

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain, Rod Park

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 27, 2006/ ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, and Joel Morton, Senior Attorney, said that the Bureau of Labor and Industries Commissioners Task Force on public and private partnerships was looking at the issue of whether or not prevailing wages applied to projects that were beyond the traditional definition of public works. He said that committee was now winding down and that the commission staff had the task force recommend that the commissioner follow guidelines and possibly adopt administrative rules that would require every project that had been done in the TOD program to be subject to the prevailing wage law and to be defined as a public work. This would have a negative impact on the TOD program if adopted. Mr. Cooper told the Councilors that there was a public meeting on Friday at the State Office building. He wanted to know if someone from Metro wanted to testify at that hearing. There was discussion about the meaning of prevailing wages and the direction that the task force seemed to be heading and the ramifications that direction might have on the TOD program and Metro. Council President Bragdon agreed to testify on behalf of the Metro Council. Councilor Hosticka asked that the testimony not be viewed as Metro opposition to living wages. The Council and Council President agreed on the substance of Metro's position.

Council President Bragdon reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, April 27th meeting.

2. **BUDGET AMENDMENT DISCUSSION**

Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator, briefly reviewed what a technical amendment was and then reviewed those amendments for the Councilors. Those amendments are attached and form part of the record. Then she asked the department heads to come up and explain their substantive amendments.

Jeff Miller, MERC Director, explained the substantive amendments for MERC/OCC. Those amendments are attached and form part of the record.

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, reviewed a Planning Department substantive amendment. That amendment is attached and forms part of the record.

Jeff Tucker, Department Finance Manager, reviewed a Parks amendment. That amendment is attached and forms part of the record.

Alexis Dow, Metro Auditor, reviewed her amendments. Those are attached and form part of the record.

Council President Bragdon explained the methodology used to come up with the recommended budget. He said that the process was the same for the Auditor as it was for all the departments. He said that Ms. Dow had asked for a 24% increase and that request was not ignored, but the request was evaluated and in light of other departments increasing by only 2%-3%, and also considering the Council's desire to cap the allocated costs at 4.2%, he had asked the Finance Department to assess the Audit Department in the same context as all other Metro departments. He said he could not recommend a 24% increase.

Ms. Dow said that she was now asking for \$36,000 which was not a 24% increase.

Council President Bragdon said he was addressing her points from the last meeting. He said that the carryover amendment was different than the other department amendments as the departments had to specify what the carryover was allocated for.

Ms. Dow said that there were committed projects, some were underway and others were in the process of being initiated.

Council President Bragdon said that on the M & S and personnel service segments of the budget she had total discretion, which was a distinction from other department directors. He said that if she wanted to do more M & S and less personnel services, then that was up to her discretion. He said that he had to consider the overall budget.

Ms. Dow said it was unrealistic in terms that she had four people working for her. She asked him if he was suggesting that she should ask her employees to take a week each month off in order to have money for materials and services and outside contracting. She said that given the budget she had worked in it would be foolhardy to eliminate one of those positions in order to free up materials and services as they had seen what would happen. She said that she had originally asked to discuss her budget with him and she said that there was no indication that he was willing to do that. She said that perhaps he had considered it with the Metro finance team, but there had been no communication with her, no understanding of what the needs or wants of the department were, and she wanted that to be made clear as well.

Council President Bragdon said that having outside financial audit had been discussed in the prior year, and everybody understood that having those funds was a statutory obligation, and those funds were under total control of the auditor.

Ms. Dow said that she did not have total control of those dollars.

Council President Bragdon said that those funds were under her control, but that they could discuss it more on Thursday at the Council meeting. He asked the councilors if they had any further questions for the auditor.

The Council members reviewed the Councilor amendments. Those amendments are attached and form part of the record. Councilor Liberty withdrew the amendment to sequester funds for a special election.

3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Carl Hosticka said that Thursday was the first meeting of the Council of Economic Advisor committee at the Convention Center from noon to 1:30. He said that they would discuss issues and then have questions back and forth from both councils. He encouraged the Councilors to attend. He reviewed the topics that he hoped would be discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:36p.m.

Prepared by,



Kim Bardes
Executive Assistant to the COO

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2006

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	4/27/06	Agenda: Metro Council Regular Meeting, April 27, 2006	042506c-01
2	Budget	4/19/06	Memorandum to the Metro Councilors from Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator re: Department Generated Amendments to the FY 2006-07 Proposed Budget	042506c-02
3	Budget	4/19/06	Memorandum to the Metro Councilors from Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator re: Proposed Amendments to the FY 2006-07 Budget Introduced by the Metro Auditor	042506c-03
4	Budget	4/19/06	Memorandum to the Metro Councilors from Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator re: Councilor Generated Amendments to the FY 2006-07 Proposed Budget	042506c-04
5	Budget	4/25/06	Spreadsheet: FY 2006-07 Budget Summary of Council Amendments by Funding Sources	042506c-05