

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 14, 1999

The regular meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Thomasson in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South.

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Bob Sheckler, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe, and Don Wasson. Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Attorney Colleen Hartl, Finance Director Scott McCarty, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Carl and Wilma Steigers

City Manager Olander confirmed that the letter received from Carl and Wilma Steigers regarding the public hearing had been distributed to Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Shelley Sagmo, 1917 South 254th Place

Ms. Sagmo requested that the City of Des Moines sign a joint agreement with the City of Federal Way and the Federal Way School District to renovate the field area at Woodmont Elementary School. She presented Council with a petition signed by 303 individuals requesting funding and renovation to the school grounds. Ms. Sagmo then circulated a container of the current playfield soil to Council.

Mayor Thomasson noted that Council was scheduled to review the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan at an upcoming meeting. He asked the audience to raise their hands if they were at the meeting for the same issue. Several hands were raised.

Brian Snure, 27425 8th Avenue South

Mr. Snure informed Council that Woodmont Elementary School's centrix field had been installed in the 1970's. He stated that the field was now in poor condition and very dusty. Mr. Snure felt that the city had very good parks and saw the improvement of Woodmont Elementary playfield as an opportunity for Des Moines to form a partnership with the Federal Way School District. He felt that the school's renovated playfield could become the focus of the Woodmont area.

Christie Bury, 1807 South 266th Place

As playground supervisor for Woodmont Elementary, Ms. Bury felt that the school's fields created a dangerous situation for the students. She asked that the renovation of the fields be a priority for the City.

Larry Corvary, 19458 1st Place SW, Normandy Park

As outgoing president of CASE and in-coming president of RCAA, Mr. Corvary encouraged Council and Des Moines's residents to attend the public hearing conducted by the Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to review the Port of Seattle's water quality issues and pending wetland permit. The hearing would be conducted November 3, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at Foster High School. He felt that it was critical for the results of the governor-approved Maury Island and Highline Aquifer studies to be released prior to the approval of any permits.

Pat Brill, 702 South 281st Street

As a member of the Redondo Community Club Council, Ms. Brill thanked the Parks Department for their maintenance of the park areas. She requested that a speed bump be installed at the end of South 281st Street. She also informed Council that four junipers were causing a blind corner on Redondo Beach Drive. She asked that the junipers be trimmed.

City Manager Olander noted that the installation of a speed bump in the area was already on the Public Safety and Transportation project review list. He said that he would review the list to determine the project's current status.

Bill Cunningham, 612 SW Normandy Road, Normandy Park

Mr. Cunningham asked Council to reconsider the city manager's decision to prohibit the sell of Christmas trees on the city property located at Kent Des Moines Road and Marine View Drive South. Mr. Cunningham stated that he would pay rent for the property, provide tax dollars to Des Moines, and leave the property as he found it. He said that he had been selling trees from that property for several years and that the customers were pleased to purchase their trees in Des Moines.

City Manager Olander informed Council that the property had been leveled and improved in the past year.

Norm McDonald, 908 South 279th Street

Mr. McDonald spoke in support of Ms. Brill's comments regarding South 281st Street. Due to the number of pedestrians in the area, Mr. McDonald felt it created an unsafe condition. He felt that traffic calming measures were also needed on 10th Avenue South.

Judy Olson, 21937 7th Avenue South, #203

Ms. Olson questioned why Council had not asked the citizens for their input regarding potential cutbacks should Initiative 695 pass. She felt that the Park and Recreation Department, like the Police Department, provided programs and activities targeted at increasing safety for the citizens.

Dave Fenton, 14201 42nd Avenue South

Mr. Fenton informed Council that he was president of Tukwila City Council. He voiced support for Mr. Cunningham's request as he enjoyed buying his Christmas trees from him.

John Babbett, 26465 7th Avenue South

Mr. Babbett, a fifth grader at Woodmont Elementary School, said that the current condition of the school playfield was unsafe. He felt that the school needed grass playfields.

Evan Lovejoy, 1612 South 254th Place

Mr. Lovejoy, a student at Woodmont Elementary School, informed Council that the school needed a soccer field.

