

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 19, 2000

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Thomasson in the City Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South #B.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Terry Brazil, Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe and Don Wasson (arrived at 7:42 p.m.). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, Finance Director Scott McCarty, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Budget Accountant Peggy Watson and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

South County Area Transportation Board

Councilmember Sherman distributed a resolution passed unanimously by the South County Area Transportation Board supporting the addition of commercial air transportation facilities to the 2001 Update of the 1995 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He noted that the resolution would be presented to the Puget Sound Regional Council on October 20, 2000.

Planning Agency

Community Development Director Kilgore informed Council that the role of the Planning Agency had decreased in the last few years due to regulatory reform, the completion of the Comprehensive Plan and the lack of subdivisions submitted to the City. In light of these changes, Ms. Kilgore said that the Planning Agency felt that their role required discussion. She outlined the following options for Council to discuss:

1. Dissolve the Planning Agency.
2. Expand the duties of the Planning Agency.
3. Suspend Planning Agency activities for six months to develop a work program for the agency.
4. Do nothing.

Community Development Director Kilgore said that several subdivisions were expected to be reviewed in 2001. She also noted that the Planning Agency had indicated that they felt their recommendation carried little weight with the Council. If Council chooses to continue the agency, Community Development Director Kilgore recommended that Council communicate the Planning Agency's expected roles and duties.

At 7:42 p.m., Councilmember Wasson arrived.

Community Development Director Kilgore explained that the Planning Agency was not receiving as much public input now as Council was conducting all of the public hearings.

Councilmember Sherman said that the Council and the Planning Agency had conducted joint public meetings in the past to solicit public comment. The Planning Agency then discussed the issue and formed a recommendation after the public meeting.

Councilmember Towe spoke in support of Option #2. He said that he preferred to strengthen the dialog with the Planning Agency regarding land use public policy issues. He felt that the role of the Planning Agency could also be expanded for development proposals.

Councilmember Brazil also spoke in favor of Option #2. He said that he favored allowing the Planning Agency to conduct the public hearing for development proposals.

Councilmember Sheckler said that Council had established proper guidelines for the Planning Agency. Therefore, he supported Option #2.

Mayor Thomasson voiced support for either Option #1 or #4. He said that council committees were currently studying several issues such as the Marina Master Plan and the Transportation Plan that could have been delegated to the Planning Agency. He felt that Council held the final responsibility for City issues, as they were the elected officials. If Council no longer wished to review preliminary plats, Mayor Thomasson suggested that a Hearing Examiner be delegated this task rather than the Planning Agency.

City Attorney McLean clarified that the Planning Agency had access to legal counsel.

Councilmember Wasson voiced support for Option #1 as it would eliminate a layer of bureaucracy and would be easier for the customers.

As liaison to the Planning Agency, Councilmember Kaplan informed Council that he had discussed the issue with five of the seven Planning Agency members. He said the lack of regard for Planning Agency recommendations and the lack of communication between Council and themselves frustrated them. Councilmember Kaplan said he personally supported Option #2 as it allowed more individuals to study the issue and provide input. He felt that Council could still retain their authority.

Council asked if any members of the Planning Agency wished to address them.

As Chairman of the Planning Agency, David Peterson said that the agency often feels left out. He stated his preference for Option #2. He noted that, at times, the Planning Agency has needed more time to form their recommendations. He felt that the Planning Agency had enough experience to conduct the public hearings.

Planning Agency member Steve Swank spoke in support of Option #2. He felt that the Planning Agency could be a valuable asset to the City. He suggested that Council and Planning Agency members meet to discuss specific guidelines for the agency.

As a two-year member of the Planning Agency, Mark Proulx voiced support for Option #2. He felt that the Planning Agency could relieve some of the workload of Council and provide additional review of difficult issues. As a citizen, he wished to contribute to the community in this capacity.

Planning Agency member Bruce Young stated his belief that improved communication between the Planning Agency and Council was needed. He voiced support for Option #2.

Noting that Council had been very deliberate in reviewing regulatory reform issues, Mayor Thomasson questioned the process that would be used to expand the duties of the Planning Agency.

Community Development Director Kilgore explained that Council would need to determine which tasks were relinquished to the Planning Agency. She said that if the Planning Agency were given authority to approve preliminary plats then the Planning Agency would also conduct the public hearing associated with the development.

Councilmember Sherman said that he wished to increase public participation but did not want to give up Council's authority. He suggested that joint meetings be conducted between the two boards.

Councilmember Towe felt that Option #2 could include land use and zoning planning and public involvement and outreach.

City Manager Olander confirmed that there was a general consensus to proceed with Option #2. He said that staff would present a list of possible issues to be given to the Planning Agency for Council and Planning Agency review and discussion.

At 8:53 p.m., Mayor Thomasson declared a ten minute break.

Preliminary 2001 Budget Department Reviews

Finance Director McCarty led Council in a review of the proposed 2001 budgets for the following departments:

Legislative	Development Services
Executive	Building
Record Services	Park & Recreation Administration
Administrative Services	Park Operations Services
Personnel	Park & Recreation Programs
Central Services	Senior Services
Community Information	Senior Services Programs
Airport Defense	All City Buildings
Financial Services	Health & Human Services
Miscellaneous Dues & Services	Engineering Services
Plan Development	Street Maintenance

During the review, Finance Director McCarty highlighted the following recommended departmental budget changes:

Legislative – Increase due to implementation of Council's salary increase.

Personnel – Increase due to the hiring of a professional negotiator to negotiate the Teamsters' contract.

Central Services – Increase due to the allocation of funds for future replacement of the telephone system. The copier agreement had also been renegotiated in 2000.

Community Information – Increase due to expanding distribution of *City Currents* to six times a year.

ACC – Increase due to the pay off of interest on the Interfund Load.

- Financial Services** – Decrease due to the completion of the utility tax audit.
- Plan Development** – Decrease due to moving one position from Plan Development to the Building Division. Position moved due to job duties.
- Developmental Services** – Increase due to the addition of 1 FTE for code enforcement.
- Building Division** – Increase due to the addition of a position formerly listed under Plan Development and due to the purchase of the newly adopted International Code books.
- Park Operations Services** – Increase due to the increase of equipment reserves and due to the one-time purchase of a drinking fountain and park name signs.
- Senior Services** – Increase due to the replacement of twenty tables and eighty chairs.
- Street Maintenance** – Increase due to the addition of two seasonal maintenance workers.

Upon questioning, Assistant City Manager Piasecki explained that the King County Election Services voter registration charges were based upon a per capita assessment. The city was also charged for a primary and general election each year, as well as for any special elections the City conducted.

Community Development Director Kilgore said that she expected the new preliminary census data to be available during the first quarter of 2001.

City Manager Olander stated that the proposed budget included the addition of one full-time Code Enforcement Officer, two seasonal Public Works Maintenance Workers, three full-time Police Officers, and one part-time Legal Intern.

In regard to the efficiency measures, Councilmembers Kaplan and Towe noted that consistent methodology should be utilized to accurately detect variations.

During discussion, Councilmember Sherman said that he would like to see the citizen surveys conducted again.

Finance Director McCarty recommended the Park and Recreation Fund be included in the General Fund.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell confirmed that the Human Services Committee's recommendations were listed in the proposed budget.

In case Council decided to increase Human Services funding, Councilmember Towe asked that an expanded listing of alternate human services funding recommendations be submitted to Council.

Finance Director McCarty said that the City's operation of its own fuel system had resulted in a \$30,000 per year savings for Des Moines.

Councilmember Sherman asked staff to provide him with the number of miles of road within the City.

Public Works Director Heydon said that staff was hoping to obtain a long-term contract for signal maintenance.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson noted the next regular Council meeting will be October 26, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufty
Deputy City Clerk