

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 6, 2005

The regular study session of Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:58 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson in the City Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Dan Sherman, Maggie Steenrod and Susan White. Absent: Mayor Bob Sheckler and Councilmembers Richard Benjamin and Gary Petersen. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, Assistant City Attorney Richard Brown, Finance Director Paula Henderson, Assistant City Engineer Loren Reinhold, Police Chief Roger Baker, Parks and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell and City Clerk Denis Staab.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember White and passed unanimously, to excuse Mayor Sheckler and Councilmember Petersen.

Police Report

Police Chief Baker reported that a second attempted child abduction in a week occurred today at about 9 a.m. He advised that a 12 year old female was walking east bound on South 223rd street in the 2000 block on her way to Pacific Middle School. He advised that the girl was able to fend off the suspect and report the incident to the school principal. He noted that the police were not able to locate anyone matching the description. He informed Council that the 2 cases do not appear to be related. He requested that if any one has information to please contact the Des Moines Police Department or call 911.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

King Conservation District - Briefing on Special Assessment Increase

City Manager Piasecki introduced three representatives from the King Conservation District: Jeff Reid, Scott Wallace and Sara Hempfeld.

Mr. Wallace informed Council that Conservation Districts were set-up in 1935 along with the National Resource Conservation Service. He further noted that there are about 3,000 conservation districts nationwide, with 15,000 volunteers.

Assistant City Engineer Reinhold pointed out that Council's packet should show Des Moines' assessment currently generates approximately \$8,800.00 per year, not the \$15,000 as shown. He noted this is based on \$1 per tax parcel within the City of Des Moines.

Mr. Reid provided background on the King Conservation district highlighting some of the following information:

- Des Moines is one of 33 member cities belonging to the District
- Is a special purpose District located in Renton, independent from King County
- One of 48 conservation districts in Washington State
- A non-regulatory, primarily technical assistance agency working directly with land owners, municipalities, non-profits and businesses to implement best management practices based on sound science

- Board of supervisors, 3 elected by general public, 2 appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission as unpaid volunteers, along with 12 full time paid staff
- Services provided to urban communities include low cost native plants, wetland plant cooperative, train groups on utilizing native plants, design and implement conservation projects, provide engineering services, public education, work shops and field trips, and more

Mr. Reid advised that they are at the end of a five year assessment of \$5 per parcel per year which currently breaks down to:

\$1 Des Moines
\$1 KCD
\$3 for three watershed forums

He noted that the District is proposing to raise the special assessment per parcel per year from \$5 to \$10, with a duration of three years (2006-2009) which will be distributed as follows:

\$2 Des Moines
\$3 KCD
\$4 for the three watershed forums, divided equally

Upon questioning, Mr. Reid stated that the State Legislature has approved the request, but the Metropolitan King County Council has the authority to approve, reject or modify the assessment proposal, which will occur during their budget process for the upcoming year.

Assistant City Engineer Reinhold informed Council that Des Moines has let our funds build up over time. He noted a few years ago the City contracted with the District for a small project at Des Moines Creek in the Beach Park. The current total has built up to almost \$80,000. He stated that the City is waiting for a couple of large facilities to be built and funds would be used for those projects such as the Des Moines Creek Basin Project, for part of the stream restoration element.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson questioned whether the District has any feed back on whether the County will accept the proposed distribution of the new assessment.

Councilmember Sherman commented that Suburban Cities Association adopted a policy of supporting Des Moines' share of \$2, should the assessment be approved at \$10.00.

Mr. Wallace informed Council that the Board spent many hours to come up with a fair formula and he hopes this will win out. However, he advised that it is no secret that the County is lobbying against it. He remarked that the County has no control over how the money is distributed.

City Manager Piasecki noted that since the County has no control over how the funds are distributed, if they don't like the proposed distribution, they could alter the total allowed.

Beach Park Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell introduced the City's consultant, Gary Towe of Project Management Northwest.

