



METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Oct. 2, 2014

Metro, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Art Lewellan, Portland: Mr. Lewellan shared materials on the Columbia River Crossing project and his concern for the bore tunnel in Seattle, Washington.

Mars Green, Portland: Ms. Green discussed the elephants at the Oregon Zoo and tuberculosis testing. She also expressed concern about where the zoo bond money was going.

Sandy Miller, Portland: Ms. Miller addressed the Metro Council on the elephants at the Oregon Zoo and captive breeding programs in other zoos. She requested that the elephants, including Packy, be released as soon as possible to an elephant sanctuary.

Courtney Scott, Portland: Ms. Scott inquired about the elephants at the Oregon Zoo and current practices relating to tuberculosis. She requested that the Metro Council hold a public hearing regarding moving the elephants to sanctuaries and consider instead moving the giraffes to the current elephant habitat.

3. AUDITOR ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION

Council President Hughes introduced Auditor Suzanne Flynn to present the Office of the Auditor Annual Report for FY 2013-14. Ms. Flynn discussed the history of performance auditing at Metro and extensive process behind the annual report. She stated that the audit process is good for Metro because it gives a sense about how well we're doing and whether we're hitting the mark. She also mentioned that the Auditor's Office recently received a Bronze Award from National Association of Local Government Auditors for their recent Transportations Outcomes Audit. Ms. Flynn described the measures used each year including average hours per audit, the number of audits per year, number of audits per department, audits per full-time equivalent (FTE), and the ethics line. She

explained that the Auditor's Office will also look at implementation rate, send out surveys to the department directors to ask for progress made based on the audit's recommendations, and that results of an audit usually visible by the fifth year.

Councilors commented that they appreciated the performance audit process and program and Auditor Flynn and her staff's quality work.

4. RECYCLING HOTLINE AUDIT PRESENTATION

Auditor Suzanne Flynn presented a report on the Recycling Hotline audit. She discussed the two levels of analysis in this audit, which were effectiveness of the program and efficiency of the program. Ms. Flynn stated that their analysis showed that the reach of the program was limited and that the program could be reassessed due to changing preferences for accessing information as well as looking at options for increasing the reach of getting this information out. She thanked the department and staff for being helpful during the audit and noted that the auditors were very impressed with staff and their degree of knowledge of recycling.

Council President Hughes introduced Jim Desmond, Director of Sustainability, to provide the Management Response to the audit. Mr. Desmond thanked Auditor Flynn and her staff for their exemplary work and discussed the value that the audit provides. He also discussed the value of the Recycling Hotline as a public resource and important tool, especially for those that do not have internet access.

Mr. Desmond introduced Matt Korot, Metro Resource Conservation and Recycling Program Manager, to further discuss details of the program and the audit results. Mr. Korot spoke to the history of the program, which includes the Recycling Hotline, and explained that the hotline serves not only residents, but also Metro Transfer Stations, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program and Metro Paint. He agreed that the analysis shows the changing trends within the Recycling Information Center and the need to adapt to meet customers' needs, as well as look at other efficiencies that could be addressed based on the audit's recommendations.

Council discussion

Councilors thanked Auditor Flynn and staff for their work on this audit. Councilors discussed personal experiences with recycling and composting, using the hotline, and ways that Metro could continually improve service and education in order to meet the public's needs.

5. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Motion:	Councilor Bob Stacey moved to adopt Council Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2014.
Second:	Councilor Shirley Craddick seconded the motion.

Vote:	Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Chase, Dirksen, Collette and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1 Resolution No. 14-4558, For the Purpose of Denying a Request for a Transfer Station Tonnage Limit Increase at Willamette Resources, Inc.

Motion:	Councilor Shirley Craddick moved to approve Resolution No. 14-4558.
Second:	Councilor Carlotta Collette seconded the motion.

Council President Hughes introduced Mr. Roy Brower, Solid Waste Compliance Manager, to provide the staff report. Mr. Brower discussed a series of ordinances adopted in August 2013 on the Solid Waste Transfer System which were intended to keep the system stable and predictable until the end of 2015 and included tonnage caps. He stated that two requests were received by private transfer stations to increase these tonnage caps during this two-year moratorium, one of which has been withdrawn. The current request still open and under consideration today came from Republic Services on behalf of Willamette Resources, Inc. (WRI), which requested either an increase of 15,000 or 55,000 tons. Mr. Brower highlighted a few of the reasons that staff is recommending a denial of the WRI request:

- The tonnage increase requested is large (either a 21% or 79% increase) and a significant change would be disruptive and affect all parties in the regional solid waste system
- The written application from WRI did not provide any specific evidence that the increase was necessary or justified
- The applicant did not indicate that the tonnage increase would provide a significant benefit or sustainability improvement
- Wet waste tonnage, regionally, still has not rebounded to the pre-recession levels that existed at the time that the tonnage caps were last set.

He stated that staff understand the importance and necessity of reconsidering the role of tonnage caps, their relevancy and purpose for the future of the Region’s solid waste, but that the evaluation of caps and transfer stations in general is all being considered as part of the larger Solid Waste Road Map which concludes late next year. Mr. Brower explained that the results of that effort will be available to all, will seek to assure a level playing field and minimize system disruption in the future. He concluded that staff cannot recommend that the Council make any major policy decision based on an individual facility’s request without considering impacts on the total regional solid waste system including all of the other transfer stations, haulers and full range of considerations.

Council President Hughes introduced Derek Ruckman, General Manager for Republic Services (owner and operator of WRI), to provide public testimony. Mr. Ruckman introduced and presented new information, not previously part of their application. He thanked the Council and Metro staff for the opportunity to openly discuss the application and for the entire process. Mr. Ruckman listed several of the reasons and justifications for the increase including:

- Hitting the tonnage cap and needing to redirect traffic across the region has significant economic and environmental impact for our rate payers; to accommodate the increases that we are seeing, many trucks will be diverted to Oregon City, which could mean an additional 1,700 trips between mid-October and December (in addition to 1,700 return trips)
- The additional trips (and further out) mean an increase in operating costs passed on to the rate payers
- We have the acreage, the land, the building for an increase but no cap to accommodate the increases in tons that we’re already accommodating

- Metro staff accurately stated that we did not contest the moratorium in 2013, as we did not foresee that we could be dealing with 85,000 tons in 2014, but we've seen a significant increase especially in Washington County
- Republic Services has also recently acquired a new customer, Aloha Garbage, as we had room at the time

Mr. Ruckman concluded his presentation and Council President Hughes opened the floor for questions from councilors.

Council discussion

In response to Councilor Craddick's questions, Mr. Ruckman confirmed that the increase request is specifically in regards to the challenges that they are expecting for October through the end of December, as the tonnage cap resets in January. He also confirmed that they did not acquire Aloha Garbage until October and did not see any issues with the current cap until then, and that the bulk of the additional need for extra tonnage is coming from Aloha Garbage. Councilors discussed alternatives for Aloha Garbage's tonnage, including other transfer stations with room and impacts to the entire regional system.

Council President Hughes introduced Steve Larrance, Aloha Garbage, to provide additional public testimony and answer questions from the councilors. Mr. Larrance addressed the Council on the economic issues faced by Aloha Garbage and their need for this cap increase, including higher costs within the system, recent road construction and increasing tipping fees charged by area facilities.

Councilor Stacey spoke, as Council Liaison for the Solid Waste Road Map, to the questions considered in looking at the regional system including locations, geographical distribution, where waste is collected/disposed, hazardous waste, transfer station functions, wet waste, operational hours of a facility and more, all through careful thought and deliberation. Councilors discussed the need to ensure fair tipping fees at all transfer stations and continue to be looking at solid waste in whole regional system versus a case-by-case basis. In response to councilors' inquiry, Mr. Brower confirmed that based on the new materials provided by Republic Services, he did not see anything in the application that would change the staff recommendation.

Vote:

Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Chase, Dirksen, Collette and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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7. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Martha Bennett provided an update on the free admission day on Saturday, October 4th at the Oregon Zoo, as a thank you to the community for a great summer.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: MERC Commission meeting on the Convention Center Hotel design process, unveiling of the new green wall at the Expo Center, Willamette Falls Friends Group meeting, and Climate Smart Communities community leaders group meeting.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 4:23 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 5 p.m. at the City of Oregon City, City Hall, Commission Chambers. The Metro Council recessed to the Council annex for an executive session held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the performance of an officer, employee or staff member if the person does not request an open meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Eldridge".

Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCT. 2, 2014

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
2.0	Testimony; Handout	10/2/2014	From Art Lewellan	10214c-01
2.0	Testimony	10/2/2014	From Courtney Scott	10214c-02
6.1	Testimony; Handout	10/2/2014	Willamette Resources, Inc. Tonnage Increase Request Presentation Slides	10214c-03