

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

June 13, 1998

The special meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 8:35 a.m. at Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, 3073 Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale, 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, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Community Development Director Judith Kilgore, Chief of Police Don Obermiller, Park and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Chaufy. Facilitator: Nancy Truitt Pierce.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Personality Profiles

Facilitator Truitt Pierce reviewed the results of the personality profile gathered from the previous Council retreat. She reminded Council and staff that personality profiles are useful for providing a better understanding of self and others, identifying team behavioral styles, creating a motivational team environment, and identifying and minimizing conflicts with others.

Team Process Review

Facilitator Truitt Pierce shared the results of the team survey report. Average scores indicated that the team process was working well. She reminded staff and Council to continue working toward improved communication.

Review of Successes

Facilitator Truitt Pierce asked Council and staff to identify their major accomplishments of the past year. The following items were mentioned:

- Transition into new police station;
- Completion of Des Moines Creek Trail, Phase I;
- Land purchased for ball parks and Community/Senior Center;
- Transition into new Public Works/Park Maintenance facility;
- Assimilation of Woodmont/Redondo Area;
- Improvement of METRO bus service for the city;
- Accommodation of growth of City without additional staffing;
- Influence on SR509 activity;
- No construction of third runway;
- Increased regional influence;
- Des Moines Creek Drainage Basin Plan;
- Increased influence and integration with state agencies;
- City operating within its budget;
- Capital Improvement Projects staying within budget;

- Development of long-range Marina Capital Plan;
- Installation of basketball court at Zenith Park;
- Monthly neighborhood meetings;
- Partnerships with school and community organizations;
- Increased citizen involvement through the Senior Center, Des Moines University Program, and Citizen Academy;
- Improved community outreach and relation efforts;
- Progress in school district partnership efforts;
- Partnership with Highline Community College for storm drainage installation and recreational facilities usage; and
- Long term vision of the city maintained.

Review of Twenty-Year Vision Ideas

Council briefly reviewed the twenty-year vision ideas. They identified the following environmental and cultural issues influencing those ideas:

- Housing
 - Affordable housing
 - Growth accommodation
 - Regional growth
 - Mobile home park issues
 - Escalation of housing prices
- Increased regional traffic congestion
- Increased infrastructure improvement costs
- Reduced federal and state revenue sources
- Regional focus on stimulating economic growth
- Technology Influences
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Transmission of information
- Water Resources
 - Quality
 - Quantity
 - Sensitive Areas
 - Fish Habitats
- Aging Population
 - Expansion of retirement and care facilities
 - Shift in transportation needs
 - Shift in types of services needed
- Move from growth management to sustainability
- Pro-active health attitudes
- Increased violence, safety, and family issues
- Increased school-age population

Review of Council's Personal Goals

Council identified the following personal goals for the next two years:

Councilmember Sheckler

- Re-development of Highway 99 Corridor
 - Reduce crime
 - Upgrade business mix
 - Acquire land
 - Designate proper zoning
- Ballparks and Community/Senior Center
 - New bond issue presented to voters

Councilmember Sherman

- Completion of Des Moines Creek Trail
- Completion of Transportation Plan
- Continued regional involvement
- Evaluation of METRO route plans
- Continue meeting financial goals of City
- Maintain existing infrastructure
- Continue to work well as a Council

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil

- Improve regional recognition and participation
- Completion of Community/Senior Center
- Completion of sport park/ballfield improvements
- Improved transportation infrastructure
 - Highway 99
 - SR509 completed in line with City's objectives
 - Inter-city infrastructure

Councilmember Wasson

- Improve communication skills so as to convince Council to refocus their priorities
- Keep the City from wasting resources
- Improve infrastructure

Councilmember Towe

- Re-development of Highway 99
- Construction of Community/Senior Center and ballfields
- Improved transportation
- Defeat of Seattle Tacoma International Airport expansion efforts
- Maintain balance of priorities to ensure all areas are addressed
- Maintain vision of Council so decisions are working toward fulfilling the vision

Mayor Thomasson

- Defeat of airport expansion efforts
- Construction of ballfields and Community/Senior Center

- Establish framework for development of curb, gutter, sidewalks, and wider lanes on Highway 99
- Continue stewardship of existing facilities and assets

Councilmember Kaplan

- Legal victory on at least one issue regarding the Port of Seattle
- Re-development of Highway 99
 - Roadway improvements
 - Land and business development
- Light industrial uses in area north of South 216th Street
- Ground broken for Senior Center
- Increased partnership with Highline School District and Highline Community College for recreational facilities
- Preserve greenbelt areas within the City
- Maintain financial integrity
- Shift financial burden from residential to business base
- Expand community policing efforts

At 10:05 a.m., Facilitator Truitt Pierce declared at fifteen minute break.

