

MEETING REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: December 18, 1979

GROUP/SUBJECT: Ways and Means Committee

PERSONS ATTENDING: Couns. Corky Kirkpatrick, Jack Deines, Mike Burton, Donna Stuhr

Metro staff: Denton Kent, Andy Jordan, Marilyn Holstrom, Charlie Shell, John Gregory, Michele Wilder

MEDIA: None.

SUMMARY:

Chairman Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and opened discussion on procedures to fill vacant Council positions. Andy Jordan presented the proposed procedures which included the following steps: First, applications would be accepted and secured by the staff to determine legal eligibility only; second, the Ways and Means Committee would review the applications and nominate no less than two and no more than five candidates to be presented to the Council; third, the Council would vote by written ballot, eliminating candidates through successive balloting until one candidate received a majority.

Coun. Kirkpatrick recommended that the proposed ordinance be referred to a Nominating Committee rather than the Ways and Means Committee. She explained that if the Council changed Committee structure, the ordinance would not have to be changed. The option of having Chairpersons of standing Committees serve as the Nominating Committee was also discussed. The Committee decided to recommend that the wording of the ordinance designate the Council Presiding Officer to appoint a Nominating Committee. Andy Jordan was directed to present a draft ordinance to the Committee at its January 15, meeting.

Marilyn Holstrom discussed proposed changes to the Local Officials Advisory Committee (LOAC). In response to the dissatisfaction with the current structure it is being proposed that the Committee be changed to serve as a regional forum to discuss issues and advise the Council through this forum. While the Steering Committee could call LOAC meetings at any time, the forums would be held quarterly. LOAC would participate in the A-95 review process as directed by the Governor by mail. The members would receive the same material as the Council.

Coun. Burton questioned the A-95 review function for LOAC as a duplication of effort since each city or county represented already participates in the review process. Coun. Kirkpatrick expressed her

support of the regional forum concept but stated that the forum must be meaningful. Ms. Holstrom assured the Local Government Assistance that her staff was prepared to devote the necessary time to make the forums a success.

Coun. Stuhr recommended approval of the staff recommendation with the stipulation that the effectiveness of the proposed A-95 review process be reviewed after three months. The Committee supported her recommendations.

Charlie Shell reviewed a draft of the fiscal year 1981 budget schedule. Coun. Kirkpatrick expressed concern that the Council have the opportunity to participate in the budget decisions before the Executive Officer presents the proposed budget to the Council in April. Mr. Shell noted that the Council would have an opportunity to refine the topics and issues discussed at the budget retreat prior to January 25.

The Committee also indicated that the Council should have an opportunity to participate in the decisions made to cut the priority list to balance the budget. Two points on the schedule were identified for Council review; first, the Council Committees should review the requested budgets prepared by the departments; second, the Council as a whole should review the budget just before the Executive Officer makes final decisions on the proposed budget.

The Committee also discussed the role of citizen involvement in the process. Two alternatives were discussed; (1) using LOAC as a budget review committee, and (2) using the members of the Finance Task Force with the exception of the members of the State Legislature. Interest was expressed in using a modified Finance Task Force, since these people were already familiar with the Metro budget.

The Committee expressed interest in a recommendation to hold an informal Council meeting before the January 24 regular meeting to discuss the budget process with the entire Council.

Charlie Shell reviewed the fiscal 1979 Audit Report and the Response to Management Letter. He noted that the staff had taken action to respond to each point of the auditor's management letter. While most of the recommended areas of improvement could be resolved by the next audit, some, such as the fixed asset system, could take longer. In response to a question by Coun. Burton, Mr. Shell explained that the contract and purchasing procedures were being tightened and that the Zoo was cooperating in complying with procedures.

The Committee discussed the issue of reorganizing Council Committees. Coun. Stuhr moved to postpone decisions on the Council Committees to the first meeting in February, and requested that Councilors attend the Ways and Means Committee January 15 meeting to discuss ideas on alternative Committee structures. Coun. Burton noted that procedural rules adopted by the Council required that the

Council appoint committees in January. The motion passed, with Coun. Burton's dissent, with the provision that staff verify whether the Council could wave the procedural ruling on this point.

REPORT WRITTEN BY: Charlie Shell

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Council
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