

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2019

1:00 PM

Portland Expo Center, Room D201

Council budget session

1:00 Introduction, Background, and Goals for the Day

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council budget session to order at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Andrew Scott, Interim Chief Operating Officer, introduced the budget session, noting that the budget session was part of the annual budget process. He explained that he was requesting direction on major policy and programmatic decisions in advance of developing the next year's budget. Mr. Scott then reviewed the agenda.

Present: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Councilor Bob Stacey

1:10 Budget Calendar Review

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Brian Kennedy, Metro's Finance and Regulatory Services Director, to provide an overview of the budget calendar. Mr. Kennedy reviewed the draft budget calendar and highlighted when Council would provide direction and take action. He explained that this budget would include presentations on department budgets to Council for feedback and direction in early 2020. Mr. Kennedy discussed the review and approval schedule for the budget and also noted that the adopted budget would be amended multiple times throughout the year.

1:20 Financial Conditions by Major Funds

Mr. Scott invited Mr. Kennedy to provide an overview of the financial conditions of the major funds at Metro. Mr. Kennedy reviewed each of the following funds: general, parks levy, visitor venues, solid waste and Oregon Zoo. He discussed revenues and programs of each fund and shared upcoming financial headwinds including significant Public

Employees Retirement Systems (PERS) rate increases, the effects of a potential economic recession, increases to personnel costs due to the housing bond measure and the solid waste tonnage forecast. Mr. Kennedy explained the charter limitation on expenditures and the stagnant federal funding for transportation planning activities.

Mr. Kennedy noted positive financial trends including stable revenue streams across all of the funds, a strong events business in the visitor venues fund and healthy reserves in the solid waste fund. He also discussed the progress made in building reserves in the Oregon Zoo enterprise fund.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Dirksen asked how the annual PERS rate was established. Councilor Craddick asked whether Council should charter amendments in the near future. Councilor Gonzalez asked about the efficacy of a 20 year financial forecast.

2:20 Break

2:30 Council Initiatives Discussion & Direction

Mr. Scott stated that given these financial conditions, he wanted to ensure that Metro Council's initiatives aligned with the work program and spending plan for the next 18 months. He proposed a draft work plan and asked the Council to update and confirm the initiatives as needed. Mr. Scott highlighted priorities that would require a substantial body of work as they relied on significant technical, political and engagement work. He explained that Council would make refinements to the work plan in January 2020.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed the major policy initiatives and agreed on the priorities listed. Councilors Stacey and Gonzalez noted the connection between the climate resiliency work, the climate smart strategy and green-house gas emissions across the region. Councilor Craddick agreed that the climate mitigation and transportation work was critical. Councilors discussed the progress made in advancing Metro as an employer of choice, highlighting work to make additional benefits to part time employees and enterprise fund employees. Council President discussed the need for Council to develop a long range strategic plan. Councilor Lewis raised community placemaking and the potential for land making authority for brownfield sites as two additional items for Council to consider. Councilors highlighted the need for Council awareness and involvement in significant projects underway in the region.

4:00 Next Steps & Debrief

Mr. Scott thanked Council for their feedback and emphasized further refinement of the priorities would take place in early 2020.

4:15 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council budget session at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara Farrokhzadian, Legislative and Engagement
Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2019

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	Powerpoint	11/14/19	Draft Council Budget Calendar Overview	111419cr-01
4.0	Handout	11/14/17	Draft Council Initiatives	111419cr-02