



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes

Apr. 29, 2014

Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Sam Chase, Shirley Craddick, Kathryn Harrington, Bob Stacey, Carlotta Collette and Craig Dirksen

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett updated the Council on the following items:

- A work session scheduled for Thursday, May 1 immediately following the regular public hearing to discuss Metro's position for the ODOT Region 1 Transportation Task Force.
- Metro Council Spring Solid Waste Road Tour on Wednesday, April 30 in Junction City. Ms. Bennett explained that an onsite inspection, including travel to and from, is an exception to Council quorum under which Council cannot discuss or deliberate policy.
- Metro is anticipated to launch an outreach campaign in July directed at increasing women's use of active transportation.

2. TRANSPORTATION POLICY, COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Council President Hughes noted that the scheduled agenda item titled "Transportation Policy, Communication, and Coordination Assessment Report" would be postponed until Thursday, May 1.

3. FY 2014-15 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Kathy Rutkowski provided Council with an overview of the fiscal year 2014-15 budget adoption schedule. She explained that the budget would be adopted by resolution rather than ordinance and that staff scheduled a tentative work session for June 17 to discuss the budget further if needed. She stated that all amendments to the budget would be transmitted on June 6, immediately following the Tax Supervising Study Commission (TSSC) hearing. Ms. Rutkowski provided Council with a list of amendments to the proposed budget that could not be made by Council.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Harrington discussed the accessibility of contingency funds. Ms. Rutkowski explained that adoption of the budget by resolution would allow for contingency funds to be brought forward to Council for consideration by resolution.
- In response to questions from Council, Ms. Rutkowski explained the process for borrowing and paying off bonds.
- Staff confirmed that any amendment to the resolution must be submitted by May 27, but could be modified between May 27 and June 12. Councilor Harrington expressed concern that only one work session had been scheduled to discuss the budget and that the timeframe for Council to review the budget prior to the TSSC hearing would be too short.
- Councilor Harrington stated concern that the Office of the Metro Attorney would not be sustainably employed to handle anticipated workload in the next fiscal year. She recommended that Metro Attorney Alison R. Kean perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis to determine if the office could benefit from an additional full time attorney. Councilor Harrington noted that Metro Code states that Council determines the staffing level of the OMA although the Chief Operating Officer determines the budget. Ms. Kean stated that she did not feel that the OMA needed another full-time attorney, but was in the process of hiring a part-time attorney.
- Councilor Harrington and staff discussed means to make information transparent regarding special appropriations funds in the budget.
- Councilor Chase expressed a desire to see equity reflected in the budget beyond Metro's Equity Strategy. Councilor Harrington responded that Equity Strategy was created to define equity and recommended a work session on the program. Councilor Craddick encouraged equity to be evaluated programmatically, not just in the budget.

4. BREAK

Metro Council recessed for a short break.

5. POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION EXCISE TAX FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Ms. Martha Bennett introduced Mr. Gerry Uba, Mr. Dwight Unti Ms. Susan Anderson and Ms. Lorelei Juntunen to discuss the Construction Excise Tax (CET) and Community Planning Development Grants (CPDG) Program. In November 2013, Council and staff discussed the need to review the CPDG program and consideration of a possible extension of (CET), which funds the grants and is set to expire in September 2014. Ms. Bennett convened a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to review the program, recommend improvements, and provide advice on whether the tax should be extended.

Metro contracted with ECONorthwest, a consulting firm, to conduct a performance assessment of grant projects in Cycles 1 and 2. This performance assessment informed recommendations of the Advisory Group and Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Juntunen of ECONorthwest shared the firm's evaluation of the program and outcomes achieved, which is summarized in the attached worksheet.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee recommendations were shared. Highlights included: recommendation that Council extend the CET through 2020, the goals of the program be maintained, and that grants are distributed in two to three grant cycles.

Ms. Anderson discussed projects in Portland that benefitted from the CPDG program. She recommended broadening the criteria for selecting projects to receive grants.

Mr. Unti shared his experience on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and tools for refining criteria guidelines.

Ms. Bennett recommended that Metro increase its retention of receipts from the tax from 2.5 percent to 5 percent to cover administration costs. She explained that Council could discuss policy areas after considering whether to extend the CET.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Harrington expressed interest in who the stakeholders were who assisted in defining the purpose of CPDG. Staff explained that the committee consisted of regional stakeholders with an interest in development. Ms. Bennett noted that the committee had agreed not to address criteria until the Council has considered extending the tax.
- Councilor Harrington inquired as to why 2020 was put forth as the recommended year to extend the tax through. Ms. Bennett explained that the current pre-emption on local governments adopting the tax expires in 2018. Staff explained that there was a discussion about the next growth management cycle and expectation to have concept plans underway on a six year growth management cycle.
- Councilor Harrington stated there is a need for a Council policy framework.
- Councilors Craddick and Harrington emphasized the importance of ensuring there is adequate funding alongside CPDG projects for completion.
- Council President Hughes stated that criteria influences whether grants are distributed equitably. Councilor Stacey differentiated two purposes of the grants and stated that they require different sets of criteria for evaluation.
- Councilor Harrington stated her support for extending the CET, but inquired what “consultation” with Council and MPAC under Section 2 of the draft ordinance would consist of. Ms. Alison R. Kean of the Office of Metro Attorney explained that traditionally the Chief Operating Officer has adopted the administrative rules that decide who considers adoption of the tax renewal.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Hughes sought Council authorization for Councilors Collette and Harrington to represent Metro on the Best Practices Trip to Pittsburgh, PA and to approve four Councilors representing Metro at the Portland Business Alliance conference in Washington D.C.

7. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Metro Council Work Session

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Schmidt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APR. 29, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
1.0	Agenda	5/1/14	Council Agenda for May 1, 2014	42914cw-01
1.0	Agenda	5/1/14	Work Session Agenda for May 1, 2014	42914cw -02
1.0	Handout	N/A	Active Transportation Marketing Signs	42914cw -03
3.0	Handout	4/28/14	Councilor Harrington's Summary and Recommendation for Budget	42914cw -04
5.0	PowerPoint	4/29/14	Construction Excise Tax Presentation	42914cw -05
5.0	Handout	4/5/14	Construction Excise Tax Report	42914cw -06