

# Metro

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**Metro**

## Minutes

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**2:10 PM**

**Conference call**

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

President Peterson announced that on March 12, the Metro Council adopted Ordinance No. 20-1443, authorizing the Council to meet electronically upon declaration of an emergency by the Metro Council President. President Peterson informed the Council that she had declared an emergency.

As such, she asked for a motion to suspend Metro's rules requiring the physical presence of a majority of the council to constitute a quorum, effective March 19, 2020 and continuing until such time as Metro resumes meeting in person at Metro Regional Center. Councilor Lewis made the motion; Councilor Gonzalez seconded. The Council voted unanimously in favor.

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

**2. Presentations****2.1 Criminal Background Check Process Audit**

Council President Peterson called on Brian Evans, Metro Auditor, to present the Criminal Background Audit. Mr. Evans provided an overview of the audit and explained that the objective was to confirm if Metro's criminal background checks process provided sufficient and appropriate information to ensure a consistent hiring decisions.

Mr. Evans reviewed Metro's criminal background checks process and then shared the audit's findings. He explained that the audit found that Metro's background check process was more consistent than several other local governments

in the region because it covered all employees. He stated that consistency made it more likely that appropriate criminal background information was being considered when making hiring decisions.

Mr. Evans also highlighted weaknesses in the process and provided the following recommendations for how to address them: reduce the risk of insufficient or inappropriate criminal background searches, ensure consistent reviews of criminal background information, safeguard criminal background information, and reduce the chances that an employee or volunteer will be allowed to work prior to completing the criminal background check process.

President Peterson then called on Julio Garcia, Human Resources Director, to provide the management response. Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Evans for the audit and noted that Human Resources staff agreed with the recommendations. He explained that by the end of the calendar year, HR staff was committed to implementing all of the recommendations, and provided an overview of how staff planned to make these changes.

#### *Council Discussion*

Councilors thanked Mr. Evans for the audit. Councilor Chase asked about the number of potential employees that were asked to complete criminal background checks. Councilor Craddick asked about how background checks were performed externally and internally. Councilor Lewis inquired about steps taken to expedite the background check process for employees transferring within Metro. Councilor Gonzalez asked about the criminal background check process for contracted employees.

### **3. Resolutions**

- 3.1 Resolution No. 20-5064, For the Purpose of Amending the FY 2019-20 Budget and Appropriations Schedule and FY 2019-20 Through FY 2023-24

## Capital Improvement Plan to Provide Changes in Operations

Council President Peterson called on Brian Kennedy, Director of Finance, to present Resolution No. 20-5064. He explained that the action under consideration represented the second of three scheduled consolidated budget amendments for the fiscal year. He noted that the amendment was developed prior to the economic situation brought on by COVID-19 and emphasized that finance staff would be working closely with department directors on their budgets before implementing any of the changes included in the resolution.

Mr. Kennedy provided an overview of the amendments, including additional FTE for several departments and amendments to the Capital Improvement Plan budget.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Dirksen asked how positions at Oxbow Regional Park would be impacted by COVID-19 park closures. Councilor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of allowing for flexibility in terms of responding to economic impacts as a result of COVID-19. Councilor Craddick inquired about the changes to the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services organizational structure and how they were supported by the resolution.

**A motion was made by Councilor Dirksen, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

3.2 Resolution No. 20-5074, For the Purpose of Authorizing General Obligation Bonds Under the 2019 Parks and Nature Measure

Council President Peterson called on Brian Kennedy, Director of Finance, to present Resolution No. 20-5074. Mr. Kennedy explained that approval of the resolution would

authorize the sale of up to \$200 million in general obligation bonds under the 2019 Parks and Nature measure. He stated that Oregon law required the Metro Council to formally approve all debt issuance. He informed the Council that the resolution would give staff authority to structure the debt in a way that best served regional taxpayers.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Craddick asked about the bond schedules for the 2019 bond. Councilor Chase asked how the bond market would be affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

**A motion was made by Councilor Chase, seconded by Councilor Stacey, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

**4. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the impacts Metro was experiencing due to COVID-19 and gave an overview of the agency's planned responses.

**5. Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: the Community Placemaking Grant Review Committee, Travel Portland Visitor Board, the City of Hillsboro's approval of the food scraps ordinance, and a proposed letter to the federal government in support of a relief package.

**6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 3:25 p.m. The

Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on April 2 at 2:00 p.m. President Peterson stated that seeing no further discussion, the Council would meet for an executive session held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Respectfully submitted,



Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2020**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>N/A</b>	Testimony	03/18/20	Testimony from Daniel Frye	031920c-01
<b>N/A</b>	Testimony	03/19/20	Testimony from Micealle Hawkins	031920c-02
<b>N/A</b>	Declaration	03/18/20	Declaration of Emergency	031920c-03