Review of Mission, Vision, Values, Imperatives, and Strategic Objectives

Facilitator Truitt Pierce reviewed Council's previously identified mission, vision, values, imperatives, and strategic objectives. Through discussion, the strategic objectives were revised as follows:

1. Continue the legal and political efforts to keep the third runway from being built and minimize adverse airport impacts on Des Moines such as on going operations, expansion, support facilities development, environmental impacts and truck and passenger car traffic.
2. Provide and maintain an effective local and regional transportation infrastructure.
 - Review and update the Transportation Comprehensive Plan including regional integration.
 - Build Highway 99 Infrastructure.
 - Define a preferred plan for SR509, including 16th Avenue South arterial.
3. Expand citizen participation in city government. Promote:
 - Participation of diverse populations and opinions.
 - A sense of cohesive community identity and responsibilities, while fostering the character of individual neighborhoods.
 - Positive opportunities for citizen participation in decision-making.
4. Increase and develop facilities for active recreation.
 - Continue to develop city-school joint use and field improvements including Community College linkages.
 - Continue property acquisition and long-range development for sports fields.
 - Connect recreation facilities (trails).

- Provide bike and walking routes.
 - Explore and develop marine recreational opportunities.
5. Improve and expand community facilities including Community/Senior Center and Marina.
 6. Maintain the peace and security of the community by aggressively deterring criminal activity through community based policing, urban design and effective prosecution and court systems.
 7. Continue fiscal strength by initiating long range fiscal and economic planning.
 8. Update and rewrite zoning and other land use implementation codes.
 9. Preserve and enhance passive recreation venues, e.g. greenbelts, stream corridors, viewpoints, and open spaces.
 10. Preserve and enhance our local authority and autonomy.
 11. Redevelop the Highway 99 corridor including the Northeast Neighborhood utilizing comprehensive planning, zoning, crime prevention initiatives, improved transportation and economic development.
 12. Expand to the full extent of the potential annexation area and establish logical boundaries with adjoining cities.

Economic Redevelopment of Northeast Neighborhood

City Manager Olander introduced the subject. He informed Council of the increased crime and deterioration of the Northeast Neighborhood area. He suggested that the city utilize policing efforts, land use measures, park development, and economic development as a way to address the problem.

Chief of Police Obermiller reviewed the 1997 criminal activity and police calls for service reported for the Northeast Neighborhood as compared with four other areas of the City. He reported that the Northeast Neighborhood area accounts for at least fifty percent more activity, per capita, than any other area in the city. He showed a video of a news clip covering a drug bust in the area during the last month.

At 11:50 a.m., the meeting recessed for lunch. During lunch, a video that described how three cities dealt with similar problems in their community was viewed.

Chief of Police Obermiller described the characteristics of the Northeast Neighborhood area and its current police actions. He explained the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program and noted that the city would host a CPTED training workshop September 28 – October 2, 1998. He suggested that the CPTED program train a team of individuals to design and develop neighborhoods that deterred crime and improved the quality of life by focusing on site plans, landscaping, transportation, and code enforcement issues. The CPTED team would operate as a review board. Chief Obermiller also described plans to implement a Crime-Free Multi Housing program which would provide education and training for apartment management staff and owners in 1999.

Community Development Director Kilgore reviewed the proposed land use and economic development goals for the Northeast Neighborhood. She described the SEPA Planned Action program in which the city would perform SEPA on an area prior to a specific project being proposed. She noted that the program would expedite the building process

and give the builder certainty if they chose to stay within the identified parameters of design and construction. She questioned whether Council wanted staff to develop a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Plan for the area which incorporated the SEPA Planned Action program.

Council concurred that staff should utilize the SEPA Planned Action program.

City Manager Olander questioned whether Council wished staff to pursue the acquisition of land and solicit developers so as to set a specific tone for the area.

Councilmember Sheckler expressed support for a pilot demonstration.

Mayor Pro Tem Brazil and Councilmembers Towe and Wasson supported redesigning the complete area.

Mayor Thomasson supported working within the guidelines of the Master Plan.

Councilmember Kaplan stated that his support lay between the Master Plan and redesigning the complete area.

Councilmember Sherman voiced support for minor revisions only.

Community/Senior Center

City Manager Olander questioned whether Council wished to place a bond issue to finance Phase I of the Community/Senior Center project on the ballot. If so, he questioned when the issue should be presented to the voters.

After discussion, Council concurred that they should try to determine whether support exists for placing the revised issue before the voters. If positive backing was found, then Council supported conducting the vote in Spring, 1999.

Economic Development and the Utility Tax

Councilmember Kaplan asked Council to look long-term at the tax base of the City and consider broadening its tax base. He stated his opposition to the utility tax. He suggested that economic development replace the city's dependence upon the utility tax.

Potential Property Acquisition

In response to comments from the public received during the previous council meeting, Councilmember Towe questioned whether Council desired to acquire a specific property.

Council concurred that no action should be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Chaufty
Deputy City Clerk