

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

July 14, 1988

Committee Members Present: Councilors Mike Ragsdale (Chair), Gary Hansen (V. Chair), Sharron Kelley and David Knowles

Committee Members Absent: Councilors Tanya Collier, Larry Cooper and Richard Waker

Also Present: Councilors Jim Gardner and George Van Bergen

Chair Ragsdale called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

1. Consent Agenda

Listed on the Consent Agenda were the following items:

- 1.1 Consideration of Minutes of May 12, 1988
- 1.2 Consideration of Resolution No. 88-953, for the Purpose of Entering into a Contract with Waste-Go Services
- 1.3 Consideration of Resolution No. 88-954, for the Purpose of Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Purchase of the Jefferson Street Rail Line
- 1.4 Consideration of Resolution No. 88-955, for the Purpose of Approving a Contract with Tri-Met to Perform Ridership Forecasting for the Westside Light Rail Transit Preliminary Engineering

Motion: Councilor Kelley moved approval of all items on the Consent Agenda.

Vote: The vote on the motion was unanimous with all committee members present voting aye. Councilors Collier, Cooper and Waker were absent.

The motion carried. However, later in the meeting, the chair announced he had removed Items 1.3 and 1.4 from the Consent Agenda because they had failed to meet Consent Agenda criteria. He explained because the July 12, 1988 Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting had been cancelled, neither resolution had been acted upon by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Therefore, the chair received separate motions for adoption of items 1.3 and 1.4. Item 1.3 was approved and forwarded to Council with a committee recommendation

for adoption. Item 1.4 was referred back to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee by the chair.

2. Consideration of Ordinance No. 88-255, for the Purpose of Amending Section 2.02.040 of the Metro Code and Revising the List of Positions Subject to Confirmation by the Council

At the request of staff, and with Committee concurrence, the Chair deferred consideration of the ordinance to the Committee's July 28 regular meeting.

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 88-949, for the Purpose of Developing Contracts with ODS Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, Standard Life Insurance Company and PERS

Director of Finance and Administration, Ray Phelps, encouraged the Committee to support the recommendations of the Health and Retirement Benefits Task Force and the Executive Officer and recommended adoption of Resolution No. 88-949. Chair Ragsdale also noted a memo for Council Administrator Donald Carlson dated July 13, 1988 addressed to the Committee regarding Information on Resolution No. 88-949. He stated staff had recommended deferral of action on the resolution.

Chair Ragsdale opened the public hearing.

Sylvia Smith, Metro Accounting Division submitted petitions signed by 60 Metro staff members requesting the Council maintain the current level of employee health benefits. The petitions have been filed as part of the meeting record. Ms. Smith stated petition supporters agreed with Council staff's recommendation that no action be taken to change health and life insurance benefits and to defer changes to the retirement benefits until further study had been completed.

Mike Cannarella, Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), referred the Committee to written information he had provided them to support his verbal testimony. Mr. Cannarella said it had been inappropriate to compare Metro employee health benefits to private sector employee health benefits. He said the written information he had provided compared employee health benefits provided by two public sector employers--the State of Oregon and City of Portland--with the benefits proposed in Resolution No. 88-949. Mr. Cannarella said the health benefit level proposed in Resolution No. 88-949 was significantly lower than that afforded by the State and City. He said he opposed a benefit reduction because he had determined that if Metro employee health benefits were reduced, adjustments

proposed in the Pay and Classification Plan Study would not be significant enough to elevate employee compensation to the level the Study had concluded appropriate.

Mr. Cannarella said 74% of downtown Metro and gatehouse employees had signed authorization cards designating AFSCME as their duly-elected representative in matters relating to their employment, AFSCME had filed a petition with the Employment Relations Board (ERB) on June 20 requesting a union representation election on behalf of Metro employees, and correspondence dated June 30 to Metro Executive Officer Cusma from Roger Auerbach, Oregon AFSCME Council No. 75 Staff Supervisor conveyed Mr. Auerbach's belief that the changes proposed in employee working conditions would be in violation of Oregon law.

Councilor George Van Bergen, Chair, Health and Retirement Benefits Task Force repeated the Task Force's recommendations to contract with the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and ODS Health Plan. He said that information provided by staff indicated employees had had several opportunities to review the proposals and that he opposed deferring action on the resolution.

Bob Hart, Metro Transportation Planner, questioned why the consultant's recommendation to contract for health plan benefits at the existing level had not been followed.

There was no further public testimony and the hearing was closed.

Councilors Hansen and Kelley said they supported deferral of Resolution No. 88-949.

Motion: Councilor Knowles moved to defer action on Resolution No. 88-949 until the September 8, 1988 Council meeting or such time as the results of a union representation election were known, whichever occurred first.

Councilor Ragsdale said he opposed the motion because he felt that with the separation of powers, the benefits issue was within the purview of the Executive Officer and not an appropriate issue for Council discussion.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in Councilors Hansen, Kelley and Knowles voting aye. Councilor Ragsdale voted nay. Councilors Collier, Cooper and Waker were absent.

The motion carried.

Internal Affairs Committee
July 14, 1988
Page 4

The Chair requested a motion for approval of Resolution Nos. 88-954 and 88-955 which had been removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilor Gardner presented information on Resolution No. 88-954.

Motion: Councilor Knowles moved adoption of Resolution No. 88-954 approving entering into and intergovernmental agreement for purchase of the Jefferson Street Light Rail Line.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in all committee members present voting aye. Councilors Collier, Cooper and Waker were absent.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ragsdale, after discussion with staff and the concurrence of the Committee, re-referred Resolution No. 88-955 to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for review and recommendation.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwen Ware-Barrett
Council Committee Clerk

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