

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 26, 1996

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room. Attendance included Councilmember Bruce Roberts, Councilmember Sheckler, Mayor Thomasson, City Manager Bob Olander, Planning Manager Corbitt Loch, and Chamber of Commerce Representative Mike Regeimbal.

The group began the meeting by discussing the general requirements of ESHB 1724 (regulatory reform), and the general structure and history of the Des Moines Municipal Code (DMMC). Mayor Thomasson asked staff to determine if the hearing examiner rules for non-land use issues would be changed by the proposed ordinance (Draft Ordinance 96-002).

The Committee directed staff to amend the draft ordinance so that Title 17 DMMC (Subdivisions) will continue to be "internally complete". Staff was directed to determine if the other affected Titles of DMMC should also be "internally complete", or if a new chapter within Title 18 DMMC should apply to Title 14 DMMC (Buildings and Construction), Title 16 DMMC (Environment), and Title 18 DMMC (Zoning). The Committee agreed that removal of the Planning Agency from project review processes was the preferred alternative for satisfying the one-hearing requirement of ESHB 1724.

Other direction provided by the Committee regarding Draft Ordinance 96-002 included:

- Ensure codes are explicit regarding when vesting occurs.
- Use of the Type I - Type V land use action categories is appropriate.
- Provide criteria for determining when informal or formal preapplication conferences are required.
- Maintain consistent code language/terminology throughout; i.e., "land use review" and "land use approval".
- Review existing public notice procedures for possible refinement.
- Within Title 17 DMMC (Subdivisions), retain the use of the term "planning official".
- Maintain or establish consistency regarding time requirements where possible.
- Staff is to meet with Mayor Thomasson to receive his suggestions for non-substantive changes to DMMC and Draft Ordinance No. 96-002.

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 7:00 p.m., April 2, 1996. Councilmember Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mayor Thomasson and Planning Manager Loch met briefly in order to discuss Mayor Thomasson's recommendations regarding amendments to Title 17 DMMC (Subdivisions).

Minutes by Corbitt Loch.