



JOINT CITY OF DAMASCUS / METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Summary

May 12, 2015

City of Damascus, Council Chamber

Metro Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Bob Stacey, Sam Chase, Shirley Craddick, Carlotta Collette, Craig Dirksen, and Kathryn Harrington

City of Damascus Councilors Present: Mayor Diana Helm, Council President Bill Wehr, and Councilors Nancy Carpenter, Jim De Young, David Hadley, and Rich Klecker

City of Damascus Councilors Excused: Councilor Debra Stevens

Council President Tom Hughes and Mayor Diana Helm called the Joint City of Damascus and Metro Council work session to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. PRESENTATION ON 2015 CITY OF DAMASCUS COUNCIL GOALS

Mayor Diana Helm welcomed the Metro Council and guests in the audience to the joint work session and introduced Council President Hughes to provide a brief history of Metro, its responsibilities and requirements, and provide background information on when and how the City of Damascus was added into the urban growth boundary.

Mayor Helm then provided a presentation on the City of Damascus' 2015 Council Goals, which were organized by priority and included the following:

- First Priority
 - Earn credibility as a city government providing high value services to Damascus citizens
 - Greatly increase and improve the two-way flow of information between city government and the Damascus citizens to help assure the actions of city government are consistent with and further the interests and values of the Damascus community
- Second Priority
 - Study and understand the challenges and realities of extending infrastructure into Damascus to support urban scale development using that information to make needed adjustments to plans, policies, and strategies
 - Support reforms of the City Charter designed to remove unworkable provisions while respecting the people's desire for a constrained government
- Third Priority
 - Revise the draft Comprehensive Plan and supporting documents to address issues raised by citizens during an extensive community engagement process and issues

raised in the infrastructure analysis focusing on taking the documents to the voters at the November 2016 election

- Address parks and recreations needs including setting a strategic direction for the Foster/Vogel house and property
- Ongoing
 - Increase official participation in regional political and civic activities advocating for Damascus' interests.

2. METRO OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON THE URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Council President Hughes introduced Mr. John Williams, Deputy Director of Metro's Planning and Development Department, and Ted Reid, Metro staff, to provide a brief overview of the urban growth management decision. Mr. Williams described the growth management decision process, which included looking at aerial photos, employment and housing forecasts, current and potential market trends, potential future development barriers, adopted plans from all of the communities in the region, and other factors, all of which are compiled and used to create the draft Urban Growth Report. Mr. Williams noted that the 2014 draft Urban Growth Report, released in July 2014, is reviewed by both the Metro Council and Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) to make a recommendation on how to accommodate growth in the region, either by modifying or accepting the Urban Growth Report. Mr. Williams highlighted that the draft report shows that the region does have the ability to accommodate the next twenty years of population and employment growth and that the current discussions have brought out a couple of key questions about capacity to accommodate residential growth in the next twenty years:

- What is the ability of centers, like Portland, to accommodate current growth assumptions?
- What is the ability of the City of Damascus to accommodate current growth assumptions? When will Damascus have infrastructure and governance in place to help make that development happen?

Mr. Ted Reid provided additional detail on the Urban Growth Report, reiterating that it's as estimate and when looking out twenty years, there can be a lot of uncertainty about what may or may not happen with Damascus. He stated that previously considered draft comprehensive plans for the City were used to look at potential household growth in coming up with estimated growth for Damascus, counting about half of that number (10,000 housing units over the next twenty years).

3. DISCUSSION

Mayor Helm noted the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet that John Morgan, Damascus interim planning director, created and brought to the meeting which detailed everything from the creation of the urban growth boundary to specific history about Damascus' planning and structure and what could happen in the future. She also commented about the unique situation that Damascus is in, compared to other jurisdictions, as its comprehensive plan requires a vote of the citizens and the last six have been voted down. She also noted that she wasn't sure that citizens knew of the potential implications of disincorporation and that it wouldn't necessarily stop development or remove the city from the urban growth boundary.

Mayor Helm, Damascus Councilors, and Metro Councilors further discussed issues including: the current city charter requirements and restrictions, frustration among citizens, disincorporation, de-annexations from Damascus/annexations to Happy Valley and Clackamas County, infrastructure and services, limits on City spending, possible assistance for Damascus' current situation from the Legislature, and whether or not Damascus could be removed from the urban growth boundary. The councilors discussed next steps including relating bills in the Oregon State Legislature and how Metro can continue to engage the City of Damascus on the Urban Growth Management Decision this year. Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick, District 1 (which includes Damascus), thanked Mayor Helm and the Damascus City Council for hosting the work session and noted that she was very impressed with the level of engagement of the community, also thanking the community attendees in the audience.

4. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes and Mayor Diana Helm adjourned the Joint City of Damascus and Metro Council work session at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Eldridge".

Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 12, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Handout	3/16/15	City of Damascus: Council Goals – 2015	051215cw-01
2.0	Handout	5/11/15	City of Damascus: Choices for the Future (Frequently Asked Questions)	051215cw-02
2.0	Handout	5/12/15	City of Damascus: Watersheds and 20-Year Planning Area	051215cw-03
2.0	Handout	4/28/15	Urban Growth Management Topic Paper: Development Potential in UGB Expansion Areas, Including Damascus	051215cw-04