

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 1999

Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Jon Kvistad (Presiding Officer), Susan McLain, Rod Monroe, Ed Washington, Rod Park, David Bragdon, Bill Atherton

Councilors Absent:

Presiding Officer Kvistad convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

1. OATH OF OFFICE

Presiding Officer Kvistad introduced Justice Ted Kulongoski who administered the oath of office to newly elected and returning councilors.

Justice Kulongoski appreciated the invitation to swear in the council. He said this was the week for the swearing in process for governmental bodies around the state, and that as he and the Chief Justice had been sharing swearing in duties for a number of governmental entities, they were amazed at the quality of people who were stepping forward to be public officials. He noted that David Bragdon was one of those, and because of his long association with Mr. Bragdon it was his great pleasure to swear in the Council today. He noted that the public interest would be well served by the election of these Metro Councilors.

Swearing in ceremony here.

2. COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Presiding Officer Kvistad thanked everyone for the opportunity and pleasure of serving as the Presiding Officer for the past 3 years. He said it had been a tremendous honor for him and he still had 2 years on the council which he was looking forward to. He called for nominations for presiding officer.

2.1 Presiding Officer Nominations

Motion: **Councilor McLain** nominated Councilor Rod Monroe as Presiding Officer.

Seconded: **Councilor Bragdon** seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was 7 aye/ 0 nay/ 0 abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Resolution No. 99-2742, For the Purpose of Reorganizing the Metro Council for 1999.

Motion: **Councilor McLain** moved to adopt Resolution No. 99-2742.

Seconded: **Councilor Washington** seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was 7 aye / 0 nay/ 0 abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Monroe said he had been thinking about his speech a lot and it humbled him a great deal that the Council had decided to bestow the honor and tremendous responsibility of presiding officer on him. He said because he was an old history professor he had been thinking about that about this time 176 years ago, his great-great-great-uncle was giving his state of the union. He noted that a major portion of that speech had come down to us as the Monroe Doctrine. He said he did not want anyone to think this would be the Monroe Doctrine II, but:

“We begin today anew with a sense of optimism and hope for a new year. I would like to thank my fellow councilors for their faith in me. I understand the tasks and responsibility that is incumbent upon me and look forward to working on behalf of this region.

I want to take a moment to thank Councilor Jon Kvistad. Jon, you were our leader for the past 3 years and cannot say enough how much this region should be grateful for your leadership. This council made some tough, yes controversial, decision. I want to take this moment and give you this ceremonial gavel and extend my thanks to you on behalf of the citizens of this region.

We are in a new era. I pledge to you that I will work hard to ensure that this council leads by example and brings in the views of our local partners. We need to work on common goals and reach positive outcomes.... not for our own personal agenda, but for the results that our region demands and yes, expects.

This council faces many challenges and opportunities in the year 1999. During the next 30 days, we must, and yes we will, pass a workable ethics code for the Metro Council. We must continue our leadership role in this region’s nationally-recognized land use planning, completing the work begun last year on the Urban Growth Boundary while protecting fragile open spaces, stream corridors, and prime farm and forest lands.

Portland is the transportation hub of the Pacific Northwest. We must renew our efforts to produce a multi-faceted transportation system that includes a highway system that works, freight mobility to strengthen our growing jobs base, an improved regional transit system, and connected bicycle and pedestrian routes that make sense. People must have viable choices in how they move about this region. To achieve this we will need to increase our efforts to secure necessary transportation funding from the federal government and particularly from the State Legislature.

Because of the recent merger of Waste Management and USA Waste, we have a unique opportunity to significantly reduce wholesale garbage rates and possibly even get the garbage off of the trucks traveling through the Columbia Gorge and onto trains or barges instead!

Tourism is a growing part of our region’s economic viability. To compete successfully for tourist dollars we must find a way to fund the planned expansion of the Convention Center without the use of property tax dollars. We must also carry out the mandate of last year’s council to complete major improvements at the Expo Center. This region leads the nation in recycling with a current rate of about 42%. We can do even better. I want to see us reach our goal of over 50% by the end of the year 2000. Other issues that we will face include the future of Civic Stadium, OMSI, and of course our performing arts centers. I expect a lot of this council but I want you to know you should expect a lot out of me. I will over the next 2 months be meeting with every local partner and jurisdiction to discuss Metro, to ask for their help in making this a better region. My door is always open to each one of you. So let’s get to work.”

He announced his choice for Deputy Presiding Officer. He said he had decided to select Councilor Susan McLain as his deputy.

He reviewed the committee assignments for the next year. (A copy of these assignments is attached to the permanent record of this meeting.) He noted that there would be 4 standing committees which was far fewer than in the past. The Metro Operations Committee was a new committee and would include the old Regional Facilities Committee. He noted that JPACT would be chaired by Councilor Kvistad. He hoped the appointments would bring balance and allow the council to work effectively and allow each member of the council to serve the region to the best of their abilities.

Presiding Officer Monroe asked Chief Justice Wally Carson to swear in Auditor Alexis Dow and Executive Officer Mike Burton who afterwards thanked their respective supporters and told of their future goals for Metro over the next 4 years. Executive Officer Burton also noted that this was the 20th anniversary of Metro and said it could no longer be considered an experimental government.

Presiding Officer Monroe announced that the Executive Officer had agreed to weekly meetings to discuss issues related to Metro and at least every other week with the full council for the same so there would be good communication at Metro.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Councilor Bragdon said the person who would be the best judge of how Metro was doing was Jane Bragdon, his 5-month old niece, who was, he said, probably out in the hallway with a lobbyist as she was not present at the time of this introduction. He mentioned he had other friends and family present.

Councilor Atherton introduced Carole Atherton, Meryl Haber, and Jean Noltensmeyer who had helped him for many months, Sue Lester, Diane Davis and David Dodds, and especially old friends, Andy and Rondi Leonard. He also introduced Monroe Sweetland who had been in the public eye for over 60 years.

Councilor Park introduced his parents, Harry and Raksoon Park and his aunt Chun Ghi, and his wife Joy. He also noted the three mayors from his district, Chuck Becker, Don Robertson, Paul Tallifer. He appreciated them supporting him here. He also introduced Bruce Andrews, the former director of agriculture and Gussie McRobert, former mayor of Gresham. He also thanked Sharon Wiley, former state representative, for her guidance on his campaign.

Councilor McLain noted that she was starting her ninth year at Metro. She introduced her mother and her husband, Cliff McLain. She said they had provided her with the support she needed to be here for as long as she had.

Presiding Officer Monroe noted the number of former state legislators in the room. He introduced his wife, Billie Monroe, and his mother-in-law, Bernice Hampton. He thanked them for their support.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor Atherton noted a memo that he had prepared and handed to council. He said he had new information and insight on the review of the conclusions of the Growth Report. He asked for

a new growth report and a strong clear communication with the legislature on growth management and planning matters. He noted his suggested resolution regarding the 20 year land law. His third request of the council was to review the Regional Framework Plan and the process for carrying capacity. He announced his intention to prepare ordinances in the next 2 weeks that would delete a number of areas recently added to the UGB. He expected some to be noticed for the January 21 meeting of the council.

Councilor McLain indicated to Councilor Atherton that she believed the issues he had brought up were definitely part of the procedures and work they had ahead of them. She suggested that some of the ideas be taken up at January work sessions and at the Growth Committee. She said she would be happy to work with him on that.

Presiding Officer Monroe added that any resolutions and ordinances that were filed would be referred to the appropriate committee and dealt with there in a timely and serious manner.

Councilor Bragdon said in his enthusiasm about his niece he had neglected to say he did have parents in the room. He also noted that Councilor Washington had taken responsibility for his ties and haircuts.

Councilor Washington said he was going to introduce mom and dad if he hadn't.

Presiding Officer Monroe said Councilor Washington had also mentioned his clothing. He invited everyone to the reception in the foyer.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Monroe adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

Document #	Document Date	Document Title	TO/FROM	RES/ORD
010799c-01	1/7/99	List of Proposals for Council consideration	TO: Metro Council FROM: Councilor Atherton	Draft Resolution No. 99-2748