

# MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2000

Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Presiding Officer), Susan McLain, Ed Washington, Rod Park, Bill Atherton, Rod Monroe, Jon Kvistad

Councilors Absent: None

Presiding Officer Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:00 pm.

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS

**Councilor Park** introduced Lisa Naito, Multnomah County Commissioner and Vice Chair of MPAC.

**Councilor Washington** explained what the Metro Central Enhancement Committee does and asked Katie Dowdall, REM Support Services, to introduce current members, Barbara Walker and Jennifer Allen, who were present to present committee awards.

**Barbara Walker**, 1891 SW Hawthorne Terrace, Portland, OR 97201, noted the other current committee members; Ron Hernandez, Art Wagner, Juliet Hyams and Pamela Ake, and the Chair, Councilor Washington. She explained the Metro Central Enhancement Project was formed to compensate neighborhoods who took the greatest brunt of the presence of recycling, to help create stable, livable, desirable neighborhoods, and to thank those neighborhoods for being willing to accept the stations. She reported 14 grants from \$3,000 to \$70,000 were awarded to a diverse group. The groups included the Boys and Girls Club in conjunction with St. John's schools and Community Center, the Audubon Society for their Swifts program, and the Linnton neighborhood. She felt the Linnton award was a perfect example of what the committee tried to do. The Linnton neighborhood came to them about a horrendous safety problem with Highway 30. The highway had to be widened to accommodate trucks, which absolutely decimated the neighborhood, making it impossible to get from residences to retail. There are no shoulders or ditches and no lights on the road to make it easier to get across the road to transit pick-ups while dodging trucks doing 50 mph down a very wide highway. She felt this community enhancement fund did more than just fund these wonderful programs, it gave communities hope to find ways to solve their greatest neighborhood problems, and the opportunity and encouragement for groups to work together. She said was very proud to serve on such a committee and said they all thought the project had made a lasting change and had given each community and their community groups a chance to work together to truly make a better place. She told the Council they couldn't be doing more good with this 50¢ a ton.

**Jennifer Allen**, 464 NW Skyline Crest Rd., Portland, OR 97229 added that the entire Enhancement Committee felt all of the projects submitted had a lot of merit. She was really impressed at what the submissions showed about the level of commitment and broad range of groups that enriched the community. She said they looked for ways to use the funds to catalyze some really important projects, start some pilot projects, and to leverage other resources as best they could for the communities. She said it was an honor to work with the group.

**Ms. Walker** commented that Katie Dowdall, the committee's staff person from Metro, was the perfect public servant and made it possible for the committee to do a thorough and accountable job. She said they were very grateful to her and appreciated the quality of her work.

**Councilor Washington** introduced Joe Beeler, a past member of the Central Enhancement Committee, who had a presentation to make to the Council.

**Joe Beeler**, 7325 N Alta, Portland, OR , Executive Director of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Cathedral Jazz Festival, said they provided free world class music to the citizens of the region and on behalf of the committee he invited everyone at Metro to come to Cathedral Park the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July for a great program. He thanked the Enhancement Committee for their generous donations to the festival. On behalf of the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival he presented a signed poster, autographed by the 1999 Festival musicians.

**Councilor Washington** thanked Mr. Beeler and accepted the poster on behalf of Metro.

## 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

**Kim Vandehey**, 17207 SW Siler Ridge Lane, Aloha, OR 97007, said he lived in the old Urban Reserve Study Area 49. He said he was one of 6 owners of 120 acres there and they all wanted to be inside the UGB. He understood there were lots of rules being promulgated to look at the problems that came down after the Court of Appeals decision and they wanted to be part of that discussion. He shared a letter he had received that morning from Washington County Commission Chair Tom Brian. He was concerned that the letter said anything not inside the UGB would possibly not develop if they had less than 10 acres. He said they had worked hard to get inside the UGB. He said they are exception land and have all the utilities available. He noted the letter said there had already been a hearing at LCDC in December that he, as an owner, had not been informed of. He said he would appreciate being kept informed about any new rules coming.

**Councilor Park** asked if there was an active application on behalf of his area to be included in the Urban Growth Boundary.

**Mr. Vandehey** said there was not. He said they had actively been working to get inside the area, and when they were not included they went through the court proceeding along with everyone else until it went to the Court of Appeals. He commented that if that was all it took, he would have one there by the end of the week. He thought what they really needed to do was find out what steps were needed and go through the process.

**Councilor Park** suggested that Mr. Vandehey research that to find out what was needed, especially since they were exception lands. He also said to be aware that notification had been sent asking for any information about exception areas to help Metro's database.

**Councilor McLain** thanked Mr. Vandehey for coming and for his diligence in making sure he was at the right place for involvement. She said they had studied his area and it would definitely be part of the process this year as they looked at all exception lands and what to study in the next 10 months to meet the state's deadline of October 2000.

**Councilor Atherton** asked what city would be providing services to his area.

**Mr. Vandehey** said most of the services were provided by public utilities, however Beaverton was the city that bordered the UGB which bordered the property next to his. He said 3 of the 6 property owners he had mentioned bordered the UGB.

**Councilor Atherton** asked if the City of Beaverton had expressed an interest for this area to be annexed.

**Mr. Vandehey** said they had received an acknowledgement quite some time ago (about 4 years) to that affect.

## **6. MPAC COMMUNICATIONS**

**Lisa Naito**, Multnomah County Commissioner and Vice Chair of MPAC reported on the January 26, 2000, MPAC retreat at the Zoo. She said it was a good retreat and they discussed the effectiveness of the MPAC Committee and the desire to give timely information to the Council. They also discussed their desire to do some greater focus on some of the larger policy issues. She noted a formal report issued by Elaine Cogan on the retreat that was available for review. A suggestion from the retreat was for more formal reporting to the Council. Other areas they worked on were how to set their agendas and how to coordinate better with the Executive and the Council as well as with MTAC. She mentioned some ideas about how to do that. They would be recommending that the Chair change from a 2-year position to a 1-year position, and discussed ways to improve their relationship with MTAC. She said issue priorities for 2000 were funding for transportation infrastructure, the endangered species listing, urban growth boundary amendments, more public outreach for Metro, affordable housing, parks and open spaces and a legislative agenda package. She said they would be working with the Council on those issues.

**Councilor McLain** thanked Commissioner Naito for her leadership and said they were looking forward to her being Chair for the group in the next year. She commented that last night's meeting was extremely positive and constructive.

**Councilor Atherton** asked if the Council could somehow improve communication with MPAC, for instance submitting questions in writing to them.

**Commissioner Naito** said that was a good idea but they had not discussed that. She thought one of MPAC's issues was that they felt very strongly that they were an independent advisory committee and it was up to them to set their own agenda, although in a parallel fashion with the Council.

**Councilor Atherton** asked if there had been retreat discussion about guidelines for MPAC members and how they would represent their jurisdictions

**Commissioner Naito** said they had some discussion and again at last night's meeting about the membership make-up of MPAC. There were no recommendations to change the membership but they voted to not allow alternates to sit at the table because of concern that there were just too many people and the meetings dragged on too long. She said they did not feel they wanted to set rules for how members represented their jurisdictions.

**Councilor Atherton** said speaking as a former municipal official, often they felt MPAC was taking action on things the municipalities had never had a chance to reflect on or communicate with their representatives about.

**Commissioner Naito** said that there had been some expressed concern at MPAC that there might be a better way to set their agendas and get information out in a more timely fashion. She said they looked forward to doing just that.

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** updated the council on his involvement with MPAC. He said the work plans coming out of the Informal meetings with the Executive Officer would be communicated to Commissioner Naito and the others, then it would be up to their committees as to what items they wanted to deal with.

**Councilor Washington** hoped that as MPAC developed their strategies, they would feel free to let the Council know if there was information with regard to how the Council related to MPAC.

**Commissioner Naito** thanked Councilor Washington and said there had been general comment at the retreat that last year had very good relations between Council and MPAC under the leadership of Councilor Monroe.

#### 4. AUDITOR COMMUNICATIONS

**Alexis Dow**, Metro Auditor, commented that most of the time when she appeared before the Council, she focused on areas of Metro which could be improved because her job required performance of operational audits to look for efficiency and effectiveness in the agency. She said she strived toward proactive suggestions for improvement as a way of helping Metro be the best it could be and she hoped the Council would take her recommendations in that light.

She presented audit reports on Check Fraud Protection, Accounting and Financial Benchmarks and Opportunities, and the Deloitte and Touche management letter (copies of which can be found in the permanent record of this meeting). She noted that the Executive Officer had been apprised of the audits and supported the recommendations of the reports.

They did the Check Fraud Protection report because check fraud has been on the increase since about 1988. She said the objective of the report was to look at Metro's vulnerability to check fraud and determine the best practices for preventing it. She said there was very little incidence of one aspect of check fraud, insufficient funds (NSF) checks. She said another aspect of check fraud was counterfeit or altered checks. She said there were already check cashing policies and procedures in place, which mitigated the risk of loss from fraudulent checks being presented at Metro facilities. She reported a case last summer where 12 altered or manufactured Metro checks were circulated. She said Metro had not lost any money as a result of those checks because they were caught at the bank. She recommended that Metro adopt a low cost "positive pay system"

She explained that the Accounting Finance and Benchmarks report was a diagnostic management tool that highlighted areas needing more investigation. She said it was not an absolute measure but a way to look at best practices. She reported that the amount being spent on accounting and finance was relatively low and according to accounting and finance people it came to her attention that some important work was not being done and some known inefficiencies were not being corrected. One of the things the benchmarking charts pointed out was the technology could be better utilized to make things more efficient.

Her recommendations included defining the level of accounting services needed and looking for ways to be more efficient. She recommended establishing materiality levels for making

accounting adjustments, streamlining purchasing card processing, receiving all invoices at a central location, and documenting financial and accounting policies and procedures. She also recommended continually looking for electronic methods for increasing efficiency.

She touched on the Deloitte and Touche Management Recommendations. They noted no material weaknesses but observed other matters related to internal controls and some operating matters which would be the subject of another work session. They noted areas for improvement in the information systems, accounting and administrative systems and compliance with federal wording on contracts.

**Councilor Park** asked the total amount of the fraudulent checks.

**Ms. Dow** responded that all of the checks were under \$2,000 but she did not know the exact total.

**Councilor McLain** asked how many additional PCs would have to be purchased for all the employees to be able to record their time on computer as she had recommended.

**Ms. Dow** said 80% of the people at Metro used their computers at least 10% of the time in their day to day jobs. She said some people who had computers at their desks were recording their time manually.

**Councilor McLain** said Ms. Dow had indicated that 65% of payroll transactions in this agency were direct deposit. She asked what would be achieved that would be so much better if everyone used direct deposit.

**Ms. Dow** said there was some reduction in paperwork so there was some savings there.

**Councilor McLain** asked if the report gave an idea of how much improvement could be realized by following the report's recommendations.

**Ms. Dow** said it was a benchmark report, and therefore did not quantify the potential results. The purpose of the report was to highlight those areas, some of which will require more study.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Consideration of minutes of the February 3, 2000 Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion:** **Councilor Washington** moved to adopt the meeting minutes of the February 3, 2000 Regular Council meeting.

**Seconded:** **Councilor Kvistad** seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The vote was 7 aye/ 0 nay/ 0 abstain. The motion passed.

**Presiding Office Bragdon** reviewed the rest of the agenda and the order in which it would be taken.

## 3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

**Mike Burton, Executive Officer**, conducted a Power Point presentation on Metro's proposed FY 00-01 Budget (a copy of which may be found in the permanent record of this meeting).

## 5. BUDGET/FINANCE COMMUNICATIONS

**Councilor McLain** thanked the Executive Officer for his presentation. She noted the schedule as well as the public hearings for the budget (a copy of which may be found in the permanent record of this meeting).

**Councilor Atherton** said thanked Councilor McLain for her outline and said he agreed with her strategy. He asked Mr. Burton for clarification of a graph that indicated expenditures or shortfalls for planning. He asked how much Metro is spending on planning, which, as Mr. Burton correctly noted, is Metro's primary responsibility.

**Mr. Burton** said the budget calls for the reduction of three positions in the Growth Management Department and four positions in the Transportation Department, all of which are planner positions.

**Councilor Atherton** said he was not talking about any planning associated with federal transportation projects and grants, he was interested in the process Metro would use to manage the urban growth boundary (UGB), wildlife habitat protection, and the land use/air quality connection.

**Mr. Burton** said in Growth Management Services per se, it was \$3.4 million, but he added that there were ancillary planning activities that were costed out throughout the department. He added that it was the largest user of excise tax.

**Councilor Atherton** asked if Growth Management Services linked with Transportation Planning, and if that was included in the \$3.4 million.

**Mr. Burton** said Transportation Planning was not included in that figure. Looking at the reduction of expenses, they were reducing four planners in the Transportation Department that were funded by excise tax. The problem was the limited amount of total excise dollars available in the budget, which paid for Metro's non-enterprise activities. He said Metro was charged with certain responsibilities, ranging from planning to facility operation, and in his opinion, there should be no separating line between the responsibilities. Historically, however, revenue dollars such as from Regional Environmental Management (REM) have been separated by statute or otherwise. Therefore, there was no base general fund for the agency. Therefore, Metro relied on the excise tax from those enterprise activities to pay for the non-revenue portions.

**Councilor Atherton** said he asked because he was trying to create a proposal to respond to Mr. Burton's request in terms of planning. Metro was operated on the principle of user-based fees, and he proposed extending that principle to include payment for growth and growth planning. He said proposed imposing a flat fee on land, perhaps on a per acre basis, on privately held land inside Metro's jurisdictional boundary. It would be a voter improved process, but would also include a portion for counties to contribute as well, because Metro provided services to counties outside its jurisdictional boundary. He noted that the three counties in the Metro region spend about \$6 million a year on planning, even though they have said they were not in the planning business, whereas Metro was spending less than that even though its stated primary business was planning.

**Mr. Burton** said he agreed that Metro should look at a tax on growth to address the questions of who benefited from that and how to pay for the necessary services. He said that connection could come with a fee or a tax on buildings or land. He favored taxing the land. He recommended that the Council explore that option. He noted that any tax proposal would be difficult to get support for. The idea was to get nexus, efficiency, effectiveness, and then show the public what the results would be. Based on recent polls, people in the area were vitally concerned about growth, the loss of natural resources land, and the protection of water. He recommended going out to the public and demonstrating that Metro's role was to address those issues in an efficient way to ensure that any growth was done properly, and that development paid some of those costs. He said he had several proposals which he would bring before the Council committees at the appropriate time.

**Councilor Atherton** appreciated his comments about the cost of growth, and how it was a major concern in the region. Had asked for Mr. Burton's comments on his proposals regarding carrying capacity and having growth pay its own way.

**Mr. Burton** said he read Councilor Atherton's proposals, and felt they were the type of proposals that should be discussed in general at the committee as possibilities. There were national and local studies underway about carrying capacity and cost allocation of programs. To the general public it was a fairly esoteric issue, and the Council would need to put the debate in terms that had simple, significant connection to the public, in order to reengage the public. He noted that people 18-34 do not vote, and that people 35-50 have stopped voting.

**Councilor Atherton** said one way to engage the public was to put the issue to a public vote.

**Councilor Kvistad** said in reading Mr. Burton's budget note and listening to his presentation, he heard a lot about environmental issues, but he did not hear about congestion or how Metro was going to help fix roads and bridges, or how Metro could work with cities and counties to fix the permitting process to allow for urban redevelopment. Instead, he was hearing about second generation of the 2040 Growth Concept, when Metro had not been able to complete the first one, nor had Metro been able to get the state to legitimize that Metro had the responsibility in that area. He said he did not support Mr. Burton's proposal to take over the Metropolitan Exhibition-Recreation Commission (MERC) as a department, because MERC operated well on its own, and the anticipated savings did not appear significant. He said it would be fiscally responsible to look at cutting expenses, not to look at new taxes. He said while Mr. Burton spoke about nexus, efficiency, and effectiveness, Metro was not perceived by the general public to be efficient or effective. In his view, to ask the public for more revenue was a disaster in waiting. He said he kept hearing about fish, Title 3 and Goal 5, and in his view, Metro was putting fish before families. People in the community were not talking to him about fish, they were talking about congestion, and increased density in neighborhoods.

**Mr. Burton** said the proposal for MERC was in the budget due to both cost and accountability. Metro was the government responsible for those facilities, it was not some separate organization. His preference would be to franchise operate the facilities with private companies, although realization of that goal was a few years down the road due to outstanding revenue bonds. He stressed that MERC was a government function of this government according to the Metro Code. He said his budget proposal did not mention roads. In June or July, Metro would be faced with a state mandate of making a decision on Goal 5. To make that Goal 5 requirement, Metro will probably have to set aside additional land in the region that might affect the ability to put in

10,000 to 15,000 housing units and an equal number of job opportunities, which would mean an additional expansion of the UGB. He said for a long time, he has felt that urban reserves should be the responsibility of the state, not Metro, because the state was responsible for protecting farmland.

**Mr. Burton** added the state's change to make urban reserves optional puts Metro back in the UGB business, which was quite different. He encouraged the Council to take the 14,000 acres of exception land around the UGB, that he recommended to the Council a few years back, and bring it all into the UGB on October 31, 2000. This would then give Metro the line, and the next step would be to think ahead about how to install water, sewer, and roads. He said there were no jobs in Clackamas County because there were no roads to access the county's industrial property. He said he could have written a \$9 billion increase into the budget that Metro would somehow raise, but that was not in Metro's purview. Metro does that through state and federal money, and currently the Automotive Agency of America (AAA) is out attacking a nickel gas tax that the public, based on polls, will probably vote down, and the region will be in an even worse position. He said it was important for Metro to sort out its tasks and set its priorities. He did not doubt for a minute that the region could not continue its level of growth without more roads, and if there was an alternative short of asking for taxes, he would support it.

**Councilor Kvistad** said he did not disagree with Mr. Burton's comments. He disagreed with the priorities, and while almost everyone wanted to protect the natural environment, Metro was not in charge of fish, according to its charter. Metro has expanded its role in fish, however, due to the National Marines Fisheries Service (NMFS). He said in his opinion, Metro was over-regulating with Title 3 and Goal 5, but he was outvoted on the Council. He said the question was how to streamline the things that really needed to happen in the region, and Metro needed to focus its efforts on the departments that addressed transportation and growth planning. He said Mr. Burton's budget message put out tasks and goals for something new, when in his opinion, Metro needed to retrench, retool, fix what it had, and make some hard choices.

**Mr. Burton** said according to its charter, Metro was responsible for managing the land inside the UGB, which meant meeting state goals, including habitat. He said the ESA listing of steelhead trout and salmon was symptomatic of the region's failure to address the quality of water and the environment of the region over a period of time. He noted that former Governor McCall worked to clean up the "cesspool" of the Willamette River in the 1970s. The region has made some process on that goal, and now instead of a cesspool, the Willamette River is a septic system. But it was not a sewer system, and it was not yet clean. Metro could ignore that, or it could say it was a secondary concern; that was a decision for the Council to make. The Council could decide to change the budget message to say that Metro would focus on roads and additional economic advancements, that in some way ignore the environmental questions, but he would see that as a failure on Metro's part. He likened Goal 5 to a basketball: it was big, and included fish, wildlife habitat, storm water, and water quality. ESA was the basketball hoop, and the hoop was smaller than the basketball. However, if Metro correctly designed the basketball, it could address the region's ESA questions. He said that was the intent of his budget message, not to ignore the region's other problems, like transportation.

**Councilor McLain** added that all seven councilors and the Executive Officer made the commitment that there would not be any sacred cows in the budget. The budget included cuts to many popular programs. To her, the 2040 Growth Concept was a balance of parks, economic vitality, good roads, less congestion, jobs in the right places and houses for the people who work at those jobs, openspaces, and clean air and water. As they went through the budget process, no



matter how they each defined the charter and the 2040 Growth Concept, they would try to do its best with a limited resource. She referred the Council to her memo, and said she did not think they were walking away from the responsibilities raised by Councilor Kvistad. She said she looked forward to the discussion, and invited everyone to the first Budget Committee meeting on February 16, 2000.

**Councilor Park** said last year in the fall, during the Council and Executive Officer's retreat, he had asked that in the budgeting process, that Metro would have had a 12 percent increase if it had continued on the same course for this year. He was told that about 7 percent could be explained, 5 percent for human services, and 2 percent for M&S, and there was no real explanation at that time for the other 5 percent increase. He said he was still waiting for an explanation of the 5 percent increase. He said he was concerned about it because there has been 12 percent growth of expenses for the past 5 years.

**Mr. Burton** said he thought it was evident but he would send the information in writing in the morning. He said he thought the Council had already received the information.

**Councilor Park** said they had not received information about the other 5%.

**Mr. Burton** said it needed to be understood that they did not take new programs out of whim but at the direction of the Council or as a matter of local jurisdictional requests.

