

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Downtown Projects – Tools

Meeting Date: February 22, 2010
Department: Planning & Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Staff Contact: Jon Ruiz/Susan Muir
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6077

ISSUE STATEMENT

The work session is a continuation of the council's February 10 work session on the City Manager's recommendation for downtown projects and funding options. The council approved the first three motions prior to postponing the work session. The council will continue discussion of the remaining motions related to the City Manager's recommendation and consideration of next steps for funding specific downtown projects.

BACKGROUND

The council received a full packet of information for its February 10 work session. At the beginning of the work session, the City Manager made a short PowerPoint presentation and provided a copy of the Power Point to the council. See Attachment A for a copy of the PowerPoint.

Summary of Action Taken at the February 10, 2010 Work Session

The council approved splitting the suggested motion that was handed out by City Attorney Glenn Klein.

The council then adopted (as three separate actions) the first three components. Those components (as amended) were the following:

1. a. Use \$100,000 of one-time existing urban renewal dollars to purchase and install additional lighting downtown and \$100,000 of one-time dollars (½ from telecomm and ½ from existing urban renewal) to purchase automated behavior crime reporting software and cameras, but only after the council approves the City Manager's plan for number, location, use and on-going costs of the cameras, after considering the cameras expected effectiveness in deterring crime.
1. b. Pursue use of Springfield jail beds to include the exchange for Springfield's use of Eugene Fire's Training Center.
1. c. Include in the City Manager's proposed FY11 budget, \$500,000 of the City's Human Services Commission (HSC) contribution for partial funding of the downtown safety initiative, including additional services like Cahoots.

The remaining motions that the council still must act on are the following:

1. d. Present to the Urban Renewal Agency Board for its review a proposed amendment to the downtown urban renewal plan that would 1) restrict the use of tax increment funds and

increase the spending limit to pay for (i) the Broadway Place Garages' debt, thereby freeing up funds for additional police officers downtown, and (ii) three other projects specified in the motion below, and 2) terminate the downtown urban renewal district as soon as the projects are paid for or sufficient funds are collected to fund those projects. In addition, present to the council, at the same time that the City Manager brings forward a draft amendment to the urban renewal plan, an analysis of both a local option levy and a general obligation bond, instead of tax increment financing, to fund the specified projects.

1. e. Bring back to the council this spring a proposed ordinance requiring vacant properties to pay Downtown Service District fees.
1. f Work with Downtown Eugene, Inc. and the Chamber of Commerce on partnerships and other funding strategies with a goal of achieving \$350,000 in revenue.
2. Include for the proposed downtown Lane Community College development at 10th and Charnelton, \$8 million as part of the proposed urban renewal plan amendment.
3. Include as part of the proposed urban plan amendment an additional \$500,000 for improvements to the Parks Blocks to enhance that area for the Farmers' Market.
4. If the Veteran's Affairs (VA) pursues PeaceHealth's Willamette Street site for a new VA Clinic, include the VA Clinic as part of the proposed urban renewal plan amendment.
5. Pursue additional grant opportunities for steam conversion and electric vehicle charging stations.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Downtown revitalization and the projects in this Agenda Item Summary are supported by the Downtown Plan, the council's 2009 Vision & Goals, and a number of plans and reports related to downtown.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Adopt some or all of the suggested motions.
2. Modify some or all of the suggested motions and then adopt.
3. Reject some or all of the suggested motions.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that the council adopt all of the suggested motions.

SUGGESTED MOTION

The motions are already "on the floor" based on the action of the council on February 10.

ATTACHMENTS

A. PowerPoint Presentation from the February 10, 2010, Work Session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Jon Ruiz/Susan Muir

Telephone: 541-682-6077

Staff e-mail: susan.l.muir@ci.eugene.or.us