

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Councilor Kathryn Harrington convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Harrington commented on item number 3.4 on the September 10, 2009 Council agenda noting that in one of the attachments to the resolution it notes that the pipes seeking easement to Clean Water Services existed before Metro owned the property. She also requested that all TIGER grant applications (not just selected projects) be made available to Councilors so they are aware of which projects came out of their districts.

Councilor Burkholder briefed the council on the structure of the Portland Vancouver Regional Partners Council for Economic Development. The council will have a Strategy Group made up of staff and a Policy Making Board made up of elected officials. Staff will represent the working group of the program while elected officials will represent the leadership group. Councilor Liberty commented that in order to ensure that the group focuses on all aspects of economic development instead of just real estate development, the council should better define “economic development” in conversations with them.

Councilor Park suggested that agenda items 3.2 and 3.3 respectively regarding Portland Vancouver Regional Partners Council for Economic Development and the exclusive distributorship agreement with Miller Paint be moved from the consent agenda into the Resolutions portion of the agenda. The council agreed.

COO Michael Jordan outlined upcoming events regarding the opening of the *Predators of Serengeti* exhibit at the Oregon Zoo. He also told the Council that he is doing facilities and business meetings with the MERC staff in order to prevent information vacuums.

2. WASTE TO ENERGY DISCUSSION

Deputy COO Scott Robinson began by reminding the committee that this informational presentation on Waste to Energy (WTE) was requested by the Council. Discussions about WTE have become more prominent in the Portland region recently because of four main factors:

- Climate Change concerns and greenhouse gas reduction;
- The Federal EPA is beginning dialogue around where WTE fits into renewable resource categories;
- Technology has become more robust; and
- Local interest has increased.

Mr. Robinson then introduced Mr. Paul Ehinger to brief the council on technical information regarding WTE. Mr. Ehinger noted that WTE is one potential component to an integrated waste management

system. No new WTE facilities have been built in the U.S. since 1996 and the current drivers range from climate change concerns and renewable portfolio requirements to landfill closures. Although proponents of WTE point out, among other things, that these facilities will restrict the high recycling levels in the Portland region, current global practices show that WTE facilities and reasonable recycling levels are not mutually exclusive

WTE technologies can be classified into either thermal treatment or biological treatment. Mr. Ehinger outlined the four main WTE technologies that fall under these categories:

- *Conventional Waste to Energy*, which makes up 99%+ of WTE facilities globally;
- *Gasification*, which uses thermal conversion without combustion;
- *Plasma Arc Gasification*, which uses gasification with plasma as the heat source; and
- *Anerobic Digestion*, which uses biological processes to breakdown waste.

In comparison with landfills, tipping fees for WTE technologies are higher even with revenue from energy created through the facilities. Some key considerations concerning WTE facilities are feedstock, technological risk, operating risk, utility purchases power agreements and public opinion.

Councilor Bragdon then opened the floor for questions and comments. Councilor Liberty clarified for Councilor Harrington that currently the Oregon legislator has a statue that prevents the use of WTE facilities as part of a renewable energy portfolio. The council then discussed the relationship between CO2 pollution and incineration of solid waste. Councilor Liberty pointed out that many cities with WTE facilities have very dense populations and do not have room for a traditional landfill facility.

Councilor Harrington asked what the ownership pattern of WTE facilities is with the response that the typical pattern is public ownership with private operations. President Bragdon received clarity from Mr. Ehinger that a plausible organization structure for a WTE facility would involve municipal funding as a financing tool with the facility developed and operated by a private company and the feedstock agreement through a municipal contract. Source of initiation for a WTE facility is dependent on circumstance and whether a utility has a resource deficiency or surplus.

Councilor Burkholder commented that it is not the time for a WTE facility in Portland unless the cost of energy or technology changes. Councilor Liberty received clarification from Mr. Ehinger that generally Natural Gas is considered the next best energy generator to gas but that WTE is preferred over coal. Councilor Harrington commented that she recognizes the variety of economic conditions that would need to change to make WTE more viable but wonders what the lead time is for building a facility. Mr. Ehinger responded that rebuilding or upgrading a facility takes 18-20 months while building a new facility is closer to five years. Councilor Bradgon commented that he would like to see more specific numbers in order to gauge the gap between existing conditions and conditions needed for a WTE facility to be feasible. Councilor Park pointed out that as metals become more resource intensive the opportunity cost of future recovery of items needs to be taken into account. Councilor Collette said that she understand the economic factors but does not want to discount the idea of a WTE facility just because the numbers are not working right now.

Mr. Robinson closed adding that people around the region are hearing from local developers and start-ups solely about technology and renewable energy credits, even though there are a variety of factors necessary for a WTE facility to work.

3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION

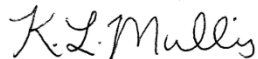
Councilor Burkholder discussed the first review of the funding amount allocated for solid waste reduction education at Outdoor School. Ongoing evaluation shows that this investment has delivered a quality project. In order to continue the program, schools will have to be open to alternative ways of funding. Staff is working on an outreach program which may include Councilors speaking at schools and PTA meetings in their district.

Councilor Harrington commented that the MPAC packet includes an investment matrix and a work schedule for Making the Greatest Place. Mr. Jordan outlined the format for the presentation of the COO recommendation for Making the Greatest Place at next week's work session on September 15, 2009. Councilor Liberty commented that it is necessary to make it clear to the press that Mr. Jordan's recommendation is an individual recommendation. The council then discussed use of information and data gathered in a survey about growth in the region. Mr. Jordan suggested that the councilors talk individually to Jim Middaugh, Metro's communications director, about specific use of the information.

Councilor Liberty announced that October 26th-27th has been finalized as the dates for Myron Orefield's visit to Portland as part of the Transportation Speaker Series. Councilor Colette commented on the Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce meeting she attended, where the chamber supported Metro's view for economic development and growth over a presentation by McKenzie Group.

With no further business Councilor Bradgon adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Prepared by,



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	09/10/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, September 10, 2009	090809cw-1