Don Clayton, 22426 12th Avenue South

Mr. Clayton spoke in support of the citizens for the improvement of Woodmont Elementary School grounds. He noted that the endeavor was backed by several people and felt that significant projects could be completed with little expense to the city. He also felt that the Park and Recreation program was a needed service in the community.

Dave Knipp, 24228 11th Avenue South

Mr. Knipp informed Council that his seven-year-old child participated in the Before and After School Programs. He felt that this program, as well as Camp Khaos, was vital to the community. He urged Council to carefully consider potential cuts in service should Initiative 695 pass.

Councilmember Kaplan noted that citizens could submit their comments regarding the budget to Council prior to the public hearing by any of the following methods: during public comment at any regular Council meeting, by E-mail, or in writing.

City Manager Olander noted that the first budget hearing would be conducted November 18, 1999.

Al Edmiston, 27005 15th Avenue South

Mr. Edmiston informed Council that he had written a letter two years ago concerning some pedestrian problems in his area. He noted that the walkways were graveled at that time and that he had been informed that sidewalks would be installed and ditches filled in at a later time. He informed Council that the sidewalk and ditch work had not yet been completed.

Public Works Director Heydon said that the project was scheduled for design in 2000 and construction was scheduled for 2001.

In response to Ms. Olson's questioning, City Manager Olander noted that no city funds had been expended for the police lieutenant's training in England.

Councilmember Sheckler stated that the artwork displayed in the new wing of City Hall was on loan to the City from Burien Art Gallery.

Councilmember Sherman encouraged the public to obtain copies of the preliminary Year 2000 budget.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Issues

Councilmember Sherman informed Council of the following transportation related public meetings:

- I-405 Corridor Study
October 19, 1999, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Renton High School
October 21, 1999, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Kirkland Senior Center

- SR 509 Public House
October 27, 1999, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Tyee High School

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Agenda Revision

Mayor Thomasson announced that Draft Resolution No. 99-188 would be the first item of discussion as councilmembers from Tukwila were present in the audience.

Upon Mayor Thomasson's invitation, Tukwila Councilmember Joe Duffie encouraged the cities to work together to improve the services to the southend area.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Council Candidate Forum Video Schedule

City Manager Olander announced that the video of the council candidate forum conducted October 13, 1999 would be televised on the City's information channel on Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR was read by Deputy City Clerk Chafty.

1. Motion is to approve the minutes of September 23, 1999.
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 # 68595 through # 68827 in the total amount of \$466,638.82

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$282,496.52

3. Motion is to approve the Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the State of Washington Department of Corrections for the employment of state adult workers in work crew projects and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as attached.
4. Motion is to approve the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation Youth Athletic Facility Grant Account Agreement #99-1212D for Olympic Elementary School Soccer Field project and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement substantially in the form as attached.
5. Motion is to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Highline School District No. 401 for the development and use of Olympic Elementary School property and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as attached.
- 6.A. Motion is to award the contract for construction of the Soundview Drive Slide Repair to Hurlen Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$85,858, plus a 10% contingency and to authorize the City Manager to sign said contract substantially in the form as attached.
B. Motion is to amend the existing consultant contract with INCA Engineers, Inc. to include construction management services, in the amount of \$20,732.63, plus a 10% contingency and to authorize the City Manager to sign said amendment substantially in the form as attached.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, and passed unanimously to approve the consent calendar as read.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution No. 99-188 [Assigned Res. No. 875] Sound Transit Light Rail Routing

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sheckler and seconded by Councilmember Sherman to adopt Draft Resolution No. 99-188.

Mayor Thomasson read the title of the proposed resolution.

Councilmember Sherman voiced support for the proposed resolution. He noted that the South County Area Transportation Board had been supporting Tukwila's efforts to urge Sound Transit to study the E-3 route as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. He felt that the route provided the best benefit to the citizens of Des Moines.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Brazil's questioning, Tukwila Councilmember Pam Carter explained that the news reports indicated that Sound Transit was still committed to extending the route to South 200th Street as previously discussed. She noted that Mayor Ron Simm's proposal included the elimination of two Seattle stations and proposed sales tax exemption for a portion of the project.

