

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**PACKET REVISED 06/09/17**

**Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber**

**Council work session**

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**2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

**Councilors Excused:** None

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

**2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, noted that there were three candidates for the Parks and Nature Director position; it was likely a decision would be made within the next two weeks. Ms. Bennett then shared a document to Council that provided highlights and talking points regarding the proposed transportation package (House Bill 2017). Ms. Bennett indicated that June 29, 2017- a Tuesday- would be reserved for a retreat. The Council retreat would involve preliminary conversations about funding challenges that relate to natural areas bond and other Metro operations. Ms. Bennett shared that on Wednesday June 21, 2017, the Seventh Annual Barbara Walker Regional Trails Fair would occur at the Oregon Convention Center Plaza. The event would be an opportunity for constituents to learn about grants, projects, and initiatives across the greater Portland region.

**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 FY 2017-18 Budget Discussion - Discussion of Amendments

Mr. Tim Collier, Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, remarked that the work session item would provide an overview to the 2017-18 fiscal budget along

with highlights of the amendments made to an earlier draft of the budget. Mr. Collier conveyed that the objective of the work session was to gauge the confidence of the Council on approving the budget on June 22, 2017 and whether Council preferred to proceed with department amendments as a block proposal or review the respective department amendments separately.

Ms. Lisa Houghton, Financial Planning Manager, provided Council with highlights related to the amendments made to the proposed budget. Ms. Houghton acknowledged that there was one Councilor amendment, and 27 departmental amendments that totaled \$4 million dollars in appropriations. Also, Ms. Houghton indicated that there were nine substantive amendments along with 18 technical amendments. Ms. Houghton explained that the Oregon Zoo had requested several full-time equivalent (FTE) opportunities in order to sustain sensitive operations. Communications had requested an extension of a limited duration FTE opportunity that would expire that the end of the current fiscal year; the cost for this position would be shared by various departments at Metro. Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC) had requested a two year FTE position to manage a portfolio of special projects.

*Council Discussion:*

Councilor Stacey inquired staff on a constituent who had provided testimony on a previous Council meeting regarding the condition of the Multnomah County channel water control facilities. Councilor Craddick asked staff why another temporary position had been requested for a videographer under the Communications department; because digital media is so integral to Metro operations, she noted that a permanent position should be considered rather than a cycle of temporary positions. Councilor Harrington requested that the substantive and technical amendments be presented as blocks instead of each respective amendment being presented separately. Councilor Dirksen proposed presenting the amendments

in three separate blocks: councilor amendments, substantive amendments, and technical amendments.

2:40 Legislative Update

Mr. Andy Shaw, Government Affairs Manager, provided Council with a legislative update. A hazardous waste bill was still in the Ways and Means Committee; staff was working on making sure the bill could get referred to a subcommittee in order to be vetted by the full committee. Mr. Shaw indicated that SB 1008 (clean diesel bill) had been amended to include stronger environmental provisions and would need more votes in order to pass the senate subcommittee in order to face a full vote. In regards to House Bill 2017-the transportation bill- Mr. Shaw indicated that several regionally elected officials had provided testimony on behalf of the transportation bill. Mr. Shaw noted that there was a lack of representation from the trucking associations and industrial lobbyists. Mr. Shaw acknowledged that an amendment for the transportation bill would change the dynamic of tax rates and its associated timeframe; the tax rates would be lower but spread over a larger period of time in order for constituents to compensate for increases in gas taxes. Also, there would be a similar change to the vehicle registration tax; the tax rates would be lower and spread out over a longer period of time. Mr. Shaw indicated that re-working the tax rate and its implementation was still being finalized, though it was certain that there would be a change in the execution of those revenue building schemes. In regards to other components of the bill, Mr. Shaw reiterated that the goal was to support the comprehensive nature of the bill, whereas tidying up certain elements with amendments in order to develop a well rounded plan. Mr. Shaw highlighted that the focus was till to have the state impose taxes in order to generate enough revenue for various transportation projects. According to Mr. Shaw, it was likely that the transportation package would be the last item to be voted on during the current legislative session.

*Councilor Discussion:*

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Councilor Craddick asked Mr. Shaw whether there had been any changes to the composition of the Metropolitan Congestion Relief District (MCRD). The MCRD would be composed of Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPACT) members albeit only elected officials would be able to vote for project allocation. Councilor Harrington clarified the phasing of the gas and vehicle registration taxes over time and whether there would be any other changes to the taxing schemes besides lowering the rates over an extended timeframe. Councilor Dirksen wanted to clarify that for enforcing taxing zones, the state would be using the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary (updated every 10 years by state legislature) whereas regionally, Metro would be using the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) that it has developed. Councilor Chase communicated his reservation regarding the composition of the MCRD. He was worried about voters losing the significance of their vote because Portland would only have one vote (via the MCRD structure). Though there would be three Metro Councilors on the MCRD, Councilor Chase indicated that there was a danger that Portland would be underrepresented. Councilor Harrington asked why the Metro Council would provide guidance after project allocations had been decided by the Congestion Relief Advisory Committee (CRAC). She wanted there to be a level playing field in the representation of regional representatives, especially in the decision making processes.

### **3:00 Councilor Liaison Updates and Council Communication**

Councilor Dirksen noted that he would be attending a meeting in order to discuss the governance structure of the proposed regional surcharge. Councilor Craddick reminded Council that the levee system tours were scheduled for next week. Councilor Harrington announced that she would be leaving the Council meeting early and would likely not be able to vote on the Stafford Intergovernmental Agreement item. Also, Councilor Harrington recalled that Property and

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Environmental Services (PES) had hosted a open house on non system licensing. Council President Hughes acknowledged the contribution of Mr. Wim Wiewel who was stepping down as President of Portland State University (PSU). President Hughes indicated that Mr. Wiewel worked tremendously on expanding the infrastructure of PSU along with developing it to become one of the premier institutions in the region.

**3:05 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amaanjit Singh

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2017**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	06/13/17	Transportation bill talking points	061317cw-01
<b>3.2</b>	Handout	06/13/17	Proposed metro congestion relief district selection process	061317cw-02