

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

December 29, 2005

The regular meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Sheckler in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, Suite B.

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Gary Petersen, Dan Sherman, Maggie Steenrod and Susan White. Absent: Councilmember Richard Benjamin. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Linda Marousek, Finance Director Paula Henderson, Planning, Building and Public Works Director Grant Fredricks and City Clerk Denis Staab.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Steenrod, seconded by Councilmember Petersen, to excuse Councilmember Benjamin. Motion passed 4 to 2 with Councilmember White and Mayor Sheckler opposed.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS & COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Thanks

Councilmember Steenrod, as outgoing Councilmember, expressed a thank you for the privilege of serving and stated she looks forward to a good 2006 for the Council

Thanks

Councilmember Petersen stated it has been a privilege serving the citizens of Des Moines for the past four years and wished everyone well in 2006.

Police Issues

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson noted that a comment was made to him by a friend over a recent incident when he called the police, that the police department informed him "Well, we are not going to get to your need because we do not have enough people and we are fighting crime on the other side of Highway 99." He stated that if this is the way that the police department has chosen to tell their story, he is disappointed that it is not better said to reflect the levy that failed to bring their staffing levels up. He requested that after the first of the year he would like to receive a report from the Chief on how they are prioritizing their responses and what is the official message that the department is giving.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Ordinance No. 05-217A [ASSIGNED ORD. NO. 1372] Mitchell/Chamlian Rezone - 2nd Reading and, Draft Ordinance No. 05-217B [ASSIGNED ORD. NO. 1371] Mitchell/Chamlian Comp Plan Amendment - 1st Reading

Mayor Sheckler introduced the topic.

Consultant Kilgore advised that the information Council requested is provided in their packets and she is available for any questions.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Mayor Sheckler, to suspend Council Rule 26(b) in order to adopt Draft Ordinance No. 05-217B on first reading. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Steenrod, to adopt Draft Ordinance No. 05-217B. Motion passed 5 to 1 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson opposed.

City Manager Piasecki read the ordinance by title into the record.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Petersen, to approve Draft Ordinance No. 05-217A on second reading. Motion passed 5 to 1 with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson opposed.

City Manager Piasecki read the ordinance by title into the record.

Draft Ordinance No. 05-226 [ASSIGNED ORD. NO. 1373] - Adoption 2006 Budget – 2nd Reading
Mayor Sheckler introduced the subject.

Finance Director Henderson noted that at the last meeting a break down of revenues and expenditures was presented and Council directed staff to review revenue estimates and look for other savings within the expenditures. That has been accomplished and she reviewed the new figures for revenues.

In regards to the \$84,000 Sales Tax adjustment, Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredericks informed Council that in measuring the level of activity in his department, that it is high for inspections and pre-applications, and he expects that to be maintained through the next couple of years. He displayed a graphic detailing the level of activity for the past several years and showing the expected activity for 2006 and 2007. He advised that his department estimates for next year will drop a little from the \$2 million in 2005, mainly due to the Highline School District projects that were done this year. He concluded by reviewing projected new construction building permits, noting that 2007 fees will climb as they will be subject to a valuation increase.

City Manager Piasecki reminded Council that he gives monthly updates for Council's review of various projects from all City departments.

Upon questioning about fees being charged for overtime, City Attorney Marousek advised that some jurisdictions charge per hour, no matter what, such as King County but, most jurisdictions charge a flat fee. Making comparisons, Des Moines is in the middle.

In regards to some policy questions, Finance Director Henderson noted the following:

- MCI Transfer: Staff did not do, and propose not to as long as the REET revenue remains as high as it is.
- Unrestricted Gas Tax: Will receipt, by law, into the Street Fund, but take extra unrestricted funds and transferring to the Arterial Street Fund.
- Balancing Structural Deficit with One-Time Revenues: Still have deficit, but much smaller.

Upon questioning, Finance Director Henderson advised that in 2006 we will restore funds back to the Revenue Stabilization Fund to restore it to its original balance.

Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredericks reviewed the Equipment Rental Budget request noting 4 pieces of equipment that will not be replaced at all, or are planned to be replaced with hand me downs from other departments, which will free up about \$131,367. He advised that he is requesting that some of this be used to replace a couple of mowers and to buy some efficiency saving, pavement extending equipment for a total of \$54,556. This will leave a carry forward balance of \$66,811.

In regards to being able to fully fund Human Services, City Manager Piasecki noted we will watch closely how revenues come in the first half of the year. If they come in higher than expected, staff can come to Council early in the next budget cycle and ask for direction to the Human Services Committee to let them know if there will be more funds available.

Councilmember Steenrod felt some sort of foot note should be provided to ensure that 6 months into the year Council should review human services funding.

Councilmember Sherman noted that he cannot support using one time monies in excess of what was used in 2005. He advised that he feels one time money should only be used for one time items such as capital improvements. He requested a report for next years budget to be able to determine if the City is really getting increased revenues and whether staff's estimates are correct. He expressed hope that next year there will be a sustainable budget that does not rely on one time monies.

Upon questioning, City Attorney Marousek advised she will check to see if the budget ordinance needs an emergency clause in order to ensure it is in effect on January 1st.

MOTION was made by Mayor Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember White, that in order to get Council's travel budget back to where it was in 2003, funds in the amount of \$7,500 be transferred from the Airport Defense Fund, and leave in condition that any travel over \$250.00 be subject to Council approval. Motion passed 4 to 2 with Councilmember Steenrod and Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson opposed.

MOTION was made by Mayor Sheckler to fund the Dictionary for 3rd Graders program sponsored by the Des Moines Rotary Club in the amount \$1,500. **MOTION FAILED** for lack of a second.

7:30 p.m. Mayor declared a 10 minute break to allow the City Attorney to prepare language so the draft budget ordinance will have the appropriate emergency clause for Council's consideration.

City Attorney Marousek distributed copies of the draft ordinance with changes to the title, section 8 and 9, addressing the emergency passage.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember White, to adopt Draft Ordinance No. 05-226 as amended, adopting the 2006 budget.

Councilmember Sherman advised that he is going to support the adoption, but stressed he wants to see another Levy Lid request come before the voters to bring Police service levels back to where they were in 1999, early next year. He stated that citizens need a safe and secure community, which in turn will encourage new business growth.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Sheckler read the ordinance by title into the record.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Sheckler noted the next regular meeting will be January 12, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:51 p.m., as there was no further business, Mayor Sheckler declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk