

# MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 29, 2009  
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: None.

Councilor David Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

## **1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

President Bragdon reminded the Council that the October 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting and public hearing will be in Gresham at the Gresham Conference Center.

## **2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT: FOURTH QUARTER**

Ms. Margot Norton briefed the committee on the quarterly financial report for the fourth quarter. The report is generated because of financial policy and to ensure agency transparency with the public. Internally, the quarterly report confirms whether we ended the year where we estimated and that nothing in is out of place that could throw off the budget for the next year. Ms. Norton then reviewed things to note in the report and discussed the health of major funds in the budget.

The effects of the economic disruption are continuing, meaning the agency should be conservative in revenue projections and mindful of spending. Next year's budget will involve purposeful budget reductions. Although the budget is stable the agency is not without risks and thus budget-related choices made over the next two years will not be easy.

Councilor Burkholder discussed the issue of PURS and the potential for rate increase. Councilor Liberty questioned the role of health care costs in the budget. Councilor Park commented on conservative outlook on waste tonnage, dealing with MERC in terms of overall budget and economic model for increasing revenue at the Zoo.

## **3. DISCUSSION: BUDGET GUIDANCE FOR FY 2010-11 AND BEYOND**

COO Michael Jordan briefed the committee on the budget cycle for FY 2010-11 and beyond. Metro is at the point in the budget cycle where we are developing goals and guidance for the coming years. The approach this year is to think at a higher level and determine how the agency fits into what the region will be faced with overall. This new approach will allow us to think strategically about budget decisions.

The Council then discussed the following topics related to the budget approach:

- The difficulty in connecting spending to goals as you get further along in the budget cycle;
- Importance in thinking about all areas cohesively;
- Need to explore the nexus between external and internal budget mechanisms;
- Focusing on delivering what the region needs to weather the economic storm;
- The transition from planning to implementation of projects.

Mr. Jordan then requested that the council brainstorm issues facing the region that may impact budget decisions. Below is the list of issues and ideas that came out of this brainstorming session:

- Continuing lack of trust in government;
- Resources will continue to be constrained, so we need to think about ways of focusing the money we have;
- Climate change will be a growing concern and public environmental concerns will also increase;
- Infrastructure funding and municipal financing system in general are stressed;
- Areas in the region do not have the capacity to compete with each other, thus economic development should be a regional strategy;
- Fiscal capacity of local jurisdictions;
- Need to send a message to the public not based in fear of the future;
- Changes in industrialization trends;
- Increased innovation in business community;
- Issue of food security;
- Preserving agricultural land;
- Movement back to old housing patterns;
- Issue of growing national debt and the burden it puts on the public;
- Importance of demographics in accommodating growth;
- Population is becoming more in tune to transit options;
- Importance of demographics in accommodating growth;
- Diminished expectations about importance of consumption;
- Importance of unearthing trends early.

Mr. Jordan reminded the council that he will be having one-on-one's with each councilor over the next two weeks to discuss these items further. The Memo regarding big picture questions for the new budget cycle will be the basis for developing strategic budget strategies. It is important to keep in mind that any new strategies and ideas will only be possible if something else is sacrificed. Mr. Jordan commented that he would like the council to keep these issues in mind but to not let them oppress their ideas for the next budget cycle.

#### **4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Carlotta Collette commented on the recent Making the Greatest Place (MGP) presentation to the Clackamas County commission. The council discussed the meeting and issues that arose from it. Councilor Harrington commented that commission was misinformed on the reserves process. She also requested that there be a discussion about MGP political protocols so that Metro can go into the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with a stance. Councilor Harrington also requested that staff brief her on the characteristics of implementation in her district so that she can feel comfortable with some of the summary statements the council will be making. Councilor Burkholder requested that staff explain all the potential pathways the reserves decision could take.

Councilor Liberty and Councilor Harrington reflected on their recent trip to Vancouver, WA with policy makers from around the region.

Councilor Harrington announced that Cornelius held a celebration day for their new Main Street and commented that it is a great achievement in community design.

With no further business Councilor Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Topic</b> | <b>Doc. Date</b> | <b>Document Description</b>                            | <b>Doc. Number</b> |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1           | Agenda       | 09/24/09         | Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, October 1, 2009 | 092909cw-1         |
| 2           | Memo         | 8/31/09          | Questions for new budget cycle – big picture.          | 092909cw-2         |
| 3           | Handout      | N/A              | Metro Goals  | 092909cw-3         |
| 4           | Appendix     | 8/28/09          | Context Statements: Management Goals FY 09-10          | 092909cw-4         |
| 5           | Chart        | N/A              | Strategic Planning and Operational Model               | 092909cw-5         |
| 6           | Chart        | N/A              | FY10-11 Guidance Process                               | 092909cw-6         |
| 7           | Handout      | 6/18/09          | <i>The Coming Future...</i>                            | 092909cw-7         |