Mr. Towe proceeded, through a power point presentation, to summarize the final draft of the Des Moines Beach Park Master Plan. Some of the points noted were:

- Overview of buildings - worked with Artifacts Consulting to examine for condition and historical contributing elements. All buildings worth retaining, with various levels of investment.
- Recommendations on pedestrian and bike paths. Opportunity to provide a better connection between the Beach Park and the Marina and integrate with the Des Moines Creek Trail.
- Promenade area is underutilized, propose consolidating children play areas, creating a gazebo type central gathering area. Create a more active recreational area.
- Access/Entry Improvements, including providing bus/shuttle route. Improve and designate entry point at top of Normandy Park pedestrian trail, improve beach access by removing rip rap.
- Flood Control using retaining walls, elevate some buildings, explore viability of deep dredging Des Moines Creek, possible relocation of Des Moines Creek.
- Adequate parking - reconfigure turnaround, eliminate view parking at promenade area, utilize Marina park, reconfigure Park road, encourage downtown parking along 7th Avenue S.
- Overlook Park 2 - transform into beautiful and unified entry point to the north Marina and Beach Park.

In conclusion, Mr. Towe reviewed a cash flow summary and a proposed timeline for design and construction of various Master Plan projects. He also briefly reviewed recommended enabling strategies for Council's consideration.

Upon questioning, Mr. Towe estimated a cost of around \$1.3 million to raise the three buildings above the flood plain.

Councilmember Sherman pointed out, that along with the Marina Master Plan, the City really needs good signage so people will know what is available. He noted that the easiest entrance is the south end of the Marina because it is flat. Going uphill from the north end of the Marina may be closer but probably harder, however signage could indicate that. He noted that moving the creek bed may be more cost effective than raising the buildings, therefore Council may need a little more information before finalizing this plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson questioned administration that if Council adopts this plan, is it a road map, an action plan, funding plan, since so many items are dependent upon outside resources, how would staff interpret direction as to whether these items must be in the budget, or should be the budget, or are they only in the budget if we have the money.

City Manager Piasecki responded that in his mind this is the road map as to where Council wants to go. It is the guide post that the City will strive to get to. He noted that just as we have seen with the Marina Master Plan, things do change over time. So when we get to a point where we have the final type of work being done, Council can decide that it is not quite what had been envisioned. He felt it is important to keep in mind Council will need to decide the most important priorities based on engineering and financial considerations. He stated he will always bring options to Council for consideration, and if Council wants flexibility then that can be written into the Plan. He pointed out that the Plan will come back to Council one more time before adoption by motion or a resolution. He felt that if the historical preservation is the most important, then moving the buildings is not an option. In regards to the Municipal Capital Improvement plan, he would interpret the Beach Park as a priority, and staff needs to go out and find funding, because the City does not have enough funds. He further advised that the time line as noted by Mr. Towe, is what staff will shoot for, but reality tells us that if we need large grants in order to make things happen and you don't get the funds, then the projects will have to moved

out in the time line. He reminded Council that they will set the priorities as to what gets done first for all the City's projects whether it be roads, parks, etc.

Councilmember White felt this Plan represents a good road map with lots of possibilities to explore, and Council can adjust as we move along. She felt the progress on the auditorium is a big first step and noted Council may even consider developing a public private partnership in regards to the dining hall.

Councilmember Steenrod felt it will be important to take some of the most visible areas such as the gathering area with a gazebo, and move them up to earlier in the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson stated that Council needs to adopt the Plan and then have more detailed discussions as to what to do first during budget planning time

9:16 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson called for a 10 minute break.

Lodging Tax Committee Recommendations for Expenditures

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell reminded Council that the City began collecting the Lodging Tax revenues this year, but has no plan for the expenditure of the funds at this time. She advised Council that the Lodging Tax Committee met on August 16th and is recommending that 100% of the City's tax collected during 2005 through 2008, be dedicated to membership with Seattle's Southside Visitors Services for the purposes of providing Des Moines with destination marketing services. She stated this can be accomplished by entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Seattle Southside for three years. She noted the Interlocal will come before Council before the end of the year. She reminded Council this recommendation is before Council to allow for the 45 day review/consultation period by the Lodging Tax Committee of Council's decision as required by State law. She noted this will allow Council to have time to approve the tax revenue expenditures during the City's 2006 budget process. She concluded by stating the Finance Director has estimated \$5,000 revenues for 2005, and about \$12,000 per year thereafter. She introduced Katherine Kertzman, Program Director of Southside Seattle.

