

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 2, 2009

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

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

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sherman, Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Carmen Scott, Susan White. Absent: Councilmember Scott Thomasson. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson, City Attorney Pat Bosmans, Planning, Building and Public Works (PBPW) Director Grant Fredricks, Assistant Director of Utilities and Environmental Engineer Loren Reinhold and Clerk Autumn Lingle.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Pina, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to excuse Councilmember Thomasson.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

#### Midway Sewer District Comp Plan

Assistant Director of Utilities and Environmental Engineer Reinhold introduced Susan Boyd of Pace Engineers. She presented a PowerPoint display of the Draft Sewer Comprehensive Plan and explained that this plan provides an efficient sanitary sewer system. She added the District has approved and accepted the plan. In addition, it has been through the SEPA hearings, received agency comments, submitted to DOE and the neighboring jurisdictions. Currently the plan is at the point of approval and adoption from all the agencies including the City of Des Moines.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sherman, to adopt Draft Resolution No. 09-057 [*Assigned No.1099*] approving the Midway Sewer District 2008 Comprehensive Sewer System Plan.

Councilmember Kaplan noted that those on septic systems within the City might be required in the future to connect to sewer systems due to environmental issues and federal requirements.

Councilmember Scott asked if properly functioning septic tanks would eventually be required to connect to the sewer system. Ms. Boyd stated the countywide policy is to have every area served that is within the urban growth area (including suburban or country-sized lots), but there is not a proactive effort to connect septic served properties to sewer systems.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed unanimously.

#### Water District #54 Downtown Water System

PBPW Director Fredricks provided a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the current Downtown Water System and identified the infrastructure improvements that are necessary for the future. In addition, he addressed the funding required for these improvements.

City Manager Piasecki raised the possibility of creating a ULID (utility local improvement district) to assist with funding. He asked for direction from Council on how they want staff to proceed in obtaining funds.

Eric Clarke, Operations Manager for Water District #54, stated the cost of starting the ULID process is prohibitive.

John Hastig with Grey Osborne (an engineering firm consulting with District #54) noted that there are several risks involved with forming a ULID.

Councilmember Pina voiced that the water system needs to be addressed if City development is to occur.

**MOTION** was made by Mayor Sheckler, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to direct staff to initiate the process for the City to assume Water District #54.

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman remarked he would require information that is more detailed before he could determine the correct course of action to pursue. He added he is concerned about how undertaking the ULID would affect the City's financial state.

Councilmember Kaplan mentioned he was willing to support the motion as long as it did not commit the City to taking over the Water District. He stated there are pros and cons to this undertaking and careful consideration must be exercised before a decision is reached.

Councilmember Scott requested clarification of the Motion.

Mayor Sheckler stated that the Motions intent is to help make a determination if assuming the Water District is something the City should execute.

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

At 8:38 p.m., Mayor Sheckler announced a 10-minute break followed by a 15-minute Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations. At 9:00 p.m., Assistant City Manager Ericson announced a 5-minute extension to the Executive Session.

#### Executive Session

Mayor Sheckler called the Executive Session to order at 8:38 p.m. City Hall Conference Room.

Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sherman, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Carmen Scott, and Susan White. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki and Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson.

No formal action was taken.

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

### 2009 City Budget Short Fall and Balancing

City Manager Piasecki distributed an updated City budget spreadsheet and discussed the listed items with Council. He disclosed that a Councilmember requested no salary payment be made to him for the rest of the year.

Mayor Sheckler acknowledged that Councilmember Kaplan declined his salary for the remainder of 2009.

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman asked for confirmation that the City was staying within the law of the Levy Lid Lift regarding the Police Department. City Manager Piasecki reaffirmed that the City is compliant with the law.

City Manager Piasecki noted other options for reducing costs include:

- Changing medical plans.
- Suspending contributions to deferred compensation plan.
- Implementing furlough days.

Furthermore, he discussed the possibility that the City's contributions to the state retirement systems on behalf of the employees may be reduced as part of Washington States strategy to reduce their costs to balance their budget. The City has no control over this last item.

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman indicated he desires permanent reductions because the economy may take an extended period of time before rebounding.

Councilmember Scott did not favor cuts regarding the City Currents. She voiced it was an important and newsworthy publication. Mayor Sheckler agreed with her.

City Manager Piasecki suggested this item be placed on the agenda for April 9, 2009.

### Draft Ordinance No. 09-002 Special Events

Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson provided a presentation regarding a proposed Special Events Ordinance. She requested direction and comments from Council.

The objectives outlined by ACM Ericson for Special Event Permits are:

- Formalize the Special Event process.
- Identify real costs to Support Events.
- Provide a mechanism for cost recovery.
- Create a vehicle for sponsoring organizations to request City assistance.
- Formalize the process for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments exemptions from Special Events process.
- Special Event Permit exceptions.

The Special Event Application helps prepare the City for unusual circumstances that may affect citizens. Traffic safety, alerting emergency personnel, police and fire officials and ensuring public well being along with cost recovery are the main goals of the application process.

Councilmember Scott commented she understands the need for informing the City when a Special Event may occur so that it can accordingly prepare for the occasion but, cooperation with its citizens is part of being a caring community and this may be too much government involvement.

Councilmember Kaplan stated there is a balance that needs to be achieved and questioned whether this is too much process for the minimal impact expected.

Councilmember White concurred with opinions expressed by Councilmembers Scott and Kaplan.

Mayor Po Tem Sherman agreed the form was laborious but favors rules and guidelines to help keep the community safe.

Assistant City Manager Ericson asked for clarification on what Special Events would require Council approval.

Council directed staff to create a simplified application and bring it back to Council.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Regular Meeting April 9, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:16 p.m., **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Lingle  
Clerk