**Councilor Park** appreciated that but the Council needed to be able to judge whether they could afford things or not. He said he and staff had been looking at ways to focus user fees from solid waste into the budget. He noted that proposal would be coming forward in a couple of weeks. He did not know what would happen with the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) and he was interested in fleshing that out.

**Mr. Burton** said he would like to have a facilities department that would have all those activities under it eventually but there were a number of things to do first before that could happen.

**Councilor Park** said it would take a lot of convincing at this point for him to be in favor of having MERC be within the Metro organization rather than an outside part of the agency in terms of a little different touch place because it had a different function. He said it was a revenue generator in the sense that the facilities' prime business was attracting folks into the region.

**Mr. Burton** said they were not totally enterprise driven because they were tax supported.

**Councilor Park** said they were also used to try to generate additional dollars of economic energy and that was why he termed it a revenue generator for the region. He wanted to explore a closer relation with the MERC commission in terms of reformatting. Lastly, he had a question regarding Blue Lake Park. He understood that in prior budget years it had been a money loser on an on-going basis. He felt they should look at possible other ways of running the park. He said he was looking forward to the upcoming discussions.

**Mr. Burton** said he did not realize they were going to get into this detailed discussion of the budget today but would be glad to go into as much detail as the Council wanted. He felt there was a lot of information missing from the questions being asked. He said if the intent was to have the budget go through a committee process he would bring the information.

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** said his intent today was to hear Mr. Burton's statements about the budget, and it was the prerogative of the Council to make statements as well.

**Councilor Washington** appreciated Mr. Burton's concern. He acknowledged that this was one of the toughest budget seasons they had ever had to face. He wanted everyone to be sensitive to the message they were sending to people both inside and outside the agency. He said his big concern was with the MERC situation, which he would be looking at it very carefully as it would have an impact not just on MERC but on all of the people who worked with them.

**Mr. Burton** said Councilor Washington was absolutely right and following the Council meeting, he would be presenting the budget to the staff. He said it was unfortunate that the newspapers had printed things from the budget before staff heard from him because it caused worry.

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** commented that when the budgetary discussions started last fall there had been a couple of things the Council had asked for. One, in resolution form, was a budget that did not anticipate new revenues because that was likely to be the reality. Another was an analysis of why costs had been increasing beyond inflation. He shared Councilor Park's lingering curiosity about that point. He said a couple of things in Mr. Burton's presentation were absolutely crystal clear and deserved to be emphasized over and over. Those were that this community had important things it wanted to have done and had asked Metro to do. There were certain things that the state mandated, and things that were the right things to do, or that the voters had asked for. He said natural resource protection was part and parcel of the 2040 plan just as the built environment or the transportation network. The voters had asked for the Greenspaces acquisition program. Enhancing recycling was something that the Council had wanted to do. He said Council was coming together with work plans through the committee process that identified priorities and that may mean other things they wanted to do or it would be nice to do, couldn't be done because the resources were not available. He echoed and amplified Mr. Burton's comments that there are great people working in this building who do stuff the rest of the country is envious of. He was concerned about the morale in the building also, but he did not think they did the employees any favors, or the constituents for that matter, to pretend that business as usual was sustainable. He said the figures had shown it was not, and he did not want to pretend things could go on the way they had been. Nor did he want to scare people and say the sky was falling. He said it would take Council working together, and with Mr. Burton, to focus on the priorities and make it happen. He commented on the MERC proposal that had been prematurely in the press. He said if that was a proposal that saved money and enhanced a program that was already very successful for this agency as well as for the community at large, and which had inspired the industry to step forward and tax themselves, then he was all for the proposal. If it was just a matter of turf, he did not understand the clipping in the paper saying something about "bringing MERC into Metro". He said MERC was already "in Metro", and if the public did not understand that, there were probably things they ought to be doing to make them understand that. If it was just a turf discussion and an accounting shell game that would decrease the effectiveness of a very effective and profitable program, then he would not be for it. He said there was obviously a lot of skepticism on behalf of the voters. The one number he thought was clear, not in the budget but in reality, was that the single digit possibility of passing a property tax levy for this agency was "zero" at this point. He said they needed to focus on why the costs had gone up, and what they would have to do to live within the resources they were likely to have.

## **8. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**8.1 Ordinance No. 00-847**, For the Purpose of Adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2000-01, Making Appropriations, and Levying Ad Valorem Taxes, and Declaring an Emergency.

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** assigned Ordinance No. 00-847 to the Budget and Finance Committee.

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** opened a public hearing on the ordinance but nobody came forward so he announced that the second public hearing would be February 17, 2000 at 2 PM at the Fairview City Hall. He closed the public hearing.

## 10. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

**Councilor Kvistad** gave an update on the JPACT meeting of that morning. He talked about the frictions taking place in the constrained transportation environment, specifically between Washington and Clackamas Counties dealing with bus lanes and commuter rail. He said a delegation including Councilor Monroe, staff, and people from Tri-Met would be going to Washington DC to lobby for transportation issues. JPACT had finished a paper outlining the region's priorities for funding. He said there had been lively and long debate but they were finally unanimous on the language for all the items they wanted to bring forward. He commented that being able to come to agreement on difficult issues was one of the reasons this community was so well respected by the Federal government and a leader in terms of the Federal Metropolitan Planning Organization structure. He said nobody at JPACT was perfectly happy with the result of their debate, but they were able to move forward and have a paper ready for the delegation to take to Washington DC to lobby for funding. He announced, for those who didn't already know, that the Interstate MAX project had received the highest appropriation of any government across America in the Clinton administration's budget, which he thought was a testament to their success here. He said they had been able to do some good work today.

**Councilor McLain** mentioned that Monday, February 14, 2000, at 1:30 PM would be a WRPAC meeting, which would take up the policy issues in Goal 5. She said MTAC, MPAC, WRPAC, the Growth Committee, and the Council would have an integrated public process to make sure the policy issues were dealt with. She said she looked forward to seeing the councilors at the meeting if possible.

**Councilor Park** reported he had an opportunity that morning to discuss Metro with a group from Okinawa. He said they were very attentive as he was explaining the process, and then down the hallway came yelling and screaming coming from JPACT meeting room. He told them that was part of our process and although it was not pretty, it allowed us all to come to the same table. He said Metro was unique in that they did facilitate the ability of people to come in and to be able to hash things out. He said it was a very unique process. He added that as they looked at the current set up with the excise tax, or user fees, that those were a very small part of Metro's budget and they should keep that in perspective as to the other enterprise activities they did to generate those funds. He thought although it was a small amount of overhead, Council wanted to be sure they stayed within their means just like any other good fiscal agency. He said they had to be able to do that and explain it to the public. He hoped, through this process, they could do an even better job than in the past.

**Councilor Atherton** noted an Oregonian article from February 4<sup>th</sup>, written by Jonathan Brinkman. He thought the article was one of the most outstanding pieces of work in this field that

he had ever seen. It encapsulated a great deal of information and showed how simple and profound a good visioning and planning process could be. He distributed copies to the Council.

Presiding Officer Bragdon urged the Councilors to attend the staff meeting following the council meeting. He announced that the February 17 Regular Council meeting would be held at the Fairview City Hall at 2 PM. He said the morning's JPACT meeting had been discussed when he had lunch with Senator Hatfield before Council today, and the Senator had reiterated that from his perspective, this region's strength really was its unity, and if counties went different ways, they really eroded their effectiveness with the Federal government.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION, HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(h)M TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PUBLIC BODY WITH REGARD TO CURRENT LITIGATION.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Billington  
 Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2000**

TOPIC	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
	2/3/00	Minutes of 2/3/00 council meeting	021000-01
Budget		Ordinance No. 00-847	021000-02
FY 2000-01 Budget Schedule and Process	2/8/00	Memo to Burton, Bragdon, Sims, Metro Department Heads from Susan McLain	021000-03
Committee Work Plan	2/10/00	Memo to all Councilors from Susan McLain	021000-04
Executive Officer's Proposed Budget		Copy of overheads from Executive Officer's Proposed FY 2000-01 Budget	021000-05
Alexis Dow's ASD Report	January 2000	Copy of slides of Alexis Dow's Accounting Services Division Auditor Reports	021000-06
Budget		Cover of loose leaf binder: Proposed Budget FY 2000-01 Metro Budget	021000-07
Salmon	2/4/00	Copy of Oregonian article: "Study evaluates 7 options for salmon" by Jonathan Brinkman	021000-08
Administrative Rules	2/4/00	Copy of Washington County letter RE: Proposed New Administrative Rules from the State Department of Land Conservation and Development	021000-09