



**METRO COUNCIL MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2015

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Carlotta Collette

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Art Lewellen, Portland: Mr. Lewellen addressed the Metro Council on the Seattle Tunnel project, specifically on an alternative for Bertha (tunneling machine). He expressed his concern over the project, asking the Council to contact Lynn Peterson, Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation, on his behalf.

Matt Tracy, AFSCME 3580, 3580-1: Mr. Tracy thanked the Metro Council for their support of temporary workers, extending his appreciation to the Union bargaining unit, the Metro executive staff, and to Metro's Chief Operating Officer for their hard work during the negotiation process.

Dana Carstensen, Hillsboro: Mr. Carstensen address the Metro Council on temporary workers at the Oregon Zoo, the hours cap, and potential solutions to current inequalities, such as providing limited application seniority for temp workers applying for full-time regular positions with Metro.

Justin Norton-Kertson, 15 NOW PDX: Mr. Norton-Kertson introduced himself as the lead organizer for 15 NOW PDX, a campaign for a \$15/hour minimum wage. He discussed cost of living in the Portland area and explained that this is important to cover basics like housing, food, childcare, health insurance, and transportation; he thanked Metro for recently finished negotiating a contract for temporary workers and providing a \$15/hour starting pay. He also stressed that there are still a lot of Metro staff who are still working below this rate and struggling, asking Metro to keep working on this issue.

Marco Mejia, Portland: Mr. Mejia explained that he was here representing the Jobs with Justice organization, was also here in support of the recently completed contract for temporary workers and wanted to congratulate all involved parties. Mr. Mejia noted that it is difficult for low wage workers to organize without fear of being fired, but it's important to recognize that they have the right to organize just like any other. He thanked Metro for supporting these workers to organize. He also stated that there are still plenty of Metro workers who are earning less than \$15/hour or a living wage, asking that we all continue to work together to get all workers up to a living wage.

Jen Lanphear: Ms. Lanphear introduced herself as a temporary worker at the Oregon Zoo, noting that in her department there are 5 permanent workers and 6 temporary workers; many of the temp

workers have been in the same position for several years. She thanked Metro for taking a first step in improving conditions and wages for the temporary workers, but still said there was work to do so that these staff could continue to provide good care of animals.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1 **Resolution No. 15-4607**, For the Purpose of Confirming the Reappointment of Deidra Krysrusoff and Reappointment of Andrew Lonergan to the Investment Advisory Board

2.2 **Resolution No. 15-4614**, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Casey Camors to the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

2.3 Consideration of Council Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2015

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| Motion: | Councilor Shirley Craddick moved to adopt the consent agenda items. |
| Second: | Councilor Kathryn Harrington seconded the motion.                   |

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| Vote: | Council President Hughes, and Councilors Dirksen, Harrington, Craddick, Chase and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 ayes, the motion passed. |
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**3. ORDINANCES (FIRST READ)**

3.1 **Ordinance No. 15-1352**, For the Purpose of Adopting Solid Waste Charges and User Fees for FY 2015-16

3.2 **Ordinance No. 15-1353**, For the Purpose of Amending and Readopting Metro Code 7.03 (Investment Policy) for FY 2015-16

**4. RESOLUTIONS**

4.1 **Resolution No. 15-4608**, For the Purpose of Supporting a Policy to “Ban the Box” from Metro’s Job Application Initial Screening Process

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| Motion: | Councilor Sam Chase moved to approve Resolution 15-4608. |
| Second: | Councilor Shirley Craddick seconded the motion.          |

Council President Hughes introduced Councilor Chase to provide a brief statement about the resolution. Councilor Chase explained that this work is in addition to work that is already happening at Metro, including engagement of the Equity Strategy Advisory Committee and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program. He stated that removing this part of the job application screening process allows people to have the chance to make the case and apply for a position, while still going through background checks, but takes away a layer of discrimination in the initial process. He introduced Midge Purcell, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at the Urban League of Portland, to provide additional statements. Ms. Purcell stated that this was a positive step forward towards Metro’s goal of incorporating equity in the way that it does business. She also

discussed how for communities of color, especially African-Americans, there is a disproportionate impact of unemployment even with the economy gets better; she noted that currently black unemployment in the Metro region is around 18%. Ms. Purcell thanked the Council for considering this resolution.

***Council discussion***

Councilors discussed the importance of removing this barrier, why people should be given a second chance after they have paid a debt, and expressed support in moving this forward.

Vote:

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| Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Dirksen, Chase and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 ayes, the motion passed. |
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**5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Martha Bennett, COO, provided an update on the following events or items: Willamette Falls Riverwalk request for qualifications design proposals submitted (14 total), Women’s History Month and corresponding internal events and the Zoo Education Center feature story in Daily Journal of Commerce on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION**

Councilors provided updates on the following events or items: Powell-Division transit project received support for a transit center at the Mt. Hood Community College Board meeting.

**7. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 2:47 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber.

Respectfully submitted,



Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAR. 12, 2015**

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Topic</b> | <b>Doc. Date</b> | <b>Document Description</b>                | <b>Doc. Number</b> |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1.0         | Testimony    | 03/12/2015       | Testimony handout from AFSCME 3580 members | 031215c-01         |
| 2.3         | Minutes      | 03/05/2015       | Council Meeting minutes from March 5, 2015 | 031215c-02         |
| 4.1         | Handout      | 03/10/2015       | ESAC Letter of Support for "ban the box"   | 031215c-03         |