



METRO COUNCIL RETREAT
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016
Oregon Convention Center, VIP Suite D

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: Martha Bennett, Tim Collier, Nathan Sykes, Kathy Rutkowski, Scott Robinson, Sarah Erskine, Lisa Houghton, Nikolai Ursin, Ina Zucker, Ramona Perrault, Beth Cohen, Colin Deverell, Alexandra Eldridge

Council President Hughes noted a quorum was present and called the council retreat to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief introduction as to the purpose of the retreat and noted that Mr. Tim Collier, Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, would be presenting the 5-Year forecast. She requested feedback from councilors on the budget recommendations identified and spoke to the importance of looking ahead to the fiscal year 2017-2018.

2. 5-YEAR FORECAST

Mr. Collier provided a brief presentation on the FY2015-2016 General Fund and discussed the composition of the general fund amended budget resources and requirements. He reviewed the 5-year forecast for FY2016-2017 through 2020-2021, as well as potential variables that could impact future budget planning. Mr. Collier noted that the projections in the presentation reflect the increase in PERS, but do not take into account potential changes that could affect budget including the 2017-2018 projected PERS increase, the impact of minimum wage and parental leave legislation, a levy renewal, or the impact of providing sick leave for temporary employees. Mr. Collier also provided budget information and 5-year forecasts for the following departments/programs:

- Metro Exposition and Recreation Committee (MERC), Oregon Convention Center (OCC), Portland'5, and EXPO Center,
- Solid Waste fund and a forecast of solid waste rates through fiscal year 2020-2021,
- Oregon Zoo operating fund,
- and the Special Appropriations fund.

Councilors asked clarifying questions about the capital expenditures and reserves forecasts, discussed Regional Water Consortium dues, and Metro's roles in Greater Portland Pulse and the Metro Export Initiative.

3. EMERGING BUDGET POLICY DECISIONS

Ms. Bennett noted that there may not be a need for a 5% reduction this fiscal year and shared the current prioritization of three neglected investment categories: capital assets, information technology assets, and internal administrative capacity. Mr. Collier added that other things to consider, but are not priorities, include adding FTE to the general fund and examining allocations that aren't spent. Councilors inquired about other investment priorities, including emergency preparedness, next steps for equitable housing, Glendoveer improvements, Metroscope, and the Least Cost Planning tool.

4. BREAK

5. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

Councilors discussed the continuity of the emergency preparedness operations plan, including disaster recovery, the possibility of using large venues as shelters, and a developing a framework for land use and transportation. Councilors expressed their concern over water quality issues that could potentially result from a disaster and spoke to the need to put resources toward developing a work plan to determine protocols for Metro facilities. Councilors further discussed ideas on equitable housing, Metroscope and other modeling tools and improvements, surplus land inventory, and continued work on transportation development.

6. ADIJOURN

Seeing no further discussion, Deputy Council President Dirksen adjourned the Council retreat at 4:10 p.m.

Prepared by,



Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE RETREAT ON FEB. 9, 2016

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
2.0	Handout	2/9/2016	5-Year Forecast PowerPoint	020916c-01