodman is being honored and will be presented a certificate from the King County Prosecutor's office for her outstanding efforts in the successful program in Des Moines in the fight against domestic violence.

In conclusion, City Attorney McLean announced that the City has just learned that we have been awarded with a new grant to continue the program into the year of 1999 in the amount of \$181,055. He reviewed how the funds will be allocated and utilized in the following areas:

- Personnel
- Travel and Training
- Supplies
- Services

9:08 p.m. Mayor Thomasson declared a break.

1999-2004 Capital Improvement Plan

Arterial Street Fund Projects

Public Works Director Heydon reminded Council that the projects on based on the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the 6 Year Transportation Plan and previous CIP and priorities as established by Council.

Civil Engineer Seitz reviewed some of last years successful projects and proceeded to review the 1999 Arterial Street Fund Element of the CIP, with comments as noted:

- 6th Avenue South LID & Pacific Highway South

Mayor Thomasson questioned whether these two projects could go forward at the same time. Public Works Director Heydon acknowledged that the projects depend on outside funding and the Pacific Highway South project will be spread out over several years.

- 16th Avenue South/South 250th to Pacific Highway South

Mayor Thomasson expressed concern that the City might be paying for portions that are actually in Federal Way.

Councilmember Sherman noted that if the City of SeaTac does not meet lane configurations on Des Moines on the Pacific Highway South project, Des Moines may need to set aside some funds for that intersection.

In regards to Revenue from Community Development Block Grant Funds, Mayor Thomasson noted that he is uncomfortable to show this without a hearing process. He felt Council should make the decision now to include these funds, or leave this amount out.

Municipal Capital Improvement

It was determined that Council will take this item under discussion at the next meeting scheduled for October 8, 1998.

Continued Review Final Plat - Westwood - Park Plan

Senior Planner Ruth reminded Council that no final action is asked for this evening. He noted that he is seeking approval of the park plan for the site and called Council's attention to Resolution No. 828, Section 2, items 1, 2 and 3, contained in Council's packet.

Parks Manager Still, with the use of a colored diagram, detailed the parks layout, play equipment, picnic tables and lawn area. He informed Council that he worked closely with the Developer and Community Development to save some old growth trees and to meet the City's criteria for development of this type of a neighborhood park. Mr. Still distributed pictures to Council of the proposed play equipment to be installed, noting all the equipment meets City standards and guidelines, and is A.D.A. approved.

Upon questioning from Council, Parks Manager Still noted the maintenance costs should run about \$3-4,000 a year.

Mayor Thomasson noted that he feels the park design is inadequate as it only meets the needs of preschoolers. He stated he would rather see fewer trees and make room for a half court basketball space.

Parks Manager Still advised Council that this is a mini-neighborhood park and is not meant to serve all needs. He noted that older children and adults can take advantage of other recreation areas in the City. He reminded Council that the planned development is consistent with the City's Park Master Plan requirements.

After further discussion by Council, consensus was to redesign the park to allow for a half court basketball area.

Councilmember Excused

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sheckler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brazil and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Towe.

Suburban Cities Legislative Agenda Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil announced that at the Suburban Cities meeting set for October 14th, the upcoming legislative agenda will be established. He requested any Councilmembers who have items they wished to be addressed to get those items to him prior to the scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk