

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL  
July 15, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Sheckler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Pina.

ROLL CALL - Present were Mayor Bob Sheckler; Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Kaplan; Councilmembers Matt Pina, Dan Sherman, Carmen Scott, and Melissa Musser.

Councilmember Scott Thomasson was absent. Councilmember Pina moved to excuse Councilmember Thomasson; Mayor Pro-Tem Kaplan, second; all the votes were ayes.

Staff present were Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson; City Attorney Pat Bosmans; Planning Building and Public Works Director Grant Fredricks; Parks Recreation and Senior Services Director Patrice Thorell; Marina Service Manager Joey Jewell; Temporary Economic Development Manager Marion Yoshino; Marina Lead Scott Wilkins; Park Recreation and Senior Services Office Manager Bonnie Wilkins; City Clerk Sandy Paul

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Amber Scott, 22807 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South spoke about having recently been elected to Destination Des Moines. She gave a short history of the committee and said she would serve and work to help the community.

B. J. Bjerneby, 517 South 212<sup>th</sup>, Bjerneby's Carstar at 220<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Highway, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and commented about the need to have a sign code that allows businesses to put up good signs.

Patricia Bush, 25914 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, spoke about the rules that keep day care facilities from having signs advertising their businesses.

NOTE: Mayor Sheckler said that the Sign Code would be discussed at the Economic and Finance Committee meeting on July 29, 2010, and that it was a public meeting open to all who were interested.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS/ COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Scott mentioned that the Farmer's Market was doing well, with new items available each week. She added that a planned cookbook would showcase items available at the Farmer's Market. She also called attention to the *Honoring Aging* Mural installation on the wall near the south end of the block at the QFC.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kaplan had no report.

Councilmember Musser reported that the Senior Services Committee had met and that the *Celebrating Hats* event was sold out. She also urged citizens and visitors to access the *Lost in Des Moines* website for valuable local information.

Councilmember Pina reported on attending the Suburban Cities Association (SCA) small cities subcommittee meeting and Public Issues Committee (PIC) held last week. He provided one of his

meeting handouts to be copied for distribution to all Councilmembers in order for them to be able to read about the work of SCA and its committees.

Councilmember Thomasson was absent.

Councilmember Sherman thanked Councilmember Pina for his involvement in and excellent reports about the activities of the Suburban Cities Association. He also told the Council and audience about the United Way Lunch Project at Midway Park for Des Moines youth. Some of the food comes from the Des Moines food bank. Part of the funding comes from the Legacy Foundation. Activities have also been added to the daily food program.

### PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mayor Sheckler expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Destination Des Moines group, which is functioning as an events group and not a Chamber of Commerce. He was anticipating an excellent Waterland Festival next year.

Mayor Sheckler told the Council about receiving an invitation to attend an Economic Development and Green Living meeting in China. All expenses once he arrives at the Conference are paid but he would need to provide his own airfare to the event. Mayor Sheckler requested that the Council support his use of City funds to purchase his airfare.

Councilmember Scott moved to approve the Mayor's use of remaining City Council travel, membership/registration and miscellaneous funds in the amount of \$1,400 to pay for Mayor Sheckler's air transportation to China; Mayor Pro-Tem Kaplan, second. Councilmember Sherman's vote was the single *nay* vote.

### ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson introduced Susan Waters who built the *Lost in Des Moines* website.

Ms. Ericson also announced that due to the hard work of parks staff, the Des Moines Creek Trail would be open temporarily for citizen use. The Trail may need to be closed later in the year to deal with some issues with a supporting wall.

She also announced that the east end of the Beach Park would be closed for creek dredging beginning the middle of next week.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion is to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2010.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF FINDINGS:

Findings will be reported at the July 22, 2010 meeting.

All of the votes were in favor of approving the Consent Calendar.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. City of Des Moines Economic Development Efforts

Following a Presentation by Building Planning Public Works Director Grant Fredricks; Marina Service Manager Joey Jewell; and Temporary Economic Development Manager Marion Yoshino, business owners were invited to comment on what was working in the City of Des Moines and what the City could do better.

## 2. Public Input: City of Des Moines Business Climate

Dr. Elaine Chang, sound Gynecology Associates, requested information about how business owners could be included in future walking maps.

David Graef, representing Bartell's Drug Store, thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to speak. He commented on not being able to complete renovations because he occupies a leased building and the code restrictions did not favor making improvements to his store. Certain improvements 'trigger' that certain other improvements also be completed. He hopes that by supporting the business community that the City also supports existing business and not just new business. He continues to believe that he can work with the City to achieve agreement on a plan for improving the Des Moines Bartell's location.

Samsur Bhuiyan, manager of the Marina Inn on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue commented on how all his guests love the beauty of Des Moines. He thought pedestrian access in Des Moines could be better, install new sidewalks, adding signs directing guests to downtown, have a water taxi to Vashon and Seattle. On behalf of the Hotel/Motel Association, he commented that DMMC chapter 5.60.070 could better address 9-1-1 calls from hotel and motel properties. Hotel proprietors are concerned about the safety of their guests but were concerned about quotas for 9-1-1 calls to their properties.

Chris Mitchell of the Northwest Prime Time Newspaper commented that Des Moines needed a high-end supermarket like a PCC or Whole Foods Market. Either of those stores would attract shoppers from other communities.

Patricio Mendoza, owner EC Computers, would like to see a City to business liaison who could provide personal contact in addition to phone calls or email contact. He stated he was personally invited to attend this meeting and had it not been for that invitation, he would have known nothing about the meeting.

Michelle Fawcett, Salon Michelle, and a Board member of Destination Des Moines, has spent \$48,000 of her own money to remodel the inside of the building she leases and there are no requirements for the landlord to clean up, paint or otherwise repair the outside. She requested City assistance.

NOTE: Mayor Sheckler promised that staff would look at possible code violations.

Morgan Hicks, All Points Yarn, wanted landlords to be required to bring their properties up to code standards. He, himself, did not have knowledge about signs and repair, but he preferred his sign not be removed after he spends considerable money on one. He suggested, also, that interested businesses be identified as shelters in an emergency and tie their use to Emergency Management.

Vicki Bergquist, State Farm Insurance, also reported landlord issues and stated that, due to the proximity to Lower Massey Creek, she is not allowed to trim vegetation that is encroaching on her building and parking lot. She asked if the City could force landlords to maintain their buildings.

Sam Warren, Warren Construction, because of the considerable value of the homes he builds, asked if the City could provide tax breaks to developers as an incentive. He referenced combined construction-related permits totaling up to \$14,000.

Dr. Liz Conger, Des Moines Veterinary Hospital on Pacific Highway South, also thanked the Council for this public forum to voice concerns. She said there were too many City obstacles to improving buildings that do not meet current zoning requirements allowing service businesses to improve their buildings. She asked the Council, when reviewing building heights and mixed use requirements, to carefully consider the unintended consequences of their actions.

Bill Griffin, Griffin Electric, commented that he would like to see the City help businesses find ways to get things done and eliminate the obstacles. He thought inspectors should have a more positive approach, especially in code interpretation because that very interpretation is often difficult and causes conflict. He offered assistance in getting business owners' business cards onto a website.

Ric Jacobson, Corky Cellars, thanked the City Council for the forum to communicate with City leaders. He urged business owners to get involved in their community. He was encouraged by the new Destination Des Moines Committee. He suggested that business owners share repair costs with landlords in order to make buildings more attractive.

B J Bjerneby, Bjerneby's Carstar, suggested the City Council review some of the 'triggers' that are discouraging current and new business owners.

Mayor Sheckler and Councilmembers thanked business owners for being forthright and sharing their concerns. Each expressed a desire to improve the business climate in Des Moines and to remove some of the hurdles many businesses experience on a regular basis.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session announced for approximately ten minutes to discuss litigation per RCW 43.30.110 (A). The Executive Session was convened at 9:52 p.m. Present were Mayor Bob Sheckler; Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Kaplan; Councilmembers Matt Pina, Dan Sherman, Carmen Scott, and Melissa Musser. Councilmember Scott Thomasson was absent. Staff present were Assistant City Manager Lorri Ericson and City Attorney Pat Bosmans. The Executive Session ended at 9:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE – July 22, 2010.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Pina moved to adjourn; Mayor Pro-Tem, second. All the votes were ayes. The City Council meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.