

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 23, 1999

The special meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 9:00 a.m. at Port Ludlow Conference Center, 200 Olympic Place, Port Ludlow, Washington.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Brazil, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman, Bob Sheckler, Gary Towe, and Don Wasson. Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, City Attorney Gary McLean, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, Chief of Police Don Obermiller, Finance Director Scott McCarty, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy. Facilitator: Nancy Truitt Pierce.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Continued Review of Accomplishments – Strategic Objectives Nos. 9 – 12

Through discussion, Council and staff identified the following accomplishments for Strategic Objectives Nos. 9 – 12.

9. Preserve and enhance passive recreation venues, e.g. greenbelts, stream corridors, viewpoints and open spaces.
 - Design completed for Marine View Drive Bridge.
 - King open space dedication.
 - Paved trails.
 - Conducted a comprehensive EIS review process for Westcot Project.
 - Rezoned Port land for lowest density use as per the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Worked with adjoining cities regarding Pacific Highway South safety and capacity improvements to ensure consistency and funding for the project.
10. Preserve and enhance our local authority and autonomy.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Brazil serves on the Economic Development Council and is Vice President of Suburban Cities Association.
 - City withdrew from PSRC.
 - Councilmember Sherman is past chair of the South County Area Transportation Board.
 - Councilmember Sherman serves on the SR 509 Executive Committee to represent Council's wishes.
 - Telecommunication laws were established.
 - Local legislative positions on various issues were adopted.
 - Council's SEPA authority was preserved and expanded.
 - Relationship between Des Moines and Kent was improved.
11. Redevelop the Highway 99 corridor including the Northeast Neighborhood (Pacific Ridge) utilizing comprehensive planning, zoning, crime prevention initiatives, improved transportation and economic development.
 - Performed pre-design on street improvements.

- Established the vision and goals for the redevelopment of the Pacific Ridge community.
 - Investigated international models for the community.
 - Began collaborative efforts with King County and others on the redevelopment plan.
12. Expand to the full extent the potential annexation area and establish logical boundaries with adjoining cities.
- Staff is currently working with Kent to revise the boundary.
 - Federal Way PAA working for City of Des Moines.
 - Boundary Review Board approved the Redondo-Riviera annexation.

Telecommunications Franchise and Infrastructure Opportunities

City Manager Olander noted that the TCI franchise was due for review the following year. He questioned whether Council wished staff to research whether the City should follow Tacoma's lead and become a telecommunication utility. As a telecommunication utility, the City would provide conduit, wire, and infrastructure. Cable content would be contracted out.

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil voiced opposition to the idea as he felt that cable did not qualify as a basic service such as water, power, and sewer.

City Manager Olander stated that the primary complaints against TCI involve cost, content choice, and lack of competition. While the city could negotiate additional performance standards for the franchise, the City does not have any ability to control content or channel selection.

Councilmember Sherman noted that satellite dishes provide competition to TCI.

Council concurred that no further action should be taken on the issue at this time.

Future RTA Routing

Mayor Thomasson suggested that Council select a route for the RTA project before outside regional bodies could dictate its placement. He suggested that the rail system travel the South Access Road from the airport along Interstate 5 rights-of-way to the Midway Theater area.

City Manager Olander suggested that Council approve a RTA route in the Comprehensive Plan and then submit the plan for approval through PSRC. He suggested that Council work with Kent on the project.

Councilmember Sherman thought that the City of Federal Way should also be consulted.

Council concurred that the issue should be included in the Pacific Ridge Neighborhood Improvement planning process.

Affordable Housing

Councilmember Towe stated that he had attended King County's Housing Summit regarding the results of the Housing Affordability Study. He questioned whether Des Moines should participate in sub-regional affordable housing discussions.

Councilmember Kaplan felt that it was important for the City to be a part of the political process to present their case and influence the future of the City.

Council decided to include a statement expressing opposition to the Buildable Lands Bill in their local legislative positions.

Electric Utility Deregulation Opportunities

City Manager Olander stated that state and federal officials have discussed deregulation of electric utilities. If this should occur, individual homeowners could be left with little negotiating power to purchase power at a reasonable rate. He noted that the Association of Washington Cities was currently exploring various options such as cities forming purchasing co-ops in order to provide lower costs to their citizens.

Council concurred that a legislative policy to track and monitor the electric utility deregulation issue should be developed.

Fireworks Regulations

Upon the request from a constituent, Councilmember Kaplan requested that Council consider the city's current regulations of fireworks. Since surrounding communities have banned fireworks, he noted that the city has seen an increase in noise, debris, damage to private property, and costs.

Chief of Police Obermiller confirmed that the number of Fourth of July house parties and police calls have increased since the banning of fireworks in surrounding communities.

City Attorney McLean noted that the week of Independence Day was the busiest week for prosecution and police reports.

City Attorney McLean agreed to research the City's liability if Council were to ban fireworks use in all areas of the city except in designated family areas.

Council concurred that the discussion regarding fireworks regulations should be continued during a study session.

Biannual Budget Process

City Manager Olander announced that a column listing projections for 2001 would be added to the budget for 2000. This column would provide an informal two-year projection for each line item.

Councilmember Kaplan stated that he preferred a five-year historical bases to prove the accuracy of the projections before approving a biannual budget process.

Review of Team Survey

Facilitator Truitt Pierce reviewed the results of the team survey. Average scores indicated that the team process was working well.

Closing Exercise

Council and staff reiterated their commitment to serve the citizens of Des Moines.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufty
Deputy City Clerk