

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING AN) RESOLUTION NO. 88-917
AMENDMENT TO THE STATE STATUTE)
TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE) Introduced by the Planning
COUNCIL TO 13 MEMBERS) & Development Committee

WHEREAS, The Interim Task Force on Regional Metropolitan Government is considering changes to the structure of the Metropolitan Service District governance system; and

WHEREAS, Said Task Force has requested the Council of the Metropolitan Service District to provide advice on the issue of government structure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Metropolitan Service District supports an amendment to the District's statute which provides for an increase in the size of the Council to 13 members after the decennial census in 1990.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this _____ day of _____, 1988.

NOT ADOPTED

Mike Ragsdale, Presiding Officer

DEC/sm
9415C/508
04/25/88

Vote on the Motion to Amend Resolution No. 88-915: The vote resulted in all Councilors except Councilor Knowles voting aye. Councilor Knowles voted nay. No Councilors were absent.

The motion carried.

Vote on the Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 88-915 as amended:
The vote resulted in:

Ayes: Councilors DeJardin, Gardner, Kelley, Kirkpatrick, Van Bergen and Waker

Nays: Councilors Bonner, Collier, Cooper, Hansen, Knowles and Ragsdale

The motion failed to carry for lack of a majority.

10.2 Consideration of Resolution No. 88-917, for the Purpose of Supporting an Amendment to the State Statute to Increase the Size of the Council to 13 Members

Motion: Councilor Knowles moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-917. Councilor Bonner seconded the motion.

Councilor Knowles reported the Planning & Development Committee acknowledged, based on results of the questionnaire completed by all Councilors, that Councilors were divided on the issue of how many members should serve on the Council. The majority of Councilors had indicated an odd number should serve in order to avoid tie votes.

Councilor Kelley said she would oppose the resolution because she did not think adding one member to the Council would address the issue of whether fewer, full-time Councilors would better serve the District. She supported seven full-time members, explaining solution would be best for Metro's future. She pointed out that under the present, volunteer Councilor system, most Councilors were volunteering the maximum amount of time available to Metro.

Councilor DeJardin thought adding one more Council position would create reapportionment problems. He was also against any proposal for full-time Councilors because he did not think the Executive Officer and a full-time Council could co-exist.

Councilor Bonner said he would support the resolution as a means of eliminating tie votes.

Councilor Hansen suggested adding the thirteenth Councilor when the next reapportionment would take place. He favored an additional Council position, saying the current Metro districts were too large.

Officer's election could also be financed by special interests, he said.

Executive Officer Cusma agreed with the Presiding Officer's concerns. She feared a Presiding Officer could be elected who would not serve Metro well. She did advocate an elected Executive Officer, explaining it would be impossible for the electorate to have a big impact on Metro unless they could elect one official at large. The public needed to have the ability to "throw the rascals out," she said.

Vote on the Motion to Adopt Substitute Resolution No. 88-915A:

A vote resulted in:

Ayes: Councilors Bonner, Collier, Cooper, Hansen, Knowles and Ragsdale

Nays: Councilors DeJardin, Gardner, Kelley, Kirkpatrick, Van Bergen and Waker

The motion failed for lack of a majority.

Councilor Kirkpatrick asked if the option of fewer Councilors had been discussed by the Committee. Councilor Knowles responded that the Committee had shaped Resolution No. 88-915 around the majority of responses to the questionnaire on governance issues. Councilor Van Bergen disagreed the resolution reflected a majority consensus. Councilor Collier explained the Committee decided the value of the resolutions was to serve as a vehicle for full Council discussion. It would have been impossible to draft resolutions reflecting an actual Council consensus, she said.

Motion to Amend Resolution No. 88-915: Councilor DeJardin moved, seconded by Councilor Kelley, to amend the resolution by eliminating the recommendation for a Presiding Officer to be elected District-wide.

Councilor Kirkpatrick was concerned the resolution did not address whether Councilors should serve full-time, part-time or the number of members serving on the Council.

Councilor Gardner said he would agree with an amendment to Resolution No. 88-915 to eliminate the District-wide, elected Presiding Officer recommendation. He explained that anyone succeeding in a District-wide election would have to acquire a large, political base which could pose a threat to other local government officials.

Councilor Knowles explained the Committee's intent in adding the thirteenth position was to eliminate the possibility of tie votes.

Councilor DeJardin said the City of West Linn's system of the Presiding Officer voting only in cases of ties had worked well. If that system were employed, he said, the number of Councilors would not have to change.

Councilor Collier said she had initially agreed with the solution suggested by Councilor DeJardin but ultimately did not support the idea because the Presiding Officer would, in effect, be disenfranchised from his or her constituency but not voting. Councilor DeJardin responded that by being Presiding Officer of the Council, that Councilor would have additional representation.

Vote: A vote on the motion to adopt Resolution No. 88-917 resulted in:

Ayes: Councilors Bonner, Gardner, Hansen, Ragsdale and Waker

Nays: Councilors Collier, Cooper, DeJardin, Kelley, Kirkpatrick, Knowles and Van Bergen

The motion failed.

10.3 Consideration of Resolution No. 88-916, for the Purpose of Supporting Amendments to the State Statutes to Allow the Metropolitan Service District Council to Reapportion Itself and Allow Full Use of the Voters' Pamphlet for District Measures

Main Motion: Councilor Knowles moved, seconded by Councilor DeJardin, to adopt the resolution.

Councilor Bonner thought the reapportionment recommendation a bad idea. He explained the process was often controversial and time consuming. He preferred the State of Oregon continue to handle reapportionment.

Motion to Amend: Councilor Bonner moved, seconded by Councilor Kelley, to amend Resolution No. 88-916 by eliminating the recommendation that Metro reapportion itself.

Councilor Gardner opposed the amendment, explaining the District was already "vulnerable to legislating meddling." Because reapportionment happened every ten years, he did not believe it would take up too much of the District's time. Any decision to reapportion would also have to meet constitutional tests, he said, and Metro could handle that process rationally.

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Councilor Cooper supported the amendment because Metro could easily be accured by gerrymandering.

Councilor Van Bergen supported the amendment because he thought Metro should have a charter before being charged with reapportionment responsibilities.

Councilor Hansen did not support the amendment. He thought Metro should participate in reapportionment because Metro constituents would have a voice in the process.

Councilor Knowles thought Metro should have reapportionment powers and challenged Metro's legislative liaison to name an elected, local government body not empowered to reapportion its own districts. Greg McMurdo agreed no other government body existed.

Vote on Motion to Amend: A vote on the motion to amend
Resolution No. 88-916 resulted in:

Ayes: Councilors Bonner, Cooper, Kelley and Van Bergen

Nays: Councilors Collier, DeJardin, Gardner, Hansen,
Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Ragsdale and Waker

The motion failed.

Vote on the Main Motion: A vote on the motion to adopt
Resolution No. 88-916 resulted in:

Ayes: Councilors Bonnr, Collier, DeJardin, Gardner, Hansen,
Kirkpatrick, Knowles, Ragsdale and Waker

Nays: Councilors Cooper, Kelley and Van Bergen

The motion carried and Resolution No. 88-916 was adopted.

Later in the meeting it was acknowledged that although Resolution Nos. 88-915, 917 and 916 failed to receive unanimous endorsements, the Councilors' varied opinions would be forwarded to the Task Force on Metropolitan Government for further discussion.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.