

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

October 28, 1999

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

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Bob Sheckler (left meeting at 9:02 p.m.), Dan Sherman, and Don Wasson. Absent: Councilmember Gary Towe (family illness). Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Finance Director Scott McCarty, Budget Accountant Peggy Watson, Chief of Police Don Obermiller, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury, Park & Recreation Director Patrice Thorell and City Clerk Denis Staab.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brazil and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Towe.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gil Simmons, 3714 N. 15th, Tacoma

Mr. Simmons informed Council that he works for the Federal Way School District. He requested Council consider adding to the preliminary budget plans for future development of school grounds for play fields around Woodmont Elementary School. He advised that the Superintendent of Federal Way schools is committed to funding a master use plan in partnership with the city for development of such play fields. He further requested consideration of the City adding extra parking during the upcoming proposed street development improvements in front of the elementary school. He thanked Council for the successful joint venture on the Before and After School Program that is currently being held at the school.

Jack Kniskern, Des Moines Resident

Mr. Kniskern extended an invitation to Councilmembers to attend a Community Development Corporations workshop sponsored by the South King County Housing Forum on November 9th. He noted the agenda will cover economic development and housing. He also challenged the Councilmembers to take an active partnership with the City of Kent regarding the area south of Kent-Des Moines Road.

Chantell Bury, 1807 South 266th Place (Woodmont Elementary School Student)

Ms. Bury detailed the dusty/muddy conditions of the soccer field as it currently exists at Woodmont Elementary School. She cited safety concerns due to the poor field conditions.

Bert Daigle, 20133 Marine View Drive SW, Normandy Park (Representing Pregnancy Aid)

Ms. Daigle thanked Council for past support for the Pregnancy Aid program located in Des Moines. She advised that the program helps single parents and young struggling families with needed items they cannot afford, funds for rent, and referral services. She advised that the program is run by volunteers with funding needed through grants and personal donations to pay for rent and material goods needed. She urged Council to continue to fund the program through its budget process.

Mary Jane Maurich, 3312 South 188th Street, SeaTac

Ms. Maurich reiterated Ms. Daigle's comments noting that the Pregnancy Aid program is a non-profit all volunteer program. She requested the City's continued support of this much needed service.

Bill Cunningham, 612 Normandy Road, Normandy Park

Mr. Cunningham questioned whether Council had made a decision on his being allowed to sell Christmas trees on City owned property as he had requested at an earlier Council meeting.

City Manager Olander noted that this is the type of issue he makes administrative decisions on and he must reiterate his earlier decision that this would be an inappropriate use. He advised that the City has made improvements to the location in question.

Mr. Cunningham advised that he would be glad to restore any disruption of grass that might be caused by a Christmas tree lot. He also note he would be willing to pay a higher rental fee for the use of the property.

Mayor Thomasson noted he would poll Council on the question and call Mr. Cunningham early next week.

Lew Anderson, 1650 South 244th Place

Mr. Anderson strongly urged Council that they make no cuts in the Law Enforcement portion of the 2000 budget. He stated that Des Moines' Police force is one of the best around. He made the following suggestions in regards to budget issues: 1) look at a temporary reduction on reserve funds and pay off the \$800,000 loan for the fight against the 3rd runway, and 2) rolling stock depreciation should be changed to every 4 years instead of current 3 years. In conclusion Mr. Anderson requested that staff contact Sea Tac Disposal regarding the wording on their new billing. He noted an item titled "Hidden Recycling Costs". He felt this is very confusing and may upset a lot of citizens.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

National League of Cities

Councilmember Sheckler announced that Mayor Pro Tem Brazil has been appointed to the NLC Policy Committee on Information Technology and Communication.

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil noted that there are many key issues right now with technology expanding. He advised one of the key issues of concern is the lack of internet taxation and the revenue that is lost to cities through sales tax equalization. He noted that this is a substantial national problem as it amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars that are non taxable sales. He noted what this does is eliminate local stores which hurts smaller cities such as Des Moines. He requested ideas from Councilmembers on how this issue should be dealt with.

South King Human Services Council

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil reported attending a recent panel discussion on the effects of I-695. He noted that Senator Julia Patterson was there representing the State's perspective. He anticipated some answer from Senator Patterson on the State's plan for assistance if I-695 passes and was disappointed to learn the State has no answer available.

Growth Management Planning Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil stated he attended a meeting this week as a Board Member for Suburban Cities Association. Key issues that will be voted on at the November 10th meeting include the following:

- Rural Development - Putting a cap on by restricting development of lots
- Increase Urban Density
- Housing Targets

On this item he expressed concern for Des Moines as he felt the development target is too high and the City will be penalized.

- Limiting Schools known as "Public Assembly Areas" - Restricting the development of schools in rural settings

In conclusion, Mayor Pro Tem Brazil requested input from Councilmembers on their thoughts on these issues prior to the November 10th vote by the Committee.

Woodmont Elementary School Issues

Councilmember Sheckler recognized the involvement of citizens for the improvement of the Woodmont Elementary School play field. He voiced his commitment to their cause and hoped an interlocal agreement with the Federal Way School District for such improvements can be realized.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Breakfast Meeting

Mayor Thomasson reported that he and Mayor Pro Tem Brazil and Councilmember Kaplan attended a breakfast meeting with King County Councilmember Chris Vance last week. He advised that they focused on needs of Des Moines that Councilmember Vance may be able to help with. One main topic raised was the Growth Target Issues.

CONSENT CALENDAR was read by City Clerk Staab.

1. Motion is to approve the minutes of October 7 and 14, 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 #68828 through #69006 in the total amount of \$281,336.39

Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$274,292.13

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brazil, to approve the Consent Calendar as read.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that the October 14, 1999 meeting Minutes be corrected as follows: Page 3, after comments by citizen Dave Knipp to read: "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."

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Preliminary 2000 Budget - Continued Department Reviews

City Manager Olander advised Council that review of the preliminary 2000 Budget is proceeding ahead of schedule.

Review of various departments continued with comments as noted:

Law Enforcement - Patrol

Chief Obermiller noted that one Community Service Officer position would be eliminated. However, he stated this would not result in any decline in emergency response time as no commissioned officers will be cut.

City Manager Olander advised that we have 1 officer for every 680 citizens which is within Council's established guidelines for service levels.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that consideration be given for eliminating the \$7,000 designated for travel and that training should be reduced. Chief Obermiller responded that certified training is important and in his opinion should not be cut. City Manager Olander also responded that providing training helps to keep personnel turn over low through the Master Police officer Program.

Law Enforcement - Administration

Councilmember Wasson advised that he would like to reserve the opportunity to restore or add funds back in as he is very concerned about having the Police station closed at night. He noted that he does not want to see any reduction in services within law enforcement.

Law Enforcement - Detective

No changes.

Law Enforcement - Animal Control

No changes.

Law Enforcement - Police Drug Seizure

No changes

9:02 p.m. Mayor Thomasson declared a 10 minute break.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Councilmember Sheckler left the meeting.

Marina

Upon questioning by Council concerning raising rates, City Manager Olander stated that the issue is being studied and will wait to see if I-695 passes.

Councilmember Kaplan requested whether consideration has been given for charging for parking at Redondo. Harbormaster Dusenbury stated that there are a number of issues including liability should the City impose a parking fee.

Legislative

Councilmember Kaplan suggested consideration be given for eliminating the Council's pay increase and associated benefits, that under professional services the \$3,800 for a retreat facilitator be eliminated and that both travel and training be reduced by 50%.

Executive

No changes.

Record Services

No changes.

Executive

No changes.

Personnel Services

No changes.

Community Information Services

It was suggested that the Citizens' Survey be eliminated for the year 2000.

Central Services

Upon questioning as to why the communications amount was down, Assistant City Manager Piasecki informed Council that Deputy City Clerk Chaufty had investigated and determined the City was paying for obsolete lines and services that were no longer valid, saving the City over \$20,000.

Airport Defense Fund

No changes.

Legal

No changes.

Grant Control Fund - Domestic Violence

No changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Six Year Capital Improvement Plan for Years 2000 - 2005

Budget Accountant Watson introduced the Plan advising Councilmembers that the document is a flexible planning tool providing a multi-year list of proposed major capital expenditures and associated operating costs. She noted that a capital improvement is defined as a major purchase or construction exceeding \$25,000, has a useful life of several years, and includes one of the following:

- Major Repairs
- Reconstruction or Replacement of Capital Items

- New Construction or Development
- Property Acquisition
- Equipment Acquisition

Council began review of the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan for the year 2000 with comments as noted:

Marina Depreciation and Improvement Fund

Harbormaster Dusenbury noted that the replacement of transformers and high voltage cables will be a high cost item amounting to \$166,000.

Councilmember Kaplan questioned when Council will begin review of the Marina Master Plan. Harbormaster Dusenbury advised that the Municipal Facilities Committee is currently reviewing the draft and hopefully it will be to Council as a whole after the first of the year.

Municipal Capital Improvement Fund

Upon questioning by Council regarding the laptop computers for Police patrol vehicles in the amount of \$100,000, Chief Obermiller advised that the life span of the laptops is 3 to 5 years.

Upon questioning by Council regarding potential development of the play fields at Woodmont Elementary, Park and Recreation Director Thorell advised that the year 2002 would be the most realistic date. She further noted that this would depend upon Council priorities and partnership with the Federal Way School District for funding. Council's consensus was that this item will be studied with the potential for adding to the year 2002.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson noted the next meeting will be the November 4, 1999 Study Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk