

SPECIAL MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

June 27, 2009

The special meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheckler at 9:08 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sherman, Councilmember Susan White, Councilmember Scott Thomasson, Councilmember Ed Pina, Councilmember Dave Kaplan and Councilmember Carmen Scott. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, Planning, Building, and Public Works Director Grant Fredericks and Planning Manager Denise Lathrop and Permit Specialist Kimberly Powell.

Philip Johnson, 22555 10th Ave S

Mr. Johnson expressed his concern about the marina not being used to its capability. He stated that Des Moines has the potential to attract people but they are being deterred by Burien and the Kent Station. Councilmember Scott asked Mr. Johnson his opinion of how he saw this happening. Mr. Johnson replied that the citizens feel there is too much walking and nothing to do. He suggested working on the parking and not so much on buying property.

Dan Caldwell, 19547 2nd Ave S

Mr. Caldwell introduced himself and provided a handout to the council. He proceeded with his thoughts on the city's budget problems and that increasing sales taxes, excise taxes, and property taxes would stop the layoffs. Mayor Sheckler reminded Mr. Caldwell that today's topic is limited to downtown planning. Mr. Caldwell expressed his concerns in not wanting Des Moines to end up like Edmonds and felt that Des Moines needed to use all available property to build attracting businesses.

Teresa Matthews, 23001 Marine View Drive

Ms. Matthews expressed her concern about the marina and her vision to see it be a "maritime" theme. Her suggestions to help initiate changes were to ask seniors what they want, to get Highline Community College and Central Washington University involved, specialty shops on Main Street, bike allocations, and allow senior citizens to apply for anything. Help bring people back into our community.

Mayor Sheckler announced that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the downtown planning. Planning Manager Lathrop handed out a spreadsheet showing the Des Moines zoning district in downtown. Ms. Lathrop and Council proceeded to review the spreadsheet. Numerous items were discussed in length including guidelines, standards, parking, building heights, setbacks, code enforcement and city priorities. Mayor Pro Tem Sherman left at 11:00 a.m. and at 12:00 noon Councilmember White excused herself for the day. Mayor Sheckler called for a 30 minute lunch recess.

After reconvening from lunch, City Manager Piasecki suggested Planning Manager Lathrop finish her presentation prior to further comments. Planning Manager Lathrop handed out a "Downtown

Water System Evaluation” map. Public Works Director Fredricks explained that Water District 54 is abandoning waterlines in alleys and is no longer making connections in alleys. Councilmember Scott asked Public Works Director Fredricks where, in the street, will the cuts be made when the new pipes are laid. Public Works Director Fredricks stated that it would be within 10 feet of centerline.

The discussion of storefront visuals was brought up and the difference between regulations vs. guidelines. The council felt that they did not want to restrict creativity but rather set guidelines. Public Works Director Fredricks explained that each professional, whether it is an architect, investor, or designer, is looking for different guidelines in accordance for what their profession is. It was decided that the council will set a date in the future for a work session to go over the wording on an item by item basis.

Mayor Sheckler asked Council if they wanted to vote on using the name of “Marina District” and to designate at which point it was to start and stop. Council decided that they wished for all seven members to be present prior to voting. At this time Councilmember Scott made the request of Public Works Director Fredricks to consider the issue of water a priority and hoped that Cliff Avenue would be included in that consideration.

ACTION/DIRECTION

No decision reached. Consensus by Council was the need for all seven members to be present. Discussion will continue in the future.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Study Session July 2, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:12 p.m., Mayor Sheckler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Powell
Permit Specialist