

DALLAS CITY COUNCIL
Monday, October 7, 2013
Council Chambers

The Dallas City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Brian Dalton presiding.

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members present: Council President LaVonne Wilson, Councilor Jim Brown, Councilor Jim Fairchild, Councilor Beth Jones, Councilor Jackie Lawson, Councilor Kevin Marshall, and Councilor Murray Stewart, and Councilor Ken Woods, Jr. Excused: Councilor Kelly Gabliks

Also present were: City Manager Ron Foggin, City Attorney Lane Shetterly, Interim Chief of Police Tom Simpson, Fire Chief Bill Hahn, Community Development/Operations Director Jason Locke, Engineering and Environmental Services Director Fred Braun, Finance Director Cecilia Ward, City Recorder Emily Gagner, Recording Secretary Jeremy Teal, Polk County Commissioner Craig pope, and Polk County Administrator Greg Hansen.

Mayor Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Chief Hahn introduced full time paramedic Ryan Saltalamachia who had worked with the department the last six years in a part-time capacity.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Dalton asked the audience members to limit their speeches to five minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Marshall *to approve the Consent Agenda as presented*. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Items approved by the Consent Agenda: a) the September 16, 2013, City Council meeting minutes; b) OLCC Application for change of ownership for Corby's Place; c) Endorse Ken Woods, Jr. for Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation; d) Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce request for Winterfest.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were none.

REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES (LOC) CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mayor Dalton, Council President Wilson, Councilor Fairchild, Councilor Stewart, Councilor Marshall and Councilor Brown attended the LOC Conference in Portland and highlighted key aspects of the workshops and forums they attended.

Councilor Lawson asked about ex-parte communication with councilors and electronic devices. Mayor Dalton advised there were councilors in other jurisdictions using their electronic devices to research items while in the meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Councilor Woods read a statement about the 2015-2018 State Transportation Improvement Projects, a copy of which is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

Councilor Lawson asked where the discrepancy was with the project that started at \$480,000 and was scoped at \$1.5 million. Councilor Woods reported Dallas was looking at small piece of the project for the funds and when it was scoped, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) looked at the whole thing and over-scoped it. He noted the philosophy was to go a little over

because if it came up short, the City would have to pay.

Commissioner Pope stated that Dallas had a great project that needed to be done and there would be more dollars in to get it completed. He reported the Hwy 22/Hwy 51 and the Hwy 22/Hwy 18 projects were ready to move forward to the construction process.

REPORT OF THE SEPT. 23, 2013, BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Councilor Fairchild reported the Committee discussed the 800/900 blocks of Main Street project and revising the grant match program requirements to include the 500, 600, and 700 blocks on Main Street. He noted the Committee, recommended moving forward to the Urban Renewal Agency.

REPORT OF THE SEPT 23, 2013, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Councilor Fairchild reported the Committee discussed the 72-hour parking ordinance and recommend leaving the ordinance as it stood. He noted citizen committees were discussed and in the future, a list would be provided at the formation of a committee identifying people who were already on other committees. He advised that Ms. Ward reported that Xpress Bill pay was implemented and building momentum with 733 customers, 280 paperless and 199 using auto pay. He reported that Ms. Gagner stated the Fire Chief applications were collected and interviews would begin. Councilor Fairchild noted that a change in the format for evaluating the City Manager would be a discussion in the future, but would remain the same for the remainder of the year.

Councilor Lawson asked if there was discussion about limiting the amount of committees a person could chair. She also asked if the Council should limit the amount of chair positions a person could hold, but not how many committees they could serve on. Councilor Brown asked if the committee chairs were selected by the committee members. Councilor Lawson stated she was asked to be the chair of the Park & Recreation Board and turned it down because she was on Council, but noted it would be an easy decision for a committee member to turn down a chair position if they chaired another committee. Councilor Woods stated he thought the committee always appointed the chair. Council President Wilson stated that was correct.

Councilor Fairchild noted that was the general rule for the committees. Councilor Lawson asked if that was limiting the amount of chair positions. Councilor Fairchild stated no, but to let the committee appoint the chair. He noted that the Administrative Committee didn't see an issue with it and decided to leave it alone. Councilor Brown stated that if someone became chair of all the committees then the Council should take issue with that. Councilor Lawson stated she thought it was a good idea to make some rules before it became an issue.

Council President Wilson asked Mayor Dalton if he appointed chair positions. Mayor Dalton stated that he appointed the four Council sub-committee chairs.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY

Mr. Foggin stated that Councilor Lawson had asked Greg Hansen and Commissioner Craig Pope come and explain the Public Safety Levy to the Council. Mayor Dalton noted that Mr. Hansen was attending to give information only, but Commissioner Pope could be asked for pros or cons.

Mr. Hansen stated this was an operating levy for the purpose of public safety and would be a four-year levy with a cap of 60¢ per \$1,000 assessed value. He advised that if State Revenue Sharing (SRS) money was received, the County would not levy the full amount but reduce the like amount in SRS money. He indicated that 60¢ per \$1,000 would generate \$3,000,000 and if the County received \$750,000 in SRS money, they would reduce the percentage by 25% or to 45¢ per \$1,000 assessed value. He noted that if the county received SRS money the following year that would reduce the percentage again. He reported that the public safety levy included the county's juvenile program, adult program, community service, and Sheriff's Department, which included the jail, patrol, emergency management, dog control, and marine patrol. He noted the levy would also include the District Attorney's office (DA), court security, and the POINT team. He advised that the majority of the money would go to the Sherriff Department with the DA receiving the second most, for prosecution and clerical support, and the rest would be distributed to other programs on an as needed basis. He stated that the reason for the levy was that the county didn't have adequate funding for those departments with the loss of Oregon & California Railroad (O&C) money, the flat tax revenue, the property tax revenues, and the additional costs associated with people, (PERS

and health insurance), the county's ability to maintain those programs has dwindled to the point the board felt it necessary to put it to a vote on what level of public safety the public wanted to receive.

Councilor Marshall asked if the county had ever gone after an operating levy before. Mr. Hansen advised that in his 28 years the county had gone for a tax base increase prior to Measure 47/50, and in 1996 received a bond to rebuild the jail and with that received a permanent increase in the tax base of \$1.5 million. He stated the only option as a funding source was an operating levy. He noted the other option was to form a public safety or law enforcement district, and operate as its own entity with its own permanent rate. He stated that to create the district and set the permanent rate would take a vote of the people. He reported that in 28 years, the county had never asked for an operating levy.

Councilor Stewart asked if the funds were earmarked for certain departments. Mr. Hansen stated that nothing was earmarked. He reported that if the county received the money, it would be decided by the Budget Committee where to allocate the money. He commented that the Sheriff's department, DA, and juvenile programs would receive money, and right now funding in the adult program was adequate, but shrinking. He indicated that public safety was a pure system and was only as strong as its weakest link.

Councilor Woods asked how many deputies were currently on patrol. Mr. Hansen advised the Sheriff didn't have 24 hour coverage for patrol. He noted that since 1987 until recently there had been 24 hour coverage. He stated that from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday there was no patrol coverage, explaining with only ten or eleven patrol deputies it wasn't possible. He reported that the Grand Ronde contract was decreasing from \$600,000 to \$400,000 this year and next year would not exceed \$250,000 in support, as they continued to build their own department.

Councilor Brown asked what would happen if the levy was passed with regards to patrol. Mr. Hansen reported that eight to eleven new patrol officers would be added, 24 hour coverage would be reinstated, and they would bring on additional detectives. He noted at certain times in the past the POINT team had been mothballed and this would get them the funding they needed.

Councilor Marshall asked if this was a stop-gap or if it would be adequate funding. Mr. Hansen stated that the 60¢ per \$1,000 assessed value or \$3,000,000 would be adequate funding. He noted the peak of O&C revenue made up about 1/3 of the general fund revenue. He reported that five years ago the county had 112 full time employees and a 30% loss had the public safety personnel down to 81 budgeted. He indicated that he saw the county needing this levy again in the future unless there was a change in property taxes and revenues, and because Polk County was marked as a distressed county dependant on O&C money.

Council President Wilson asked if the levy passed, if it would go through the budget process and committee to do the allocations to the departments. Mr. Hansen stated that was correct, and the decision was whether to create a fund for the money or incorporate it into the existing funds. He noted that most of the programs were general fund.

Councilor Lawson asked if this was just a four year finger in the dam, what would happen after four years. Mr. Hansen stated the county would ask the voters for another levy, unless there was a change in the property tax structure or a massive increase in assessed values. Councilor Lawson asked why four years. Mr. Hansen advised that the least amount of time for a levy was three years and the most was five years, so the county went with four. He noted that the county had a road bond that would expire in 2016 and they didn't want it to compete with the levy if they needed another bond at that time. Mr. Shetterly advised that the constitutional limitation was five years. Mr. Hansen advised that if the federal government straightened out the management of O&C land, then the levy wouldn't be needed in four years.

Mayor Dalton stated the Board of Commissioners requested a letter of support from the Council in reference to this operating levy. It was moved by Councilor Brown for the City Council to authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to Polk County regarding the Public Safety Levy. The motion was seconded by Councilor Woods.

Council President Wilson asked if this letter went to the editor and to the commissioners. Mayor Dalton noted the letter would be sent to both parties. Council President Wilson asked if the letter would come from the Mayor or the Councilors as well. Mayor Dalton stated the Council empowered him to sign on their behalf if the motion was approved.

Councilor Brown asked if the letter should be sent to the Statesman Journal since that paper having a West Salem section. Mayor Dalton noted that sounded like a good idea. Councilor Brown stated it would reinforce the Council's support. Councilor Fairchild noted it was the more

widely read newspaper. Mayor Dalton clarified this would be a letter to the editor and a press release for the other newspapers.

There was a short discussion regarding the wording of the letter. The Council approved Mayor Dalton and Mr. Shetterly to wordsmith the letter per the Council's discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER

Mr. Foggin stated that the City was currently working with Polk Community Development Corporation and Rita Grady on the new senior center and another low income housing project. He noted there would be public hearings for these projects in the future. He reported that a few citizens had secured funding for dog silhouettes at the dog park.

RESOLUTIONS

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2013.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager