

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

March 8, 1989

Committee Members Present:

Councilors: Tanya Collier (Chair), George Van Bergen (Vice
Chair), Richard Devlin, Jim Gardner and Judy Wyers
Citizens: Tom Balmer, Gretchen Buehner, Michael Hill and
Patricia Jernberg

Committee Members Absent:

Councilors: None
Citizens: Steven Harloff

Chair Collier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

GENERAL FUND PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

Department directors presented overviews for each department of the Metro General Fund. The overviews included a brief history of each department, significant department programs and activities, and a discussion of how department programs and staffing would change from the previous budget year. Requests from the Committee and specific concerns are noted below.

1. Office of General Counsel

Presented by Dan Cooper, General Counsel

- * Chair Collier asked Mr. Cooper to provide the Committee with a summary of cost savings during the last year due to Metro maintaining its own legal counsel versus contracting legal services.
- * Councilor Van Bergen asked Mr. Cooper to provide the Council with a written assurance that Combustion Engineering Company had no viable claim on Metro concerning the proposed waste to energy project.

2. Executive Management Department

Presented by Dick Engstrom, Deputy Executive Officer

- * Councilor Devlin requested the Executive Officer or her staff contact Councilors prior to the Executive issuing press releases. He requested that procedure be followed as a matter of routine protocol.
- * Councilor Devlin requested the Executive Officer inform the Council of negotiations with bargaining units via executive sessions. Chair Collier requested the Executive Officer schedule an executive session as soon as possible.

- * Ms. Buehner requested staff provide the Committee with the Executive Officer's plans for improving the public's perception of Metro during FY 1989-90.
- * Ms. Buehner recalled that the FY 1988-89 Budget Committee had been told that Don Rocks would be the liaison between the Executive Officer and the Council. She noted he had not attended FY 1988-89 Budget Committee meetings and the Executive Officer had expressed concerns about not being informed of the Committee's activities and decisions. Ms. Buehner asked if Mr. Rocks would attend FY 1989-90 Budget Committee meetings in order to keep the Executive informed. Mr. Engstrom said he (the Deputy Executive Officer) would be attending the meetings.
- * Councilor Van Bergen requested the Executive Officer brief the Budget Committee on negotiations with labor bargaining units as soon as possible and that the Executive's proposed budget assume a level of pay increases. The Councilor noted it would be impossible for the Budget Committee to conclude its work without that information.

3. Public Affairs Department

Presented by Vickie Rocker, Public Affairs Director;
Joan Saroka, Public Information Supervisor; and
Janice Larson, Graphics Coordinator

- * Councilor Devlin suggested that local government officials be targeted as a specific group in a campaign to improve Metro's image. He thought that effort would also have a secondary benefit of improving Metro's image with the general public. He explained that many local government officials had expressed non-specific complaints about Metro but when pressed to discuss specific issues, they often could not define any. Councilor Wyers supported Councilor Devlin's suggestion. Ms. Rocker said she would work with Metro's Local Government Coordinator to survey that group. She agreed some type of effort was needed.
- * Chair Collier asked Ms. Rocker to provide the Committee with a report on the percentage of projects the Public Affairs Department had completed for the current fiscal year.
- * Councilor Van Bergen noted that billboards were an effective mode of advertising and a less expensive alternative to television ads. He suggested staff investigate that form of advertising its waste reduction program.

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4. Council Department
Presented by Don Carlson, Council Administrator

There were no requests for additional information of the Council Department.

Other Business

Jennifer Sims, Financial Services Manager, responded to Councilor Van Bergen's question of March 7 about the effect of FarWest Insurance Company's financial status on the FY 1989-90 budget. She said she had talked to Metro's insurance broker and had been assured that the effect of the company's financial status on the new budget would be neutral to positive. She explained a positive effect could result if Metro chose to go with another medical insurance carrier and as a result of rebidding that contract, another carrier submitted a lower bid.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Marie Nelson
Clerk of the Council

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