

## REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 1, 2007

The regular study session of Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Sheckler in the Council Chambers, 2163011<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, #B.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the Flag was led by Councilmember White.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler (left at 8:40 p.m.), Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Dan Sherman and Susan White. Absent: Councilmember Carmen Scott. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, Acting City Attorney Richard Brown, Police Commander John O'Leary, Parks and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell and City Clerk Denis Staab.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Scott.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kathy Keene, 14208 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Burien

Ms. Keene thanked Council for their great support of the Farmers Market at the Des Moines Marina. As a participant in last year's Farmers Market she especially appreciated Council waving business license fees for all the participants.

### AGENDA REVISION

Mayor Sheckler noted he will take the draft resolution regarding the 2007 Farmer's Market first and after that item, Council will need to go into an Executive Session for about a 20 minutes.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Draft Resolution No. 07-027 [ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 1033] Farmer's Market for 2007

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that the 2007 Farmers Market will again be located at South Marina Park and open to the public beginning Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and every Saturday through October 27<sup>th</sup>, and operate between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. She introduced Wendie Dyson, Manager of the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Dyson proceeded to provide Council with the following information regarding the Farmers Market:

- *MISSION*: To create a vibrant farmers market where the Des Moines community can buy local, family farmed foods grown in a way that sustains the land and our health.
- *VISION*: We envision a marketplace that is the hub of community activity, offering a bounty of nutritious foods grown by Washington stewardship farms with a selection of unique local crafts.

She informed Council that the community provided positive comments and listed the top four reasons why they came to the market in 2006 as:

1. Buy fresh, locally grown foods
2. Support Des Moines community

3. Community atmosphere
4. Buy organic foods or foods grown using environmentally-friendly methods

She further noted the 2006 market averaged 150 shoppers every Saturday, with farmers averaging \$488 a Saturday, which was higher than the first year of the Seattle Market. She noted the Market's 2007 marketing goals include: 12% increase in sales, provide a weekly Market column in the Des Moines News, accept WIC and basic food stamps, increase outreach to families, provide special community events, expand selection of farm products including eggs, meat and cheese. In conclusion, she thanked all the dedicated community volunteers, City staff and local businesses that helped produce a successful Market and encouraged other citizens to volunteer this year. She advised she is looking forward to a successful season two, and read a statement in support from Joan Thomas, Co-Chair of Farming and the Environment.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember White, to adopt Draft Resolution No. 07-027, authorizing the Des Moines Farmers Market between June 2, 2007 and October 27, 2007, at the Des Moines Marina and to direct the City Manager to provide support services and amenities for the event as proposed in the draft Resolution. Also to enter into an Agreement between the City of Des Moines and Farming and the Environment for the 2007 Farmers Market as proposed in Draft Resolution 07-027, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

Councilmember White expressed the hope that eventually the Farmers Market could become a year around event.

Councilmember Kaplan stated an event such as this gives flavor to the City and he expressed a good feeling that things are changing for the better for the community.

Mayor Sheckler noted he is looking forward to a bigger and even better Farmers Market.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

#### 8:07 p.m. Executive Session

Mayor Sheckler announced that the Council will convene in to an Executive Session

Acting City Attorney Brown noted the purpose of the Executive Session will be to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City is, or is likely, to become a party and about which public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the City. The Session should last approximately 20 minutes.

**Present:** Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Thomasson, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Dan Sherman and Susan White. Also present were City Manager Tony Piasecki, Acting City Attorney Richard Brown, Court Administrator Jennefer Henson and outside Legal Counsel Pat Anderson.

At 8:30 p.m. City Manager Piasecki announced that the Executive Session will continue until 8:40 p.m.

**Adjournment**

At 8:40 p.m. the Executive Session adjourned with NO FORMAL ACTION taken.

At 8:40 p.m. City Manager Piasecki announced that the Executive Session has adjourned and Council will return to open session after a 10 minute break. [ED NOTE: Mayor Sheckler left the meeting for the remainder of the evening.]

8:50 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson assumed the presiding officer role.

#### Wind Storm Event - Follow-up Report

Police Commander O'Leary noted that on December 15, 2006, a severe winter wind storm struck the Puget Sound area. The sustained high winds caused severe damage to the electrical power grid causing power outages lasting several days in many communities including Des Moines. He informed Council in the aftermath of the storm City staff and fire officials debriefed events surrounding the storm including evaluating, planning, response and future considerations for similar emergencies. He reviewed several assessments derived from the debriefing process as follows:

- Better staff coordination and assignment of work duties. Better define essential personnel.
- More effective communication between regional partners.
- Activation of emergency operations center, at least on an advisory level.
- Emergency power options for other City facilities such as generators or ability to plug in generator systems. Currently only Police and Public Works have generators.
- Develop emergency shelter options within the City. Landmark on the Sound was under renovation and mostly vacant so were able to offer shelter for this event.
- Need additional four wheel drive vehicles within the City wide fleet. Can be accomplished as vehicles are normally replaced.
- Finalize the City's emergency management plan.
- Continue participation for the development of a Regional/joint Emergency Management Coordinator position as authorized in 2007 budget.
- Continue to meet on a quarterly basis specifically to take action on emergency management needs. Plan drills and review training.
- Internet based and physical kiosk (in several locations) for posting of emergency information.

Council discussion ensued including: the need to look at Middle and High Schools in the City that have gyms for sleeping and restroom facilities with showers to be used as emergency shelters. It was felt that the City and other jurisdictions should share in the cost of such emergency shelters.

Councilmember Sherman felt that it is the Governments obligation to provide safety and security as primary government services. He felt our normal posting locations (City Hall, Marina and Redondo Post Office) would be logical as kiosks with updates provided at least once a day, if not a couple of times a day.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson felt government does play a role, but citizens must be able to take care of themselves, and noted there is a fine balance between responsibilities

City Manager Piasecki stated Des Moines population is around 30,000 and the total number that took shelter at Landmark on the Sound was around 200. He felt it is important at least for some facilities such as the Activity Center to be open enough for citizens to get something hot to drink, get warm and perhaps learn what is currently going on. He noted most people are advised to keep 3 days worth of supplies, but he felt 10 days worth would be better.

Upon questioning, Commander O'Leary stated that the City's Emergency Management Plan should be ready for Council review within the next several weeks.

Interlocal Agreement with Highline School District for Zenith Park

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pina, seconded by Councilmember White, to approve the Draft Interlocal Agreement between Highline School District and the City of Des Moines for the use of the Zenith Park site, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

Councilmember Sherman stated that in both the 2006 and 2007 budgets there has been an increase in spending of one-time revenues. He noted there are many proposals seeking funding and Council approves what it can, mainly those that in the end will bring in revenues. He feels that a playfield is not an essential service and he is uncomfortable in authorizing spending additional money and stated he cannot support this particular item based on the City's current financial circumstances.

Councilmember Pina noted that the School District is not in the business of maintaining Parks. He advised that they have maintained the Park, for the past two years. He stated that if Council wants to reduce the City's park service, then they should not fund this 50% share of maintaining this Park. He felt the Park will be closed if we do not enter into this agreement.

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that the School District will maintain the Park during the busiest season of April through August, and the City will maintain from September through March. She advised Council that she is not asking for additional funding, as she anticipates absorbing the cost within her existing budget, and reallocating staff. She noted that the use of Steven J. Underwood Park has been much greater than anticipated, and the use of the Field House Park has grown to the point that it is being used year-round. She also pointed out that due to the School District's building program many of the play fields are now unavailable and there is a tremendous demand for play fields.

Upon questioning by Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson, Parks and Recreation Director Thorell noted the City will pay the water bill, however at this time she does not anticipate using it that much. She advised that port-a-potty would be paid by the user group. She stated this Park would be used as a practice field. She noted the agreement is good for one year, and hopes that in the future the City will be in a position to make a multi-year agreement. She reminded Council that in 2003 the Parks Master Plan acknowledged the City is 30 acres shy of meeting the goals of the Zenith neighborhood for Parks.

Councilmember White acknowledged that financially things are lean, but they are improving. As a Councilmember she wants a livable community, with places to help keep kids busy especially with sports. She advised since there are no additional funds being requested she will support the motion.

Councilmember Kaplan noted this is not an easy decision as he shares some of Councilmember Sherman's concerns, however he will support the motion for one year.

Councilmember Pina stated that this is a deal the City cannot pass up, especially with the need for Parks in the Zenith area.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson felt it would have been better to have this discussion as part of the Budget process. He expressed some concern as he feels there is uncertainty as to how we will operate this Park and at what level. He noted he can support this for one year, but looks to the City Manager to set parameters as to what will and will not be done with this facility. He acknowledged the fields used by Little League at Olympic and Mt. Rainier Schools are not available. He noted he would have liked more information in the Agenda Item about what the plan for this facility actually is, what is the level of service and expenses, along with what other work will not be done in order to staff this facility.

City Manager Piasecki advised that it is his intention that this facility will be very minimally maintained, and the user groups will be the first looked to for any improvements to the field situation. He stated the reason this was not included in the 2007 budget discussion was because we had not reached any kind of agreement with the School District at that time. He informed Council that if it looks like we want to continue beyond this year, he will do his best to get that into the 2008 budget process discussions.

Councilmember Sherman noted that if staff can be reprogrammed to work on this facility, then he has questions as to why Council authorized that position in the first place. He stated while his position may not be popular, it is what he feels is a financially responsible position in the best interest of the City.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed 4 to 1 with Councilmember Sherman opposed.

Draft Ordinance No. 06-207 [ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 1398] Street Vacation Revenue - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Sherman and passed, to suspend Council Rule 26(b) in order to enact Draft Ordinance No. 06-207 on first reading.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to approve Draft Ordinance No. 06-207.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson read the draft ordinance by title into the record.

Councilmember Kaplan advised that the Public Safety and Transportation Committee has reviewed the draft ordinance regarding the use of funds from the sale of public street vacations, and the draft ordinance meets Council's concerns, and is consistent with State law.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Pro Tem Thomasson announced that the next regular meeting will be March 8, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:49 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab  
City Clerk