

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 9, 1997

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Thomasson.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Bruce Roberts, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe and Don Wasson. Absent: Councilmember Bob Sheckler (vacation) and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil (vacation). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Finance Director Jim Hathaway, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury and City Clerk Denis Staab.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Redondo Community Club

City Manager Olander read a letter from Gene Achziger, President of the Redondo Community Club. Mr. Achziger's letter expressed the Club's deep appreciation for the kindness and efficiency of the City's employees in welcoming Redondo residents to the City of Des Moines. The letter thanked various City departments for their professionalism and friendliness, and the Council for providing community participation regarding the building height questions in the area. The letter concluded with thankfulness to be a part of the City of Des Moines.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Charles Martin, 24816 20th Avenue South - Kent

Mr. Martin questioned where Council was in the process of instituting traffic calming measures in his neighborhood. He stated that vehicles are still doing well over the speed limit and that he had to call 911 recently over a car doing in excess of 50 mph.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety and Transportation Committee

Councilmember Sherman advised that the Committee met last Thursday, to begin review of traffic calming measures. He stated that the Committee is reviewing a number of options. He noted that the Committee will meet again on October 30th to make a final determination and make final specific recommendations to the Council as a whole. He assured Mr. Martin that neighborhood approval will be required to be sure that what ever method is recommended that it is compatible to the residents involved.

City Manager Olander stated that until traffic calming measures are in place, he has asked the Chief of Police to use additional traffic patrol in the area and to coordinate efforts with the Kent Police Department.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Condolences

Mayor Thomasson noted the recent death of two prominent Des Moines residents:

- Jo Callow, former President of the Des Moines Food Bank and active community supporter.
- Jack Cunningham, former Des Moines Councilmember and State politician.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Session

City Manager Olander requested an Executive Session immediately following the regular agenda to discuss with the City Attorney three pieces of pending litigation. This was agreed to.

CONSENT CALENDAR was read by City Clerk Staab.

1. Motion is to approve the minutes of August 28, September 4 and 25, and October 2, 1997.
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 42.24.080, 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 check #58134 through #58328 in the total amount of \$713,189.94

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$198,573.39

3. Motion is to purchase the Palzer Property in the amount of \$34,500 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 Towe, seconded by Councilmember Roberts and passed unanimously, to approve the Consent Calendar as read.

NEW BUSINESS

Briefings - Preliminary 1998 Budget

Revenues

City Manager Olander advised Council that the 1998 Preliminary Budget has been more of a challenge as revenues are showing slow growth. He informed Council that City departments are doing a good job of submitting lean budget requests. He cited the following major revenue issues as reasons for submitting a conservative budget:

- Property Taxes have not shown much if any increase.
- Sales Tax Equalization. With more areas incorporating that are primarily residential, the taxes are being spread more, resulting in less money to go around.
- Other State Shared Revenues are down.
- Utility Taxes are showing slow growth.

Finance Director Hathaway reviewed the major revenue sources, giving a brief description and noting the preliminary budgeted amounts for 1998 as follows:

- General Property Tax: Revenue from ad valorem tax levied on real property based upon an assessed valuation established by the County Assessor - \$2,168,009
- Retail Sales Tax: City's portion of taxes imposed upon the sale or consumption of goods and/or services generally, with few or limited exemptions - \$1,240,000
- T.V. Cable Franchise Fee: A franchise fee based on 5% of gross revenues for the privilege of using public property for public or private purposes - \$203,050
- Solid Waste Collection Franchise Fee: A franchise fee based on 12% of gross revenues which regulates garbage collection in the City - \$257,330
- Motor Vehicle Excise Tax: State distributed excise tax imposed on motor vehicles for police and fire protection and for public health purposes - \$330,577
- Building Permits: Cost of permit to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish for each building or structure - \$392,000
- Sales Tax Equalization: State distributed excise tax imposed on motor vehicles for cities that receive below-average per capita revenues from the sales tax - \$1,435,323
- Utility Tax: A business and occupation tax on gross receipts from domestic and commercial sales of electrical energy, natural gas, telephone service, television cable service and solid waste collection - \$1,500,000

In conclusion, Finance Director Hathaway stated that these are not all the revenue sources and noted that more sources will be reviewed by Council in upcoming meetings.

Marina

Finance Director Hathaway reviewed the sources of revenue to the Marina Revenue Fund.

Harbormaster Dusenbury called Council's attention to capitalized expenditures under the maintenance division noting the following items:

- Ramp Decks - The first of three phases needed to redeck all 16 ramps.
- Exterior Lighting Conversion Project - Third phase of converting mercury vapor lights to new high pressure sodium fixtures.
- Concrete Floats - Purchase and installation of approximately 320 square feet of new concrete floats in the guest moorage area.

Upon questioning from Council, Harbormaster Dusenbury stated that estimated expenses for the Redondo operations are only preliminary at this time. But he estimates \$4,000 for utilities and some supplies for the restrooms. He further advised that he and City Manager Olander are exploring various revenue options such as parking lot fees. He further stated that while they are looking at the launcher, they are proceeding with caution because of the liability issues involved. Also, in regards to the launcher, he noted that better signage is being considered to provide efficiency and correct usage of the facility.

After Council questioning over concerns of rough weather at the Redondo launcher, Harbormaster Dusenbury advised that he is looking into methods to protect the ramp in bad weather and also the north end of the board walk.

City Manager Olander assured Council that he and the Harbormaster will continue to explore various options and costs of the Redondo marina area and these suggestions will be brought back to Council at a future date for consideration.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson noted the next regular meeting will be October 23, 1997.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:31 p.m. Mayor Thomasson advised that Council will recess to an Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes. The purpose of the Executive Session will be 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.

No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m. the executive session adjourned to open session and the regular meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk