

MINUTES
Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting
Troutdale City Hall – Council Chambers
104 SE Kibling Avenue
Troutdale, OR 97060-2099

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE.

Councilor Daoust called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Councilor Daoust stated Mayor Kight and Craig Ward are attending a meeting tonight with Union Pacific Railroad. As Council President I will be running the meeting in the Mayor's absence.

PRESENT: Councilor Wand, Councilor Thomas, Councilor White, Councilor Kyle, Councilor Daoust, and Mayor Kight (7:30pm via phone).

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: David Ross, City Attorney; Rich Faith, Community Development Director; Erich Mueller, Finance Director; Sam Davis, Recreation Program Manager; Mollie King, Recreation Program Manager; and Sarah Skroch, Deputy City Recorder.

GUESTS: See Attached List.

Councilor Daoust asked is there an agenda update?

David Ross replied Agenda Item #6 has been pulled from the agenda.

2. INTRODUCTION: New City Recreation Program Manager – Mollie King.

Erich Mueller, Finance Director, stated we wanted to make sure Council and the television audience had a chance to see the changing of the guard of the Recreation Program which is highly visible to the residents and part of what makes Troutdale a desirable place to raise a family. Sam Davis has run the program for a number of years. We're fortunate to have Mollie King join the city.

Sam Davis, Recreation Program Manager, stated I'd like to introduce Mollie King, our new Recreation Program Manager. She comes highly recommended with a lot of background in recreation. I think she'll do a really great job for the City. She is very community oriented and that's what we were looking for.

Mollie King, Recreation Program Manager, stated thank you, I'm thrilled to be here. It's been great working with Sam over the last week. I've known her for a number of years and it's great to be able to work closer with her and get a feel for the program. She is a dedicated employee, very knowledgeable, and a true professional in recreation. I've worked in a variety of settings both small and large. I'm a certified Parks and Recreation Professional. I've also been involved with the Peace Corps for a couple of years. I want to thank the City Council for the foresightedness in having this Recreation Program and I think it directly applies to your second goal of livability for the City. From all the different benefits that recreation provides from physical activity, to decreasing crime, and to creating that sense of community. I got a glimpse of the summer day camp program and it's fantastic. It's well run with dedicated staff with 2 of the 4 staff members being here 7 to 8 years. Some of the kids in the program started attending at age 4 all the way through 12 and then come back to volunteer. I'm thrilled to be here, I enjoy public service and I'm excited to continue this program. I welcome feedback and look forward to getting to know everyone.

Councilor Daoust stated we're going to miss Sam. She's run the program for a long time. We're very glad that you're here and it sounds like you'll do a great job. I've been on the Council for 14 years and every year the Recreation Program comes up around budget time but we never have cut the program. In fact, it's probably one of the most supported programs from us. It has the support of the youth, the parents, the staff, and the City Council.

Councilor Kyle stated good luck Sam. Thank you so much for your dedication. You have maintained a program that all of us are very proud of. Mollie, welcome.

Councilor Thomas stated I want to thank you for all of the work you've put into the program. I remember at one time they attempted to cut the budget for the recreation program and the entire Council said no way. I think that was a great testament to the Parks and Recreation Program and the commitment of the City to ensure that we have an adequate program for people to be involved with. Thank you for coming aboard and I look forward to working with you in the future.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 ACCEPT MINUTES: August 24, 2010 Regular Meeting.

3.2 RESOLUTION: A resolution to approve the acquisition of a tax foreclosed property for non-housing purposes.

3.3 RESOLUTION: A resolution authorizing submittal of a Technical Assistance Grant Application to Business Oregon for predevelopment planning of the riverfront renewal site.

MOTION: Councilor Kyle moved to adopt the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor White. Motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. MOTION: A motion to approve Performance Expectations Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with East Metro Economic Alliance (EMEA) and City's Share of Joint Economic Development Funding Request.

Erich Mueller stated the staff report recaps the considerations that the Council have gone through. The EMEA funding request was discussed at the Economic Development Subcommittee on a couple of occasions. The Council recently scheduled a work session to discuss the merits of the request. Travis Stovall, EMEA Executive Director, attended the work session and discussed the accomplishments and goals the organization has moving forward and answered questions. The consensus of the Council was that they wanted to schedule it for this meeting for a vote and there was also a desire to have some performance expectations associated with the request for funding. Subsequent to that meeting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed along with input from staff and EMEA which is enclosed in your meeting packet as Exhibit B. I believe this addresses your desire for performance criteria associated with providing the additional funding requested. Staff is bringing you a requested motion for approval of the MOU and the funding request.

Travis Stovall, EMEA Executive Director, stated Erich sent me the MOU about a week and a half ago, we've looked through it, and are very excited about some of the key points. We're sure that we can fulfill the requirements and requests to your satisfaction. As you look across the region we are one of the only economic alliances that have looked at agreements like this for these contributions. I feel that sets us apart about our confidence to fulfill needs and issues that each of the contributors have in regards to economic development advocacy.

Councilor Daoust stated when it comes time to vote on a motion, Mayor Kight wants to call in and register his vote.

Councilor Wand stated I understand that Gresham also has a MOU that was submitted to you in connection with their contribution.

Travis Stovall replied the City of Gresham has an agreement that says we'll do specific things. The deliverables within their agreement look very much like what is in this MOU. Fulfilling the needs of economic advocacy through membership and specific things as far as legislation and issues that come up. We have that agreement in front of our Executive Board for review and approval.

Councilor Wand asked what amounts, if any, have the other cities in the area contributed to this effort?

Travis Stovall replied the City of Gresham has contributed \$25,000, the City of Fairview has contributed \$5,000, and the City of Wood Village has contributed \$2,500.

Councilor Wand asked is it fair to call the Westside Economic Alliance a competitor or a similar group on the west side of the metro area?

Travis Stovall replied yes. In a sense they would be our sister organization here in the region as well as the Clackamas County Business Alliance. We work in partnership with them but they are also in a sense our competitors.

Councilor Wand asked do any cities on the west side that give money annually to the Westside Economic Alliance?

Travis Stovall replied yes. There are 8 cities that are members and their yearly membership dues are 10 cents per resident. The Cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton pay about \$9,500 annually.

Councilor Wand asked what is the annual membership dues for the City of Troutdale?

Travis Stovall replied \$454.

Councilor Wand asked how old is the Westside Economic Alliance?

Travis Stovall replied it's roughly 20 years old. It used to be 2 separate organizations, one was a government led group and the other was a business led group.

Councilor Thomas asked you've been in existence for 6 years, right?

Travis Stovall replied that's correct.

Councilor Thomas stated during the work session you talked about a contribution of \$7,500 from Troutdale to help fund this particular year with possible increases in membership rates. Do you know what the increases might be?

Travis Stovall replied we would be requesting a decrease from the Cities. Our goal is to jumpstart our opportunity to build membership. Over the next 3 years our goal is to reduce contributions by our partners, the Cities in this case, so the private sector continues to build and contribute more and more of those dollars to economic development advocacy. On the business side, we're expecting to increase our dues. We haven't looked at raising them in the last 2 years because of the economic situation. Going forward we have talked to a number of businesses who are willing to look at an increase because they see the value. When a lot of organizations have seen a decrease in membership, over the last 3 years we've grown our membership from roughly 25 members to 50 during the recession. That speaks to the value that the private sector sees of this public/private partnership.

Council Thomas stated I'd like to see a freeze in rates for the Cities since we're contributing more.

Travis Stovall replied during this time frame the only thing the Cities would be responsible for would be this contribution. There won't be a membership fee.

Councilor Daoust asked is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this agenda item?

There were none.

Councilor Daoust stated let's discuss the issue before we vote.

Councilor Wand stated this has been a package deal. The other 3 Cities have already stepped up. What I find to be most persuasive is that the Westside Economic Alliance which has had more success than we have over the past few decades contributes substantially more on a city by city basis than we do. EMEA is a newer group and it's already seen some substantial successes. When Commissioner McKeel contacted me and ask me to round up people to advocate on behalf of the Rockwood Justice Center, I could count on Travis Stovall and EMEA to make sure we had some business owners in attendance. EMEA was also very active to provide support for the Corridor Study in conjunction with many other people. We're in tough economic times and if we can't invest today in economic development then I wonder if we ever really can. It seems like this isn't a large enough amount of money that we can't afford it. We have a contingency fund in place to cover items like this that are unforeseen at budget time. We need more jobs locally and EMEA has been an advocate for economic development in East County.

Councilor Kyle stated I've attended many EMEA meetings and applaud Travis. I haven't noticed that EMEA has had any direct benefit on economic development but they've had a very active role in a lot of governmental affairs. It's been my understanding that EMEA has been the voice of business and government involvement was to be kept at a minimum. That was to assure that the group remained the voice of business. Once you involve government support that changes the voice of business. I'm not going to support this. If EMEA relies on government support, what does that mean for the voice of the business and where's the credibility for the voice of business. If this is truly important to business then they need to step up and support their group. I don't think that supporting EMEA is the job of Troutdale tax payers.

Councilor Daoust stated before the last meeting I was being fiscally conservative and taking a second look at \$7,500. When Travis came to the last meeting he turned me around. I could see where the city was benefiting from you being out there. I'll support a motion tonight. We do have the option each year to make a decision as a council on the amount and expectations that we're demanding in return. I think we should keep that in mind. It is a council goal to improve economic development. We have to come back to our goals and the decisions we make on every item that comes before us should fall under those goals. This is one that does. If we move the requested staff motion does it give us a little latitude to refine the MOU in the immediate future?

Erich Mueller replied I crafted it not knowing if there might be some edits from the Council this evening. I wasn't sure if the performance expectations that I came up with were going to address what you had in mind. That was the intent of that flexibility.

Councilor Daoust asked if we don't suggest any changes to the MOU tonight then it'll go as presented?

Erich Mueller replied correct.

Councilor Daoust recessed the meeting at 7:29pm to get Mayor Kight on the phone for the motion. Councilor Daoust reconvened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Mayor Kight joined the council meeting via conference call at 7:30pm.

MOTION: Councilor Wand moved to approve the EMEA performance expectations MOU for fiscal year 2010-2011 and approve the expenditure of \$7,500 as the City's share of the joint economic development funding request subject to the completion and execution of the MOU. Seconded by Councilor White.

MOTION TO AMEND: Councilor Wand moved to amend the Memorandum of Understanding in paragraph 1 to add “, in lieu of a membership fee.” to the end of the sentence. Further to amend paragraph 4, in the last sentence where it reads “at least one business in Troutdale” amended to read “at least two businesses in Troutdale”. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. The motion passed by majority vote.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Councilor Wand – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Kight – Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Kyle – No; and Councilor Daoust – Yes.

Motion Passed 5 - 1.

Mayor Kight left the meeting at 7:33pm.

6. RESOLUTION: A resolution to approve an IGA with the City of Gresham to accept Sanitary Sewer from Facilities within the City of Gresham.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Wand stated thank you to my wife Ann. This is our 14th wedding anniversary.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Kyle. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Jim Kight, Mayor

Approved September 28, 2010

ATTEST:

Sarah Skroch, Deputy City Recorder