

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheckler at 7:29 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sherman, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Carmen Scott, Scott Thomasson and Susan White. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Pat Bosmans, Finance Director Paula Henderson, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury, Transportation Engineer Dan Brewer, Administrative Assistant Erika Sullivan and Clerk Autumn Lingle.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Clark B. Snur, 37423 8th Ave. S., Des Moines

Mr. Snur is concerned about trees being tagged and possibly cut down in Woodmont Canyon.

Marion Kline, 815 S. 216th St. Apt. 139, Des Moines

Ms. Kline stated the Peace Fair, with Lou Cox as guest speaker, is March 21, 2009 at Des Moines United Methodist Church.

Roy Dunn, 22616 Pacific Hwy. S. #A, Des Moines

Mr. Dunn requested grandfather rights for his building. The structure was built before the current parameters limiting the amount of auto businesses on Pacific Highway South.

Alli Larkin, 21937 7th Ave. S., Des Moines

Ms. Larkin stated she is dedicated to peace and clean water for all living things. She presented an update on the campaign to establish a United States Department of Peace.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS & COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Transportation Benefit District (TBD)

Councilmember Kaplan noted the TBD met right before this evening's Council meeting. It was the first recorded meeting and will be broadcast over the course of the week.

Anniversary of Policeman Steven Underwood's murder

Councilmember Kaplan observed it has been 8 years since Officer Underwood was murdered. He appreciates the hard work of the Des Moines police on all citizens' behalf.

Tom Mannard, former Mayor of Des Moines

Councilmember Kaplan paid tribute to former Mayor Mannard and made note of his passing. He praised volunteers for their contributions to the City.

Suburban Cities Association (SCA)

Councilmember Pina summarized items discussed at the SCA meeting.

Small Business Center

Councilmember White recognized efforts by Zev Siegl from the Small Business Development Center.

Crosswalk on Marine View Drive South

Councilmember White noted that “The Reuben” restaurant owner Michael Rovech requests a signalized crosswalk on Marine View Drive South & 219th for pedestrians crossing at that intersection.

Saltwater State Park

Councilmember White suggested that a conversation with KOA Campgrounds occur to discuss a possible arrangement to use Saltwater State Park so that it may avoid closure.

City Employees

Councilmember White thanked all City employees for attending the Council meeting. In addition, she expressed gratitude to City volunteers for all their efforts.

House of Representatives Resolution #2009-4619

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman noted Representatives Dave Upthegrove and Tina Orwell of the 33rd District submitted this resolution, adopted February 19, 2009. This resolution recognizes and congratulates the City of Des Moines and its citizens on the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Des Moines.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

Anniversary of Officer Steven Underwood’s death

Mayor Sheckler acknowledged the anniversary of Steven Underwood’s death.

Washington D.C.

He discussed the trip that he and City Manager Piasecki took to Washington D.C. They met with Congressman Adam Smith and Senators Cantwell and Murray. He stated it was a successful endeavor, he also noted that Congressman Smith had obtained an appropriation of \$500,000.00 in the Federal Governments’ 2009 budget for the Citys’ Downtown Water System.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Highline Community College Small Business Development Center

Zev Siegl, the lead advisor of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for Southwest King County at Highline Community College described the functions and assistance provided by the Center and its staff for small business owners. The SBDC's primary support comes from the South King County Economic Development Initiative (SKCEDI), a partnership of the cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Federal Way with additional support from King County, the Port of Seattle, and Highline Community College. He introduced Rich Shockley, his partner. Mr. Shockley shared how businesses find the SBDC and the types of clients and services offered by the SBDC. Chris Mitchell, owner of the newspaper Primetime Northwest, was introduced as a representative of a SBDC client.

Three Tree Yacht Club

City Manager Piasecki commented that the Three Tree Yacht Club has requested that their summer sailboat race series that departs from the Des Moines Marina be sanctioned as a 50th Birthday Event.

Envision Midway Project

The Envision Midway Project has a public open house on Wednesday March 18, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Kent Fire Station No.73, 26512 Military Road South.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Draft

The City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Draft is now available for viewing on the City's website (www.desmoineswa.gov) and the public is invited for input at an open house scheduled for March 31 2009, 6 p.m.-8p.m. at the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Ave South.

Minor Home Repair Program

Erika Sullivan, Administrative Assistant for the City of Des Moines, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Minor Home Repair Program. She discussed funding and the services provided by this program. Citizens interested in finding out more information are encouraged to call 206 870-6558 or email Nancy Uhrich at NUhrich@desmoineswa.gov.

CONSENT CALENDAR was read by Clerk Lingle.

1. Motion is to approve the regular minutes of February 5 and 12, 2009.
2. Findings: Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the City Council.

Motion: As of this date the Council, by unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers and payroll transfers included in the above list and further described as follows:

Claim checks # 118308 through #118467 & electronic fund transfers in the total amount of \$561,322.07. Payroll fund transfers in the total amount of \$470,931.12.

~~3. Draft Resolution No. 09-039 [ASSIGNED NO. 1097] — Title: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Washington, regarding wages, hours and working conditions for General Employees for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. [NOTE: Pulled by Mayor Pro Tem Sherman]~~

~~MOTION is to approve Draft Resolution No. 09-039.~~

~~4. Draft Resolution No. 09-040 [ASSIGNED NO. 1098] — Title: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Washington, approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Des Moines and Teamsters Local 763 regarding wages, hours and working conditions for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. [NOTE: Pulled by Mayor Pro Tem Sherman]~~

~~MOTION is to approve Draft Resolution No. 09-040.~~

5. Motion is to approve the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the Southwest King County Economic Development Initiative Business Attraction Program with Highline Community College and the cities of Burien, SeaTac, Tukwila, the Port of Seattle and King County for support of the SKCEDI Business Attraction Program and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sherman and passed unanimously, to approve the remaining consent items as read.

REMOVED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Consent Item #3 - Draft Resolution No. 09-039 & Consent Item #4 - Draft Resolution No. 09-040

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman stated he pulled both of these Items because of concerns that these agreements are insufficient. He noted that discussion with employees about layoffs and salary decreases needs to occur before a decision is made. He stated that these contracts don't represent the necessary changes required for the current financial state of the City.

Mayor Sheckler recused himself from Item #3.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Scott, to adopt Draft Resolution No. 09-039 adopting an agreement between the City of Des Moines and the general employees for the period of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 and authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement substantially in the form as attached and that the terms and conditions established in this agreement shall apply to all general employees.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed 5 to 1. Mayor Pro Tem Sherman opposed. Mayor Sheckler recused.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Thomasson, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to adopt Draft Resolution No. 09-040 adopting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Des Moines and Teamsters Local 763 for the period January 1, 2009 to December 21, 2011, and authorizing the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as attached.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed 6 to 1. Mayor Pro Tem Sherman opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Draft Ordinance No. 09-022 Establishing a Pavement Mitigation Fee - 1st Reading

Transportation Engineer Brewer gave an overview of this ordinance with a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation answered questions regarding fees, cuts in pavement, pavement life spans, costs, and pavement treatments.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Scott, to continue the hearing on April 9, 2009.

Councilmember Pina directed staff to bring the ordinance back with a draft fee schedule and ensure that parties impacted by this ordinance be advised of the hearing.

Councilmember Thomasson requested more justification for this ordinance.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed unanimously.

Agenda Revision

Mayor Sheckler announced an agenda change. Items will be addressed in the following order.

- New Business Item #2, Financial Report/Budgeting for Outcomes/Priorities of Government.
- New Business Item #1, Alignment for New Sidewalk on East Side of Marina's North Parking Lot.

At 9:14 p.m., Mayor Sheckler announced a 10-minute break.

At 9:24 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Report/Budgeting for Outcomes/Priorities of Government

Budgeting for Outcomes/Priorities of Government

Mayor Sheckler requested that Council give him direction concerning this topic since there is no information in the packet regarding budgeting for outcomes and priorities of government.

Councilmember Scott requested a clear explanation of what the “priorities of government” means. She’s unable to make a decision until she has that necessary information.

Mayor Sheckler referred to an expert that had presented information on this topic in the past. He felt was it invalid for a city the size of Des Moines.

Councilmember White agreed with Councilmember Scott and Mayor Sheckler. She felt it was not applicable for the City.

Councilmember Kaplan reiterated his stand on changes required to make a difference in the City’s finances. He noted that the “priorities of government” model is that the Council as policy makers, with input from staff, prioritizes the services the City should provide and how it should be provided based on the resources available. The first priorities are the health, safety and welfare of the City’s residents, then deciding on the revenue choices necessary to fund the items prioritized below them. He commented on the procedures the Council has utilized in past budgets. He would like to implement a more systematic approach to determining services that are essential and those that are desired. He stated that if Council does not change the way they budget the City will continually be in this dilemma.

Councilmember Pina concurred that prioritizing is crucial.

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman noted that he supported this concept in the past. He favors a more formal process for budgeting. He specified an urgency to address the City’s finances. He is not certain the Council needs a new structure for budgeting.

Councilmember Thomasson recounted that he had not voted to pass the budget for the last 5 years because Council has not dealt with the issue that they are spending more than the City is accruing. It is a difficult task to undertake. It is the citizens’, not Councils, priorities that are important. He agreed with Councilmember Kaplan that the current process has not provided good results. He stated he would be willing to undertake a different approach. He remarked Council has been disinclined to deal with the structural imbalance of the revenues. He is open to any course of action that is required to balance the budget.

Councilmember White voiced that part of Councils’ function is to create a vision that the citizens of Des Moines can picture their city becoming. She added that the Council may have to look at combining services with other cities or worst-case scenario merging with other cities.

Financial Report

Finance Director Henderson summarized the City's finances for Council. She stated the revenues for fourth quarter are unprecedented in their decline. She stated that the year-end estimates showed a negative \$39,000. Preliminary revenue estimates are down \$511,000 as compared to actual revenue for 2008. This year started with no reserves. She requested Council's approval to transfer funds from the revenue stabilization money to the general fund. She will return with a budget ordinance for Council approval at the meeting on March 26, 2009.

City Manager noted a transfer of funds would have the following stipulations:

- Property taxes would be deposited in the revenue stabilization fund.
- A cost-cutting program to replenish the fund balance.

City Manager Piasecki requested that Finance Director provide:

- An estimate of how much revenue is anticipated for all of 2009 given current trends.
- Review current budget and based on expenditure patterns how much money will be spent if there is no change in spending patterns.

In addition, he listed ideas that he and City Directors composed for budget cutting:

- Hiring freeze.
- One yearly furlough day per employee.
- Less expensive healthcare plan.

Councilmember Kaplan mentioned the option of Council foregoing their salaries. He stated this would demonstrate leadership example for City staff.

City Manager and Council discussed designating priorities, furloughs, overtime, healthcare plans, and staff reductions, phone systems, reducing travel, purchasing and an assortment of techniques for cost cutting.

Council scheduled a retreat for Saturday, March 28, 2009 for an in-depth discussion of the City's financial status.

At 10:15 p.m., Mayor Sheckler left and Mayor Pro Tem Sherman assumed the mayoral responsibility.

Alignment for New Sidewalk on East Side of North Parking Lot

Harbormaster Dusenbury provided a PowerPoint presentation on the design options for a new sidewalk at the Marina on the east side of the north parking lot.

At 10:26 p.m., **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Kaplan, seconded by Councilmember Pina and passed unanimously, to extend the meeting until 10:40 p.m.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to move that Council directs the staff to proceed with design of the new sidewalk on the east side of the north parking lot at the Marina using the alignment shown in Alternative #2/90%.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Regular Meeting March 26, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:34 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Lingle
Clerk