

# MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE OFFICER INFORMAL MEETING

January 23, 2001

Metro Council Annex

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Presiding Officer), Susan McLain, Rod Park, Bill Atherton, Rod Monroe, Rex Burkholder

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka

Presiding Officer Bragdon convened the Council/Executive Officer Informal Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

## 1. UPCOMING LEGISLATION

- ◆ Organic ordinance that went through the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee
- ◆ Transportation items that reflected the action taken at Community Planning and Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPACT).
- ◆ The Contract Review Board would consider the Noble appeal and the STS parking issue
- ◆ Mr. Jeff Stone, Chief of Staff, referred to a memo that had a list of legislation from PacWest.

## 2. FY 2001-02 BUDGET OVERVIEW

**Presiding Officer Bragdon** turned the budget overview over to Councilor Susan McLain. Councilor McLain said Executive Officer Mike Burton had comments that needed to be made prior to her discussion. Executive Officer Burton urged the Council to respond to the adequacy and performance measures listed on a handout, copies of which were given to the Council members. (This handout has been included with the agenda in its entirety and can be viewed in the Council Office.) The Executive Officer said that sustainability of the budget was his main concern. He stated that last year it was a very tough budget and that this year's budget would be easier because of cooperation and the tough decisions that were made last year.

**Councilor Susan McLain** thanked Mrs. Jennifer Sims, Administrative Services Director and Mr. Tony Mounts, ASD, for having worked with a group called "budget buddies". Councilor McLain concurred with the Executive Officer's comment about an easier budget this year. She brought forward that the Council needed to look at the budget to see if it reflected public and Council policy and what the performance measures would be. She asked Mrs. Sims and Mr. Mounts to give a review of where the budget had been this last year and to give a handout that highlighted what could be observed for the future budget. Mrs. Sims said that they had been working toward February 8<sup>th</sup> to present the budget to Council.

**Mr. Mounts** said it was hard for him to contrast the budget since he had not worked on the budget in the past. He said the future was the main focus of the budget last year and to forecast what the sustainability would be. Mr. Mounts said that a discussion regarding the impact on the Parks Department funding needs arose from the forecast. He said that it was a goal to have the Council better appraised of the status of the budget. Mr. Mounts said that this year they had focused on the assumptions for inflation, spend-down targets for the general fund and forecasting. He stated in October they had worked on the follow-up from additional information from the budget notes and in November they presented the first quarterly financial review which they would continue to bring forward. He said that the budget would move to a more stable method. Solid waste excise tax would allow them to anticipate the revenue better.

**Councilor McLain** conveyed that any one of the Council members last year could take full credit for three out of the four budget themes brought forward. She said that there should be general fund stabilization. Councilor McLain thanked Mrs. Sims, Mr. Mounts, Executive Officer Burton and others for working together. She said there had to be some action for the long-range planning to mean anything. She noted that the Council had a memo dated January 23 with a specific agenda that meant the next meeting would offer the next step.

**Councilor Burkholder** asked if there was an agency wide strategic plan based on the budget needs or a budgetary long-range plan?

**Mrs. Sims** stated that was a financial perceptive instead of an agency idea. Executive Officer Burton said that Metro does not have a general fund even though they talk of one. He pointed out that there was a very small portion that came from excise tax.

**Councilor Burkholder** asked if the agency had a process for the entire agency as a whole or was it broken down to each department's tasks.

**Councilor McLain** stated that this was a transition time and that they had set up some good plans to come up with a function informant process that would do the job of a strategic plan. She agreed with the Executive Officer that the budget allowed only certain funds to be spent in certain ways with a certain theme.

**Councilor Atherton** said that Metro was a service agency that embarked discipline. He stated that the long-range challenge had been to review planning and parks because they do not generally generate revenue.

**Councilor Burkholder** asked if the budget was driving us totally or had we spent time thinking about how to address the issues in the future. Councilor McLain addressed Councilor Burkholder and told him that he would receive a handout the next day that would talk about budgeting.

**Councilor Park** said that there was a chance that new requirements would be put on the agency.

**Councilor Burkholder** questioned the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC)'s accounting software merge with Metro's software.

**Mrs. Sims** said that MERC does not have there own accounting software, they had used our software. She said that in the next few weeks, Metro would receive comments from the auditor with suggestions about using different strategies.

**Councilor McLain** mentioned she had given a handout to set up a reminder of the process last year. She said they had set up three large groups to look at the budget. The first group looked at the general fund related to Planning, Parks, Executive Officer, and the Council Office. The second large group concentrated on REM, Zoo and MERC. The third was the support services and miscellaneous funds in the departments.

**Councilor Bragdon** mentioned the retreat and said March would be a busy month. He also said he appreciated the "budget buddies" program.

**3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

**Executive Officer Burton** said that he had issued the thermostat in the building to be a maximum of 68 degrees. He mentioned that they had worked with MERC to lower energy there as well. He would be scheduling brown bags to discuss the need to conserve energy.

**4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Prepared by

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Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2001**

| <b>TOPIC</b>          | <b>DOCUMENT DATE</b> | <b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b> | <b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Budget Review Process | N/A                  | Questions from Council      | Mp01/25-01             |
| Financial Planning    | N/A                  | Council Action –2000        | Mp01/25-02             |
| FY 01-02 Budget       | January 23, 2001     | Schedule and Process        | Mp01/25-03             |