Councilmember Towe stated that he supported the draft resolution as Tukwila had raised valid safety issues.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Tukwila Councilmember Carter thanked Council for their support and invited them to a community forum regarding light rail impacts. The forum would be conducted October 21, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at Church by the Side of the Road.

Tukwila Councilmember Steve Mullett also thanked Council for their support.

PUBLIC HEARING

Draft Ordinance No. 99-173 - Textual Amendments to RM 900B Zoning (Retirement Centers) Regarding Building Height

Mayor Thomasson introduced the subject.

Assistant City Attorney Hartl read the rules for conducting a public hearing.

Community Development Director Kilgore noted that in October 1998, Council had directed staff to work with two of the larger retirement facilities, Judson Park and Masonic Home, on revisions to RM-900B zoning. The proposed text amendment would provide a process for application and review of proposals that included buildings taller than the current height limit of 35 feet. Community Development Director Kilgore explained that the proposed ordinance's

binding development plan would require larger facilities to prepare a graphic depiction and a narrative description of the general layout, phasing, and amount of proposed future development.

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor Thomasson declared a ten minute break.

SPEAKERS

Jeff Mann, 2601 South 35th Street, #200, Tacoma

On behalf of Masonic Home and Judson Park, Mr. Mann from Apex Engineering addressed Council regarding various planning issues. He stated that Judson Park was currently 59 feet in height while Masonic Home was 63 feet in height. He said that the retirement centers would like to utilize architectural designs that were compatible with the existing buildings. He felt that the taller construction would have less of an impact on open space. Mr. Mann felt that the proposed ordinance and its binding development plan gave Council the tools to review the development plans.

Joe Thomas, 23444 10th Avenue South

Mr. Thomas informed Council that he resided northeast of the existing Judson Park facility. He felt that the construction of a sixty foot building in front of his land would decrease his property value and limit his view.

Jimmy Reid, 3505 Monticola Drive, Bremerton

Representing the Masonic fraternity, Mr. Reid gave the history of the Masonic Home. He noted that the operating economics, the variety of care provided, and the high female resident population were unanticipated in the 1920's when the facility was constructed. Mr. Reid stated that the fraternity had decided that it was best to meet a broader spectrum of needs and provide services to the entire community. Mr. Reid welcomed the opportunity to discuss the issues and felt that the needs of the Masonic Center should be weighed against the needs of the community.

Paul Williams, 23506 10th Avenue South

Mr. Williams stated that he was opposed to the ordinance as he felt it was an ambiguous zoning tool and was subject to the whim of Council. He felt that there should not be any more development of massive buildings within residential neighborhoods.

Jim Bartlemay, 23510 10th Avenue South

Mr. Bartlemay urged Council to oppose Draft Ordinance No. 99-173. He stated that he lived east of the proposed Judson Park construction site and that the increased height would severely impact his view and property value. Mr. Bartlemay suggested that the tall buildings be constructed behind the existing tall buildings.

Norma Jean Finsterlursch, 24004 Marine View Drive South

Ms. Finsterlursch voiced support for the speakers who had spoken in opposition to the proposed ordinance. She questioned if any councilmembers were Masons or members of Rotary. Ms. Finsterlursch voiced her belief that the Masonic Home's services were not available to the general public but only to Masons. In closing, Ms. Finsterlursch stated that the construction would decrease property value and increase the volume of trucks and traffic in the area.

Tim Smith, 836 South 235th Place

Mr. Smith stated that he strongly opposed the draft ordinance as it had the potential to drive out residents and decrease property value. Mr. Smith stated his belief that 35 feet was sufficient for the area. If the ordinance were approved, Mr. Smith stated that he could potentially have 60 foot structures on two sides of his property.

