



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2016
Metro Regional Center, Rooms 370 A&B

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

Councilors Excused: Council President Tom Hughes

Deputy Council President Craig Dirksen called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett provided updates on the internal lunchtime discussion of recent events in Orlando, the upcoming Pride parade, the results of the Cascadia Rising event, and the grant that is funding the current upgrade to the audio and video systems in the Council chamber.

2. FY 2016-17 BUDGET DISCUSSION – DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. Tim Collier and Ms. Kathy Rutkowski presented on the FY 2016-17 budget discussion of amendments. Mr. Collier provided a brief introduction about staff amendments. Ms. Rutkowski noted that this is last work session that will be held regarding the FY 2016-17 budget. She shared that there were 22 department-requested amendments to the budget, and added that there were no Councilor-requested amendments this year. Of the 22 departmental amendments, she noted that 18 were technical amendments and only four were substantive. She then provided brief review of the four substantive requests. Mr. Collier summarized the changes to the budget based on the aforementioned amendments and discussed the next steps for the budget approval process.

Council Discussion:

Councilors thanked the Finance and Regulatory Services (FRS) staff for their hard work and expressed their appreciation for the amendment that takes into account reductions in healthcare expenditures and appropriates the funds towards future increases in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Councilor Chase inquired about amending the budget to include additional Construction Excise Tax (CET) funding for affordable housing projects. In response, Ms. Bennett noted that due to the appropriations of CET funds there is no need to amend the budget.

3. PLANNING FOR POTENTIAL PARKS AND NATURE LEVY RENEWAL

Ms. Heather Nelson Kent and Mr. Noah Siegel presented on Planning for Potential Parks and Nature Levy Renewal. Ms. Nelson Kent discussed Metro's natural areas levy and noted that the recently adopted Parks and Nature System Plan positions Metro to be able to continue investing in nature. She also noted that the strong policy language included in the 2013 levy empowers the Parks and Nature department with the opportunity to pilot initiatives to advance their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work. Mr. Siegel discussed several strategies for the levy renewal and spoke to his appreciation for the in-depth look at funding and priorities for the Parks and Nature department. He provided a brief analysis of threats and opportunities surrounding the levy renewal. Council advised that staff move forward with the levy renewal on the assumption that the levy will pass, and spoke to the staff recommendation to approve the levy referral at the June 30th Council meeting. Ms. Nelson Kent noted that Parks and Nature staff have received no feedback from Councilors or other staff on the draft legislation, and added that they are still working with the Office of the Metro Attorney (OMA) on the ballot title.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Craddick inquired about testing the ballot measure against other funding measures that will be on the ballot at same time. In response, Mr. Siegel shared that staff did simulate a crowded ballot in the last round of testing and found that the numbers in support of the ballot were the same. Ms. Alison Kean noted that the date of referral is the date at which State law imposes restrictions on political activity for public employees, so beginning on that date any political activity by elected officials regarding the levy cannot be assisted by Metro staff. Ms. Nelson Kent added that Parks and Nature staff is working with Communications staff to ensure that all necessary materials are ready in advance of the referral. Councilor Chase inquired about the timing of the levy referral and possible advantages to pushing it to a later date in order to retain staff capacity. Mr. Siegel noted that the Council meeting location for the June 30th meeting adds momentum to the efforts and Ms. Kean added that the levy has to be referred by September 9th.

4. URBAN GROWTH READINESS TASK FORCE: UPDATE ON MEETING #1

Council invited Mr. John Williams and Mr. Andy Shaw to present on the Urban Growth Readiness Task Force update. Councilors expressed concern about several of the changes to terminology in the Task Force's problem statement and requested clarification about the implications of House Bill 4 78. Mr. Williams noted that the term "adjustment" was a recommendation from the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) based on discussions about UGB swaps that would require adjusting the boundary rather than doing simple expansions. Mr. Shaw added t the term "anticipated" came from some members of the task force who felt like they weren't left with enough urban reserves and want to revisit that in future. Councilor Harrington spoke against the idea of UGB swaps and raised concerns that the way existing urban reserves are currently being planned for doesn't match the findings or intentions from the original process. Councilor Craddick raised concerns that allowing UGB expansions could perpetuate inequalities within the region, but added that swapping could be beneficial if land that is unlikely to develop in the near future is swapped out for land adjacent to cities that are expanding. Councilor Stacey noted that the Metro

region is still relatively low-density and that there are opportunities for robust development in the town centers of nearly all communities in the region. Councilor Harrington emphasized that Metro cannot control the market; it can only attempt to predict what the market will do. Councilor Dirksen noted that if adjustments are allowed, specific criteria to guide and weight adjustments will be critical, and Councilor Chase added that a demonstration of a regional need or regional benefit would be an important criterion. Councilors, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Shaw discussed the impact of urban and rural reserves findings on the management of growth in the region. Councilor Collette emphasized that the updates demonstrate that Metro listened and raised concerns about getting stuck on the language and not moving forward with the rest of the discussion.

5. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Ms. Bennett invited Mr. Noah Siegel to discuss a proposal brought to Metro by the Port of Portland to ask the City of Portland for an exemption under current Construction Exist Tax (CET) restrictions for brownfield remediation. He reviewed the potential actions that Metro could take regarding this proposal, including providing active support for the proposal, or acting as a facilitator in upcoming communications. Councilors, Ms. Bennett, and Mr. Siegel discussed the potential implications of the proposed exemption for Metro's CET, and whether it would apply to entire properties or only the portions needing remediation. Councilors spoke against supporting the proposed exemption and advised doing nothing at this time.

Councilor Harrington recalled her dinner with the Portland General Electric (PGE) Board of Directors, Councilor Craddick noted the time change for an upcoming levee meeting and discussed her testimony at the Joint Transportation Committee public hearing, and Councilor Dirksen reviewed the lunch following the public hearing at Portland Community College (PCC). Councilor Craddick also added that she will be on a panel at the upcoming Washington State Transportation Commission meeting and provided an update on the construction of the Oregon Zoo education facility, and noted that she will be absent during the upcoming week. Councilor Stacey noted unanimous vote at the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) urging Metro to adopt the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Councilor Chase recalled the recent Institute for Metropolitan Studies retreat on affordable housing and homelessness, Councilor Collette recalled the regional overview she provided to a delegation from Brazil, and Councilor Dirksen reviewed the discussion from the most recent Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

6. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyra Schneider, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2016

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	Handout	06/14/2016	Department Amendments to FY 2016-17 Budget Memo	061416cw-01
2.0	Handout	06/14/2016	FY 2016-17 Contracts	061416cw-02
4.0	Handout	06/14/2016	Urban Growth Readiness Task Force Meeting Two Agenda	061416cw-03
5.0	Handout	06/14/2016	Levee Ready Columbia Flyer	061416cw-04