Ms. Kertzman provided Council with a brief overview of the programs and services that will be available to the City should Council decide to become a member of the organization. She informed Council that the staff are Tukwila employees, but report to three City Councils, their Mayors and Advisory Tax Committees. The other two cities are SeaTac and Kent. She noted that tourism is the fourth largest industry in Washington State. Some areas covered were:

- Primary Goals:
 1. Attract quality visitors to increase tourism business income and related tax revenues in order to sustain a robust economy.
 2. Assist in building a sustainable family-friendly visitor destination by providing leadership initiatives, education and training opportunities to the local tourism business sector.
- Target Audiences:
 - Leisure Traveler
 - Tournament Organizers
 - Corporate/Business Traveler
 - Influencers
- Primary Strategies
 - Tourism Development

- Visitor Services
- Business Community Affairs
- Public Relations & Marketing

Ms. Kertzman distributed a copy of the Official Vacation Planner that is produced by Seattle Southside. This publication details, by City, accommodations, restaurants, shopping, activities, attractions and maps. She also noted that Seattle Southside has a new visitor center which is seeing increasing walk-in visitors, along with a detailed visitor information website, and employs a active advertising campaign with ads in Sunset Magazine among other publications. She noted Seattle Southside would welcome Des Moines' membership due to its waterfront resources, sport fields, parks and location on Puget Sound.

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell pointed out that although Des Moines is currently not a member of Seattle Southside, some of Des Moines waterfront parks were included on selected pages in the 2005 Vacation Planner.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to approve the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's recommendation to commit 100% of the Hotel/Motel Tax revenues collected in 2005-2008 for the purpose of membership with the Seattle, Southside Visitor Services. Motion passed unanimously.

2006 Budget Balancing Strategies & Policies

Finance Director Henderson informed Council of the following for the General & Street Funds:

- Estimated Beginning Fund Balance: \$1,883,286
- 2006 Estimated Base Revenues: \$13,897,836
- 2006 Estimated Base Expenditures: 14,364,152
- Base Excess (Deficit) \$ (466,316)

She noted that the base number does not show the new school resource officer as Council has not made a formal budget amendment to account for this. She noted this will add approximately \$78,000 to this base. She continued by noting other 2006 Revenues and Expenditures:

- One-Time Revenues: \$1,381,470
- Limited Term Positions (265,897)
- TSF to Revenue Stabilization Fund (500,000)
- New Revenues - TSF from CIP 90,960
- New Expenditure Requests (311,681)
- Revised Excess (Deficit) \$ (71,464)

She advised that the final estimated Ending Fund Balance would be \$1,811,822, and subtracting the school resource officer will leave the City at about \$1.7 million to the good.

City Manager Piasecki reminded Council that a big chunk of this dollar amount is from one-time revenues the City expects this year and next year. Some of this money is sales tax revenue that is unrestricted, and a fair portion is permitting money which in a sense is restricted to providing development services.

Finance Director Henderson reviewed some of the policy questions Council will need to address during budget deliberations:

- Unrestricted Gas Tax - Currently all goes to Street Fund.

- MCI Transfer - We have REET revenues that are exceeding budget at this point.
- Transfer to Revenue Stabilization Fund - Using one time Sales Tax monies.
- Balancing small structural deficit with one-time revenues - Is this practice appropriate?

City Manager Piasecki stated what staff is presenting is a very macro-level where things are at and over the next couple of meetings, staff will be presenting the various funds, department budgets and talking about some of the one time requests, which will lead to the policy questions Council will need to address.

Upon questioning, City Manager Piasecki noted that the expected revenues of between \$250,000 to \$300,000 from the development of the Port's buyout area, is based on leasehold tax alone. Utility and B & O Taxes will be a separate amount that he is not prepared to estimate yet. He reminded Council that the Port will continue to own the property.

Councilmember Steenrod felt that the sooner the Council can get changes made to the zoning code, the sooner the City will see revenues improve.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson noted the next meeting will be a special meeting on Saturday, October 8th at the Activity Center, and the next regular meeting will be October 13, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember White and passed unanimously, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk