

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
McNutt Room--City Hall

July 17, 1996
11:30 a.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Tim Laue, Laurie Swanson Gribakov, Pat Farr, Kevin Hornbuckle, Barbara Keller, Nancy Nathanson, Jim Torrey.

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Shawn Boles

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND TIME ESTIMATES

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribakov, to approve the agenda and time estimates as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7:0.

II. ITEMS FROM THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

A. Acknowledgment of Planning and Development Analyst Mike McKerrow

Ms. Swanson Gribakov thanked the Planning and Development Division Land Use Analyst Mike McKerrow for his assistance in the resolution of a difficulty faced by a Ward 4 resident.

B. US Department of Justice Conference

Ms. Swanson Gribakov announced that she would be attending a US Department of Justice conference in Los Angeles and would not be present at the July council meetings, in addition to her previously planned absences on July 22 and 24. She added that she would study the video tapes of the Trimester Session and that she may request that voting on significant issues be postponed until her return.

C. Admission Fee at Art and the Vineyard

Mr. Hornbuckle raised a concern about there being an admission fee for the annual Art and the Vineyard event. He requested a staff explanation as to whether there had been a change in policy which had previously prohibited such charges.

D. Council Goals

Mr. Farr, in noting the number of important issues coming before the council in the ensuing year, expressed his hope that council members would continue to work together in a thoughtful and deliberative manner and avoid acrimonious division over non-issues.

E. Road Construction

Ms. Keller noted that the number of road repair projects were creating significant congestion on certain streets and expressed her hope that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) would coordinate re-routing of traffic with contractors and the Department of Public Works to avoid problems.

F. Property Tax Exemptions

Ms. Keller observed that memoranda from Administrative Services Department Management Analyst Sus Cateogorge identified property tax exemptions which significantly affected tax rates. She suggested that reforms should be considered.

G. Purchasing Agreements

Mr. Torrey requested that a report be made regarding the intention of the City to insure that purchasing agreements not lapse.

H. Hyundai Corporation

Mr. Torrey requested that a memorandum from Wastewater Director Peter Ruffier regarding treatment costs related to Hyundai Corporation construction be distributed to councilors.

I. Landfill

Mr. Torrey inquired as to whether an evaluation had been completed on the proposal of a Corvallis organization to deal with landfill leach fields in an innovative manner. Ms. Norris stated that a report would be made to the council when the evaluation was completed.

J. Telecommunications in the Willamette Valley

Ms. Nathanson reported on the "Telecommunications in the Willamette Valley" conference held July 11-12, in Eugene. She identified right-of-way, franchise, access, and liveability as policy issues that needed to be addressed by the council.

K. Streetlight on 24th Place

Mr. Laue requested information regarding a request for a streetlight from residents on 24th Place in Ward 1.

L. Student Housing

Mayor Bascom reported on celebrations commemorating the opening of Bagley Downs, the moved and remodeled portion of the Amazon Student Housing. She said that the units had been nicely refurbished and it was exciting that the total number of units had been increased by 70. She added that there were 270 units still being completed at Spencer View Student Housing.

M. Wetlands and Watershed

Mayor Bascom requested that the councilors return their ballots for the wetland property realignment. She congratulated staff on the excellent memorandum.

Mayor Bascom announced that the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) had been chosen from watershed councils representing Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington and had received the "Focused Watershed" Award from the Northwest Power Planning Council. She noted that the award was accompanied by a \$150,000 grant. She added that the recognition came partly because the MWC had been doing exemplary work, but also because there was recognition that the Willamette Watershed was in increasingly serious trouble.

Mayor Bascom stated that the following week she would be doing a river float with the MWC to view the changes that occurred as a result of the flood.

N. Register-Guard Correction

Ms. Norris stated that a recent *Register-Guard* article incorrectly stated that a recently purchased police robot cost \$400,000 rather than \$40,000.

O. Alley Vacation Hearing

Ms. Norris reported that Obie Industries had requested that a public hearing, regarding an alley vacation on 5th Street, be rescheduled and was seeking the council's approval. Council concurred.

III. RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Laus moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribakov, to approve the Council Officers' recommendations of July 8, 1996.

Mr. Hornbuckle stated, regarding the signage on the Lane Transit District (LTD) buses, that when he raised the issue at the City Council meeting there was a majority interested in limiting the size of the signage, yet when the issue went to the council officers they recommended that no work session be scheduled. He added that the draft minutes from the Council Officers' meeting offered no rationale for lack of action on the item.

Mayor Bascom said that the officers had expected to get a report to the council on the issues.

Ms. Keller stated that there were many important issues on the council's plate. She said that she was undecided about the LTD bus signage, but she did not feel that it was one of the most important issues currently facing the council. She added that she would like to allow the marketplace to take care of the signage issue, and if it did not, then the council could deal with the issue in a more holistic fashion with LTD, its financing, and regulations.

Mr. Hornbuckle said that when he raised the issue he specifically stated that it should be divided from the "alleged" mural ordinance and limit the proposed action to a limitation on the size of the sign. He added that the marketplace had taken care of the issue in a predictable fashion in that the advertising had become nearly 3-D. He noted that this was visual pollution, and he would like to see some action on the issue.

Mr. Farr noted his support for Ms. Keller's comments. He added that buses were particularly ugly, but that some of the advertising was entertaining and many of the people with whom he had spoken liked the ads.

Roll call vote; the motion passed 6:1, with Mr. Hornbuckle voting in opposition.

IV. WORK SESSION/ACTION: PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL WORK PLAN AND FUNDING

Jim Johnson, Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services, introduced the item. He stated that the intergovernmental agreement between Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County suggests that the three governments review the work plan and the budget and actively approve both. He indicated that the work plan, descriptions of roles and responsibilities, descriptions of topics, a draft budget, and a list of accomplishments since June 1996 were all included in the agenda packet. He said that the action item before the council was to approve the work plan, to direct the City Manager to enter into a contract for services, and to allocate \$65,000 from contingency to fund the work program.

Ms. Swanson Gribakov said that as co-chair of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC), she believed the key piece in this issue was to commit to the money that was available for this project. She added that there was a Bureau of Justice Assistance Block Grant from which the City could potentially take the PSCC contribution. She noted that Springfield and Lane County had allocated their funds and the PSCC was rapidly rising to its task.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribakov, to approve the work plan and budget of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC); to direct the City Manager to enter into a contract for services for implementation of the PSCC work plan; and to allocate \$65,000 either from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Block Grant (if allowed) or from contingency funds, if BJA money is not available for this use.

Susan Sowards, Lane County, indicated that it was very likely that the City's allocation would be covered by grant money.

Mr. Johnson, answering Ms. Keller's question about the existing Lane County staff, stated that Lane County had loaned staff for a .2 FTE and support costs to the PSCC to help it get underway. Responding to Ms. Keller's question about consulting services, Mr. Johnson said there were a variety of suggestions that members had made and, thus far, no decisions had been made about what consultants would be hired. He added that PSCC members recognized that LCOG support staff members were not adequately trained in criminal/justice system kind of issues.

Ms. Keller stated her support for the concept but she said she thought it was "incredibly expensive" to staff the committee and asked if some attention would be paid to the staffing and the amount of money spent on this committee. Mr. Johnson stated that the feeling of the PSCC members was that their staffing was not adequate to take on this size of an effort. He noted that there were so many issues to decide that required good staff support. He reported that his role with the committee was very small. He added that Dave Whitlow, Director DPS, was a member and noted that Chief Len Cooke attended many of the meetings and occasionally some officers attended the meetings. He said that the subcommittees had not yet been established, so it was hard to determine what level of involvement would exist on the part of staff.

Ms. Norris stated that as more of the coordinating work was underway, staff would return to the council and ask it to consider further allocations.

Mr. Torrey offered his support of the PSCC and the motion. He said that he wanted to ensure that the council continued to show leadership in dealing with these problems in a unified manner. He said he was excited about the possibility of having more impact in the State Legislature by having a unified body. He suggested that the councilors attend the meetings.

Mr. Farr spoke favorably of an officer in the Bethel-Danebo area who was part of the community policing program. He said that he hoped to see the City move forward toward more preventative policing. Mr. Johnson stated that the emphasis of the PSCC was to balance prevention with incarceration.

Ms. Swanson Gribakov explained that the money and staffing issues were not taken lightly and were of great importance to the PSCC. She pointed out that much of the Public Safety work was at an interagency level. She shared that the working draft of the structure of the PSCC called for four main task groups: 1) prevention; 2) enforcement; 3) adjudication; and 4) treatment and sanctions.

Mr. Hornbuckle referred the councilors to page nine in the agenda packet, and commented that the City was being asked to give over its responsibility for general governing as it specifically related to social welfare. He said he did not see a compelling reason to make treatment, education, and employment resources a primary responsibility of the PSCC.

Mr. Laue, referring to Ms. Keller's question about consulting services, said that the \$50,000 allocated was primarily designed to study a systems analysis of what exists. He added that it was the hope that by coordinating a systems analysis, staff would find efficiencies. He stressed the importance of bringing in people involved in social services if the PSCC is going to be involved in prevention, education, and employment activities.

Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

Mayor Basson thanked Ms. Swanson Gribakov and Mr. Laue for their work.

Ms. Keller requested information from staff about the trade off between other work that might be done by the Public Safety Department and this project. She said that while she was very supportive of this effort, the council should not be making decisions in this manner; rather, the councilors should be better informed.

V. WORK SESSION: SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT UNIT

Warren Wong, Administrative Services Director, stated that when the Budget Committee forwarded the FY97 budget recommendation to the council it recommended that the Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) be replaced by sustainable, ongoing funding. He noted that on June 12, the council waived the financial policy to allow that discussion to take place and it is currently scheduled for the trimester work session. He said that the agenda packet included a draft list of potential reductions and fee increases representing a low end of \$550,000 and a high end of more than \$900,000. He said amount of sustainable financing required for the RDU is approximately \$706,000. He noted that the council officers had discussed either complying with the current time line and having that reduction discussion on July 31 or to rescheduling this item for some time in the fall.

Ms. Swanson Gribakov emphasized the importance of the conversation and suggested scheduling a separate work session to focus upon this issue. She noted that a waiting period would not hurt the conversation and, in fact, might allow the councilors to be more focused on the task at hand.

Responding to Mr. Torrey's question about year-end financial reports, Mr. Wong stated that the audit results would be ready in November. He added that staff would have a better idea of the cash carry-over from the prior year and have a complete list of revenues and expenditures of FY96 and be able to put that into context for the upcoming year.

Ms. Keller said she was not supportive of ad hoc interim funding for the RDU and it was her understanding that the RDU was going to be funded from whatever tax measure the council decided to put before the voters. She said she was not supportive of the prepared list of cuts and fee increases. She said that if the RDU would not be folded into the tax revenue stream then the councilors needed to think more seriously about whether or not the RDU is the most important component of community policing with which to move forward.

Ms. Nathanson expressed her interest in giving the Budget Committee an opportunity to discuss this issue. She said these were important budget questions and the committee should have had an opportunity to discuss this issue.

Mr. Laue explained that it was the Budget Committee that voted to move this item to the trimester work session. He said that he thought it would be prudent to postpone the discussion.

Mr. Hornbackle shared his opinion that the council should postpone the discussion. He suggested that the council propose new revenue sources that were fair and equitable otherwise it continued to create more problems. He added that when he said a new revenue source he was not implying that he was supportive of the next proposal on the agenda. He stated his support for the services provided by the RDU and he hoped to find an equitable way to fund it.

Mr. Farr remarked that he liked Ms. Nathanson's suggestion that the budget committee be more involved in this process.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribakov, to delay discussion of long-term sustainable funding for the RDU until after the audit report and the six-year financial forecast are available in the fall. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

VI. WORK SESSION: REVIEW RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ON A TAX BASE INCREASE TO FUND COMMUNITY POLICING

Mr. Whitlow presented the staff report, noting that this proposal came out of the City Council Public Safety Committee (CCPSC), and it represented an effort to move the City to the next phase of community policing. He noted that the proposal emphasized prevention, intervention, problem solving, and support to neighborhoods. He summarized the provisions of the proposal as follows:

- Ongoing funding for the RDU and the new Safer Schools Officers;
- The addition of nine patrol (beat) officers;
- The addition of community service specialists;
- The inclusion of one additional police officer per sector to be assigned to problem solving;
- Increases the staffing of the traffic team;
- Additional money for crisis intervention and social services;
- The creation of a domestic abuse unit.

Mr. Whitlow noted that the proposal called for 35 1/2 additional positions, the majority of which are not sworn for a total increase of about \$4.5 million. He said that the committee used three general criteria when creating the proposal: 1) it had to be consistent with the long-range public safety plan adopted in 1991; 2) it had to recognize the interdependency of the criminal justice system in Lane County; and 3) it had to be consistent with the vision and the guiding principles of the PSCC. Mr. Whitlow stated that the CCPSC, on a 4-1 vote, recommended moving ahead with this proposal now for three key reasons: 1) the specific timing issues associated with a property tax increase as opposed to a serial levy; 2) criminal activity in this community is a moving target; and 3) there has been very strong interest in this community for community policing.

Ms. Keller said she was very supportive of moving forward with the measure and appreciated the inclusion of the domestic abuse unit. She noted that she would like to see more in terms of social service, but she thought it was a good start. She stressed the importance of coordination.

Ms. Swanson Gribakov said she had the interesting distinction of being the one "no" vote on the committee and expressed that she voted no because she continued to be concerned about the timing. She explained that because of Measure 5, the council could put the proposed tax base increase on the ballot in November 1996, but the money would not be available until July 1997. She noted that if the council decided to go for the serial levy in the spring of 1997, the money would be available at the same time. She said that the council had not had the time to work through all the issues flagged by the PSCC on Monday. She said that the issues flagged by the PSCC were the following: 1) the effects on the rest of the system; 2) use of a tax base rather than a serial levy; 3) more funding should be shifted to prevention; and 4) reaching the property tax cap.

Ms. Nathanson echoed that the proposal appeared to be a permanent solution when the council had asked for an interim solution until there was agreement in the metropolitan area as to how to fund and organize the criminal-justice system. She said that a tax base increase that would only be applicable for public safety issues concerned her because there were other important areas that the City Council had wanted to address; e.g. community centers and parks. She said she was reviewing what would be the appropriate level of funding to move forward with community policing, but that is not yet the final solution.

Mr. Torrey expressed his interest in hearing public comment on this proposal and added that he would not be in favor of changing the proposal in any way before the public hearing on Monday night. He noted that there seemed to be agreement that the services were necessary, but that the method of funding needed further discussion.

Mr. Farr expressed his concerns about the tax base option, and said that he needed to have more confidence that the council was putting forth an option that the people of Eugene would support.

Mr. Hornbuckle commented that the term "community policing" should not be used because he thought the programs being proposed were parts of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and they needed to be normalized and integrated into a normal policing program. He expressed his agreement that the services were needed and worthwhile. He stated his objection to the tax base increase because it was based on property tax which would thereby increase the cost of housing, which would create more homelessness. He said that those councilors considering supporting the measure should read the list of disadvantages listed on page 34, and noted that a missing disadvantage was an upcoming statewide initiative that would roll back assessments.

Mr. Laue said he did not see any alternative to a tax base increase. He said that he did not see the support of the community for other types of taxes for this. He reminded councilors that they were trying to address everyday issues and putting it off did not seem prudent to him. He added that public safety was the council's number one goal and the council needed to "put its money where its mouth is," and generate community support for the proposal.

Mayor Bascom said that while it was the council's number one goal, there were other goals as well and each time the council approached an issue, it came up against a serious shortfall of funding. She expressed an interest in balancing this proposal with a whole array of community needs. She said she

wanted reassurance that the retraining of officers would be an integral part of the community policing program.

Chief Cooke assured the council that DPS was retraining officers in community policing concepts. He said that the current amount of sworn officers could just barely handle the call for services, and noted that this proposal would get DPS to the level of dealing with calls for services at an effective rate.

Ms. Keller stated her opinion that the councilors needed to support a permanent funding source for this proposal and added that a serial levy would be entirely inappropriate for this proposal.

Ms. Swanson Gribakov observed that the tax base was not the only option for funding. She said that a serial levy had some merit and added that in the next two years the council might come up with alternative funding.

Ms. Nathanson voiced her agreement with Mr. Laue that there was definite community support for community policing, but she was unsure that there was community support for a tax base increase. She said she supported the need for additional community policing, but she did not want to assume that community support for the concept translated into community support for the funding method. She raised the question as to whether there was staffing for policy analysis and policy support. She expressed her concern that policy analysis be addressed. She asked if the City was really ready to spend the money on the criminal/justice data system.

Mr. Hornbuckle stated his opposition to the serial levy because the need for permanent funding was apparent. He equally opposed the tax base option noting that the council had gotten itself caught in between regressive taxation and a need for additional revenues. He suggested that if the council majority was in strong support of this program then it simply impose a tax. He suggested using the majority preference vote and let the voters decide which revenue source would be appropriate for this program. He said that he had consistently argued for a shift away from property based taxes for things like this.

Mr. Torrey suggested doing some community research wherein the question would be asked as to whether the community supports community policing. He said he was not opposed to asking the question of how the proposal should be funded. He said there should be some public input on that question.

Mr. Farr expressed interest in exploring other options for funding the proposal. He noted that public safety was integrated into nearly everything else that happened in the city. He said he was still undecided about how he would vote on the issue.

Mayor Bascom observed that the City had attempted other methods to get funding over the last 10 years including a failed sales tax, a failed income tax, a failed restaurant tax, and a failed utility tax.

Mr. Laue said that for him the right thing was clear and he would support a tax base increase. He encouraged the council to let the public decide for itself.

Ms. Keller emphasized that the councilors agreed that the services were necessary. She said that council needed to take a leadership role and put the measure on the ballot and allow the voters to decide. She stressed the importance of the proposal standing alone so that the voters could decide on a clear and concise issue.

Ms. Swanson Gribekov said she was impressed with the shared passion expressed at the table. She said the discussion seemed to hinge upon the "how's" and the "whys" of funding. She said she was looking forward to hearing from the public. She expressed her appreciation to the council and noted that she had felt heard.

Ms. Nathanson expressed interest in hearing more about the degree to which the problem of rising crime will be solved by prevention and intervention and the degree to which it will remain. She said DPS demonstrating that with increases it will be able to respond to the level of need in the community would help sell the proposal and solidify community support.

Mr. Hornbuckle stated that the voters needed to have more funding options.

Mr. Hornbuckle moved that the council have legal staff research the City's legal ability to utilize the majority preference vote, which would allow the voters to rank funding options. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Farr said that he was worried that the end goal would be defeated if the tax base did not pass in November. He reminded the councilors that community policing was already occurring within the community and particularly noted Officer Wells who lived in the Bethel-Danebo area and took his job seriously.

Responding to Mayor Bascom's question, Mr. Whitlow stated that both juvenile and adult crime rates were rising.

Chief Cooke concluded the conversation that it was his hope that as community policing helped change the environment, people would feel more comfortable in reporting crimes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda H. Norris

Linda H. Norris
City Manager pro tem

(Recorded by Jennifer Self)
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