



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
September 18, 2012
Metro Council Chamber**

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Rex Burkholder, Shirley Craddick, Carlotta Collette, Kathryn Harrington, and Barbara Roberts

Councilors Excused: Councilor Carl Hosticka

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:04 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Martha Bennett reported two items to the Council:

- The ordinance regarding the limited English proficiency research budget amendment will be revised because there was some confusion that ordinances' mention of Title VI was referring to Metro's Title VI when it is actually referring to the United States Civil Rights Act Title VI.
- A second Executive Session will follow the Executive Session that is already scheduled to take place after the September 20 Council meeting.

2. FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Margo Norton of Metro presented to the Council on the Fourth Quarter Financial Report. While the Fourth Quarter Financial Report is not finalized until the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is completed in December, Ms. Norton highlighted the preliminary bright spots and concerns from the past year's budget.

Strong revenue points included:

- Increased revenue from the Transient Lodging Tax and Construction Excise Tax

Steady revenue points included:

- Metro's venues including The Oregon Zoo, Oregon Convention Center, and Expo Center
- Metro's solid waste program
- Property taxes

Concerning revenue points included:

- Decreasing park admissions at Oxbow Park and Glendoveer Golf Course and Fitness Trail
- Cemetery sales

Mixed revenue points included:

- Grants such as those distributed by ODOT, and the Regional Travel Options Program

Regarding Metro's expenditures most departments operated within their budget. Overall expenditures came in at \$31 million under budget. However, expenditures were closer to the budget than they have been in the past three years.

Several departments underspent their budget. The Oregon Zoo considerably underspent material and services with lower than anticipated food and catering sales activity. Solid Waste expenditures for transfer, transport and disposal were lower, paralleling the decline in tonnage handled at the transfer stations. Additionally, The Resource Conservation and Recycling programs also remained below budget, an area with a considerable history of underspending.

Overall, Ms. Norton relayed that she felt Metro's fiscal year ended with the agencies finances in good position to support next year's budget. However, Ms. Norton stressed that Metro may face financial challenges in the future that would require making difficult decisions to balance the budget.

Council Discussion:

- The Council asked staff if they knew why Glendoveer Golf Course and Fitness Trail saw decreased revenue the past year. Staff reported that last year people didn't golf as much at Glendoveer as they had in years prior.
- The Council requested further detail on contingency planning and contingency use in the Metro budget. Staff clarified that contingency planning was comprehensive in the budget and that each fund and bond has its' own contingency. Staff agreed to bring forward a 5 year history of Metro's contingency use to Council at a future date.
- The Council discussed the declining tonnage that has been coming into Metro's solid waste facilities. The Council saw declining tonnage as a conundrum because on one hand it is indicative of Metro's sustainability goals for the region, but on the other hand it is hurting the agency as solid waste has historically been a primary source of revenue.

- The Council inquired what effects the Oregon Zoo's planned admission and membership price increase might have on patronage. Staff reported that the first price increase had already occurred and there had been no ill effects up to this point, and none were anticipated.

3. NORTH PORTLAND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Councilor Rex Burkholder presented to the Council on the North Portland Community Enhancement Grant. Community enhancement grants are funded by fees collected at nearby licensed disposal facilities throughout the metropolitan region. However, since the closure of the St. John's Landfill in 1991 the North Portland fund has not grown aside from dollars gained from interest payments. Consequently, the program's costs are now paid for by Metro supported grant funding.

Currently an outreach effort is underway to allow leaders from the affected community to make recommendations to Metro on how the program could be improved. Additionally, an Opt In survey will begin September 17 to allow for community feedback regarding what should be done with the program. Findings from this survey are scheduled to be presented to the Council on October 30, 2012.

Council Discussion:

- The Council was curious whether there was another community in the state that has gone through a similar dilemma following the closure of a landfill that could inform the North Portland situation. Both Council and staff thought that this was likely a unique situation as most landfills outside the region don't have associated community grants.
- The Council discussed whether there is a project that the North Portland community might want or need that is worthy of these dollars. The Council suggested that either the community could decide to spend all of the remaining dollars on one project, or disperse the dollars over a period of years on multiple projects.
- The Council endorsed the outreach efforts that are underway to engage the North Portland community in the decision making process. The Council felt that the outreach efforts put the community in a good position to first decide how to disburse the money, and then what specifically to spend it towards.

4. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE: METRO COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro reported to the Council on the Metro Council engagement portion of the Community Investment Initiative.

The 2040 Growth Concept calls for compact urban development, continued development in existing urbanized areas, and development near and along transit and transportation corridors. These goals will ensure livable communities, protect natural resources, support the regional economy, and offer residents a wide variety of choices in where they live and how they get around. However, one major obstacle to the 2040 Growth Concept is that our existing public structures are not being properly maintained, and we can't afford the investments we need to protect our livability as we grow.

In response to this challenge, a coalition of leaders came together in February 2011 to form the Community Investment Initiative, whose goal is to invest in the region's infrastructure to support the creation of living wage jobs. The CII has since created a strategic plan and is ready to seek partners to implement the strategies they have chosen to pursue.

The bulk of Ms. Bennett's presentation focused on the Metro Council Work Plan Schedule and Key Actions for the Community Investment initiative. The work plan outlined important dates over the next year where the Metro Council will be involved with the CII and other partner groups as they work toward the goals set forth by the CII.

Council Discussion:

- The Council was concerned that the CII was on the work session agenda for January 8, 2013. Three new Councilors will be joining Council at the beginning of 2013 and the January 8 work session will be their first. The current Council did not want the new Councilors to be overwhelmed at their first meeting as they will be entering the project while it is already in progress.
- The Council expressed both excitement and apprehension about the CII project. The Council was confident that a project this large and complex could be accomplished as Metro has tackled many voluminous projects in years past. The Council felt that with time the different pieces of the project would integrate smoothly and the direction of the project would become clearer.
- The Council requested a documented summation of direction given by Council to the CII at the July 26 work session. The Council believed the methodology outlined in the work plan was a good start, but meticulous documentation of the projects progress would be needed in order to be successful.
- The Council wanted to know what they should be telling their local jurisdictions about the CII project. Staff responded by stating that they did not want the Council to have to speak on the behalf of the Leadership Council, but acknowledged that Councilors would likely be questioned by constituents about the project. Consequently, staff will work to get talking points to Councilors regarding the project.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Rex Burkholder gave out a draft copy of Resolution No. 12-4367 to Council for their review. The resolution regards the request for a federal review of the environmental and health effects of the transportation of coal through the region.

Councilor Carlotta Collette reported to the Council on the September 13 JPACT meeting where the additional \$37 million in MTIP funding was discussed. JPACT was tending toward the third option, where new strategies for spending the additional funding would be explored. JPACT directed staff to review new projects that could possibly benefit from additional funding and report back later this fall.

Councilor Shirley Craddick brought to Council's attention the Boring Community Planning Organization letter sent to Metro regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement between Metro, the city of Sandy, and Clackamas County. The IGA was created with the purpose of establishing a Green Corridor along a stretch of Highway 26. The Boring CPO is opposing the IGA and expressed its' discontent in the letter. Metro has crafted a draft of a response letter, but has not decided whether to send it or not.

6. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:04 p.m.

Prepared by,



Adam Gardner
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	9/18/2012	9/20/12 Council Meeting Agenda	91812cw-01
2.0	Handout	9/18/2012	4 th Quarter Financial Report Graph	91812cw- 02
3.0	Handout	9/18/2012	Draft of Resolution No. 12-4367	91812cw- 03
4.0	Handout	Various	Boring CPO Letter, Resolution, Map, Staff Report	91812cw-04