

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 8, 1999

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 7:33 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, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Budget Accountant Peggy Watson and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy.

CORRESPONDENCE

City Manager Olander noted that correspondence received from Moody's Investors Service had been distributed to Council. The letter stated that Moody's Investors Service had placed a negative outlook on the credit ratings of Des Moines and University Place as MVET revenues account for more than 15% of the total operating revenues for these two cities. With the passage of Initiative 695, MVET revenues will be eliminated.

Finance Director McCarty stated that he would be working with Moody to review the 1998 financial statement.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Six Year Capital Improvement Program

Park and Recreation Director Thorell briefed Council on the Sports Park project. She showed a conceptual design of the project, explained its funding sources, and described the proposed development schedule.

City Manager Olander noted that allocated grant monies would need to be returned to the issuing agency if Council chose to delay the project.

Councilmember Kaplan stated that he preferred park in-lieu fees to be utilized for neighborhood parks rather than the Sports Park.

Councilmember Sherman said that he did not feel the project was a wise use of city funds at this time. He stated that he would like the Woodmont Elementary School field renovation project moved ahead of the Sports Park project.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell explained that the IAC grant was based upon the total project cost and upon other available matching dollars. She said that the city would be committed to the grant once the contract was signed.

Mayor Thomasson said that he could not in good conscience budget the project as 25% of the funding was unknown and due to the ongoing maintenance fees. He noted that the voters would be asked to approve other fee and tax increases.

Councilmember Kaplan stated that, in light of the passage of Initiative 695, he would rather use MCI dollars for roads than for the Sports Park facility.

Councilmember Towe felt that the project leveraged local dollars with outside funding dollars. He believed that it would be more difficult to securing funding for the project in the future. He urged Council postpone a decision on the park until the IAC grant contract needed to be signed.

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil expressed agreement with Councilmember Towe's comments. He felt, however, that soccer fields rather than baseball fields, should be constructed as soccer fields were utilized nine months out of the year while baseball fields were used three months. Mayor Pro Tem Brazil said that he would support the project as he felt it contributed to the residents' quality of life.

Councilmember Wasson stated that he could not support spending money on the Sports Park while police services were being cut to contain costs.

Councilmember Sheckler suggested that the city proceed with the project at this time. If the additional funds could not be raised by the time the IAC grant contract was due, the IAC funds could be given back to the issuing agency.

Mayor Thomasson suggested that Phase 1 of the Sports Park Project be divided into smaller sections so as to avoid the excess levy during 2001.

City Manager Olander confirmed that Council's general direction was to keep the Sports Park Project in the CIP contingent upon finding additional funding sources, lowering the overall costs, and possibly reducing the scope of project phases.

In response to Councilmember Sheckler's question regarding the improvement of the Woodmont Elementary School field, Park and Recreation Director Thorell said that she would be meeting with Federal Way School District to discuss the Master Plan process.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that an IAC grant would contribute towards the replacement of the Field House lights. She noted that the contract for the IAC grant had already been signed.

Councilmember Sherman urged Council to delay the project as they would be asking the citizens to approve other funding.

City Manager Olander stated that the replacement of the lights would result in saved maintenance time and dollars. He also felt that the lights would generate increased revenue for the city due to the ability to conduct night games.

Mayor Thomasson stated that he would support the inclusion of the project in the CIP as the IAC grant had already been accepted but recommended the work not be scheduled until after the ballot issue.

After brief discussion, Council concurred to include the Field House Replacement Lighting project in the CIP, pending the conclusion of the CIP discussion.

In regard to the Olympic Elementary School soccer field development project, Park and Recreation Director Thorell said that all of the funding was secured and the all of the interlocal agreements were signed for the project.

Council concurred to include the Olympic Elementary School soccer field development project in the CIP.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell noted that the Field House Renovation project would include ADA improvements and the installation of a fire suppression system.

Council voiced general support for the project.

Park and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that Phase 2 of the Des Moines Creek Trail project would include completion of the trail between the Midway Sewer District plant and Des Moines Beach Park.

City Manager Olander noted that the high inspection fees were due to the ISTEA fund's extensive documentation requirements.

Councilmember Wasson confirmed that Phase 2 of the Des Moines Creek Trail would not be completed unless the Bridge Project was done.

Assistant City Manager Piasecki highlighted the City Web Page Update project.

Council concurred that the City Web Page Update project should be delayed, as it enhanced rather than maintained a service.

Finance Director McCarty explained that \$150,000 of General Fund money was allocated to MCI. The remaining portion of MCI was funded by the Real Estate Excise Tax. He noted that Real Estate Excise Tax funds could only be used for capital projects.

City Manager Olander felt that it was important to utilize some General Fund dollars in the MCI fund as the funding level of the Real Estate Excise Tax could be reduced eventually.

Council then began review of the Arterial Street Projects included in the CIP.

Public Works Director Heydon explained the background of the 16th Avenue Slide Repair Project. He noted that the availability of WSDOT managed federal emergency funds were now uncertain due to recent storm damage in the southeast United States. Mr. Heydon said that he would still like to pursue the design of the project next year however as he is unsure how long the current repairs would hold and due to his safety concerns should the street collapse.

Mayor Thomasson felt that the project should be listed as a SWM project rather than an arterial project.

Public Works Director Heydon explained that a 31% contingency was requested as current information about the project was based on visual inspection only. In response to Mayor Thomasson's comment regarding placement of the project under the SWM section, Mr. Heydon briefly explained the project priorities in the SWM and Arterial Street budgets.

Finance Director McCarty noted that the unreserved fund balance for Year 2000 for the MCI Fund was \$97,460.

At 9:12 p.m., Mayor Thomasson declared a ten minute break.

In regard to the Arterial Street Fund projects continued from prior years, Public Works Director Heydon noted that the South 216th Street Sidewalk Improvement project still required negotiations with apartment owners regarding parking issues.

Public Works Director Heydon informed Council that over \$300,000 revenue for new projects had been eliminated. Therefore, the sidewalk program had been eliminated under New Projects. He also noted that the 16th Avenue South/ South 250th Street to Pacific Highway South, Des Moines Memorial Drive, and Kent-Des Moines Road projects had been delayed a year. Mr. Heydon explained that outside funds for the Pacific Highway South project had already been acquired. He noted, however, that the availability of WSDOT Overlay Funds (\$728,000) and METRO King County Funds (\$500,000) for the project were now in question. As a result of the loss of Referendum 49 project funding, Public Works Director Heydon stated that he expected good, competitive bidding on all transportation projects.

Councilmember Sherman said that he considered sidewalks and street overlays essential as they were important for safety and they protected the City's existing investments. He confirmed that a fifty year overlay schedule was proposed while a twenty year schedule was recommended. He said that he would like to see the recreation funds reprogrammed to streets.

Public Works Director Heydon reviewed the Marine View Drive Bridge Project as listed under the Surface Water Capital Fund. Public Works Director Heydon noted that the project's design was completed, the EIS was completed, and the permits were issued. He said that land acquisition and biological assessment were now being conducted. Due to the recent passage of Initiative 695, Public Works Director Heydon said that funding for the project was now in question. He also noted that interlocal agreements with the other entities were still being negotiated. Mr. Heydon recommended phasing the project with drilling, construction of the bridge deck, and placement of utilities under the bridge occurring during Phase 1 and placement of the stream occurring during Phase 2. He noted that the City was responsible for 5% of the project funding. If the project was not approved, he explained that Midway Sewer District could temporarily handle the outfall by using the existing pipe extending through the fill or by boring under the fill below the water table level.

Councilmember Wasson asked staff to research a previous city expenditure of \$377,000 for the project.

Mayor Thomasson asked staff to footnote the source of revenue for projects if it was not City funds. Public Works Director Heydon said that funding for the project could potentially be secured from Aquatic Land Enhancement Act, WSDOT, and/or fish enhancement dollars.

Public Works Director Heydon quickly reviewed the Des Moines Creek Basin, 16th Avenue Slide Repair, and Parkside Detention Facility projects. He confirmed that the water rights for the Des Moines Creek Basin were still in question.

Councilmember Towe said he could not support the Marine View Drive Bridge Project given its current funding state. He asked that staff provide a revised funding scheme with project phasing.

Mayor Thomasson stated that he also wanted signed interlocal agreements prior to the spending of city funds on the project.

City Manager Olander confirmed that the Barnes Creek project had been delayed as it was a large project.

NEXT MEETING DATE – November 17, 1999.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Chaufy
Deputy City Clerk