

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 21, 1999

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

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 Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Finance Director Scott McCarty, Budget Accountant Peggy Watson, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, Chief of Police Don Obermiller, Park & Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Legislative Policies and Positions

City Manager Olander introduced the subject. He noted that for the past two years Council has formally adopted intergovernmental policies and positions to provide guidance for Council members and staff in representing the city's interests at regional, state or national levels. He presented the current list of policies and positions for Council's review and revision. City Manager Olander also questioned whether Council desired to add policies concerning Sound Transit light rail routing and potential legislation authorizing city zoning control for gambling facilities.

In regard to the elimination of urban subsidy, Mayor Pro Tem Brazil noted that Suburban Cities Association had asked King County Executive Ron Sims for an accounting of the money paid to King County but no response had yet been received. He said that regional governance and finance remained an issue for Suburban Cities Association.

Through discussion, Council concurred to eliminate the following positions:

- Opposition to local option gas tax. (Issue no longer on table).
- Opposition to proposed Initiatives 690 and 691. (Issues no longer on table).

The following positions were also added:

- Support for legislation that requires either sponsors of essential public facilities or jurisdictions in which EPF's are located to fully mitigate environmental, social, and economic impacts of the EPF in neighboring impacted jurisdictions.
- Opposition to legislation that would reduce municipal control over city streets and rights-of-way.
- Support for legislation, should I-695 pass, to provide cities with replacement revenues or local option revenue sources.
- Support for legislation to elect Port commissioners by district.
- Opposition to mandatory requirements for affordable housing and housing growth targets.
- Support for legislation requiring a covering on vehicles hauling dirt and gravel.
- Opposition to the Maury Island mining proposal.

- Support for legislation authorizing city zoning control for gambling facilities.

Council also agreed to add a policy stating that Phase I of Sound Transit routing should extend to South 200th Street and that Route E-3 should be studied as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Mayor Thomasson noted that Position No. 4a should reflect the current funding position and preferred route name.

During discussion, Councilmember Sheckler questioned whether Council should adopt a moratorium regarding gambling activities in order to give them time to review the issue.

Council agreed that the intergovernmental policies and positions should be brought back to them for adoption on a future consent calendar.

Preliminary 2000 Budget Department Reviews

In response to Council's previous questions, Finance Director McCarty said that the variation in the Street Department's line item amount for "Other Services and Charges" was due to a 1999 policy decision to discontinue payment of surface water management fees by the street fund and to eliminate the funding of street striping. He also explained that the 2000 budget divided the utility charges between the separate departments. He noted that the increase in utility charges was due to the addition of electricity fees for the Public Works/Park Maintenance Facility. Finance Director McCarty reviewed the services provided to the city by King County and their associated fees. He also explained the street sweeping schedule for the city. Finance Director McCarty displayed a chart comparing the city's actual debt with its debt capacity.

City Manager Olander reviewed the proposed budget for Community Development. He explained that the increase in the building department budget was due to rising market demands for building inspectors. Upon questioning from Mayor Thomasson, City Manager Olander said that the Pacific Ridge Study had been placed in the MCI budget.

City Manager Olander highlighted the proposed budget for All City Buildings.

In regard to the Mental and Physical Health budget, Mayor Pro Tem Brazil noted that several members of Suburban Cities Association were withdrawing from the Human Services Roundtable due to a lack of direct benefits provided to them.

Councilmember Towe also questioned the level of benefit received by Des Moines' residents from the Human Services Roundtable.

City Manager Olander noted that the proposed budget did not allocate any money to the Human Services Roundtable. He recommended that the subject of Human Services funding be discussed as a policy issue after the total budget had been reviewed.

Councilmember Towe asked that Council direct specific questions regarding human services agencies to himself or the Park and Recreation Director. Upon questioning, Councilmember Towe noted that the Human Services Committee voiced support for the Chaplain Fund and encouraged a strong administration of the program.

At 9:00 p.m., Mayor Thomasson declared a ten minute break.

City Manager Olander reviewed the proposed budgets for Park and Recreation. He noted that one half of the Recreation Manager's salary had been charged to Recreation Programs. This would necessitate a \$32,000 overall increase in program fees.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell stated that program fees would not be raised across the board but that each program would be evaluated individually. She estimated an overall average fee increase of 5%.

In regard to the Park Operations Services budget, City Manager Olander noted that the proposed budget reflected a reduction in part-time, seasonal employees. As a result of the reduction in employees, City Manager Olander explained that staff would be unable to perform most construction projects in-house.

In response to Councilmember Kaplan's questioning, Park and Recreation Director Thorell explained that janitorial costs had been redistributed through the specific departmental budgets. The increase to the janitorial budget was due to the addition of the Public Works/Park Maintenance Facility.

Finance Director McCarty introduced the proposed Judicial budget. He noted that the increase in the Other Services and Charges line item was due to the implementation of video arraignments. He voiced his support for placing jail charges in the Judicial budget rather than the Police budget. Finance Director McCarty noted that a 13% increase in jail fees was expected for Year 2000.

City Attorney McLean informed Council of the current booking and jail expenses. He stated that the city anticipated a \$70,000 per year savings due to utilization of the Okanogan jail facility.

Council discussed jail costs.

Upon questioning, City Manager Olander noted that there had been no progress toward the establishment of Saltwater Ridge jail facilities.

City Manager Olander then reviewed the Police Administration budget. He noted that the reduction in the proposed budget was due to the elimination of three Records Specialist positions. Record services would then be contracted with Federal Way.

Chief Obermiller explained that the reduction in Police Station public access hours would result in better shift coverage and in reduced overtime.

Upon Councilmember Sherman's request, City Manager Olander scheduled the consideration of vehicle impounds for traffic violations for the first quarter of next year.

In response to Councilmember Kaplan's questioning, Chief Obermiller described the costs involved in reestablishing a dispatch center in Des Moines. He said that he would verify that Valley-Com was a non-profit business.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that Council discuss a \$2,000 reduction in Police Administration Travel Expenses and a \$2,000 reduction in their Dues, Schools, and Conferences.

City Manager Olander placed these items on the list of policies to be discussed once the initial review of the proposed budget was complete.

In response to Mayor Thomasson's questioning, Finance Director McCarty noted that the replacement of the police department's laptop computers should be included in the Computer Replacement Fund.

In response to Councilmember Sheckler's questioning, Chief Obermiller explained that the elimination of the three Record Specialist positions would cause record services to be contracted with Federal Way, necessitate the closure of the station to the public during weekends and evenings, require officers to drive to the station to verify warrants and stolen articles during non-business hours, and require the installation of an alarm system in the Police Station. Chief Obermiller noted that any individual serving the public at the Police Station must receive specific training. Coverage needs would also require the employment of more than one individual.

In response to Councilmember Wasson's questioning, City Attorney McLean noted that liability issues would be clearly identified in the contract for Record Services.

Buildable Lands Grant

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil noted that Suburban Cities Association's Board of Directors had awarded \$3,802 to Des Moines to finance buildable lands. The distribution was based upon \$0.14 per capita.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson announced the next regular meeting would be October 28, 1999.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufy
Deputy City Clerk