Alan Pomeroy, 23600 Marine View Drive South

Speaking on behalf of Judson Park, Mr. Pomeroy stated that the retirement center's goal was to provide services to seniors for the next 25 years. He identified living arrangements, care, and wellness facilities as specific services. Mr. Pomeroy said that he believed the higher height allowance would reduce the number and bulk of the buildings. He felt that the proposed ordinance provided a reasonable opportunity for the retirement centers to present a combined plan to Council and the public.

Shari Anes, 930 South 240th Place

Ms. Anes noted that the Masonic Home was a historical site. She felt that taller buildings would diminish the view and character of the area. She suggested that the retirement centers utilize the land located behind their buildings for their construction.

Mike Hovland, 1223 62nd Avenue East, Fife

As architect for the Masonic Home, Mr. Hovland stated that the retirement homes wanted to centralize operations. Therefore, placement of facilities was very important. He felt that buildings built to 35 feet would impact views as much as buildings built to 60 feet.

Jennifer Smith, 836 South 235th Place

Ms. Smith informed Council that she had been asked to sell her home to the retirement center. She stated her belief that the retirement centers planned to extend into the residential area as they were looking to acquire more land.

Al Dyer, 35512 41st Avenue South, Auburn

As a representative of the Masonic Home, Mr. Dyer informed Council that the Masonic Home was a 501.3C corporation. He said that residents were not limited to Masons members only nor were people forced to surrender their goods to live at the retirement center. He said that 95% of their residents were low income.

Mary Ingersol, 15800 22nd Avenue Southwest, Burien

Speaking on behalf of her parents who reside at 842 South 235th Street, Ms. Ingersol said that Judson Park had asked many residents several times to sell their property to the retirement center. She noted that her father felt harassed by the center. Ms. Ingersol asked Council to oppose Draft Ordinance No. 99-173.

Mayor Thomasson closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

Councilmember Sheckler questioned whether facilities built to the allowed 35 foot height would affect residential views.

In response, Darlene Thomas, who resides at 23444 10th Avenue South, stated that buildings constructed to 35 feet would not affect her view.

Jennifer Smith and Shari Anes noted that a building constructed to 35 would block their views.

In response to Mayor Thomasson's questioning, Ray Western, Administrator at Judson Park, stated that buildings designed to 35 feet would require more space than if the buildings were allowed to extend higher.

When questioned in regard to the placement of the proposed buildings, Mr. Mann stated that the retirement centers wished to utilize the property's view.

Mr. Western confirmed that Judson Park had acquired three neighboring residential properties.

Mr. Mann informed Council that Masonic properties were not expanding.

Mr. Pomeroy informed Council that independent living units are provided at both facilities. In keeping with current market demands, the retirement centers were seeking to provide new units with more square footage.

Mayor Thomasson closed the public hearing. Continued discussion of the subject would occur at the December 9, 1999 Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Preliminary 2000 Budget: Department Reviews

In regard to Year 2000 revenue, City Manager Olander noted that SWM Marina Administration, Reserve Fund, Debt Service, Capital Projects, and Salaries involved double transfers:

City Manager Olander reviewed the proposed departmental operating budgets for Finance, Engineering, and Public Works. He noted that the reduction in personnel benefits was due to a decrease in Department of Retirement System charges.

Councilmember Kaplan recommended that Council eliminate their membership in some organizations next year in light of the city's current financial status. Specifically, he suggested that the city eliminate their membership with Suburban Cities Association and defer joining the Economic Development Council.

After brief discussion by Council, City Manager Olander identified the subject as a policy issue to be brought back to Council for discussion after completion of the review of the budget.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that staff prepare a list of all services and monies currently paid to King County and their associated services.

Finance Director McCarty explained that interfund payments were allocated to the Computer Maintenance Fund, Computer Replacement Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund, Self Insurance Fund, Unemployment Fund, and Facility Repair and Replacement Fund.

Councilmember Sherman asked staff to research the reduction in the Street budget's "Other Services and Charges" line item.

Upon questioning, Public Works Director Heydon stated that he would provide Council with information regarding the frequency of street sweeping.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Regular Meeting October 21, 1999

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufty
Deputy City Clerk