

**MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL  
CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT WORK SESSION  
APRIL 21, 1999**

The work session began at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Community Meeting Room. Present were:

Milwaukie City Council: Mayor Tomei and Councilors Kappa, King, and Lancaster.

Clackamas County: Commissioners Mike Jordan, Bill Kennemer, and Larry Sowa; and Chief Executive Officer Steve Rhodes.

City Staff: City Manager Bartlett and Assistant City Managers Bennett and Richards.

**Discussion of Relevant Issues**

**Kennemer** saw livability and growth management as the most important issues before the region. Last year, 65% of the state's growth occurred in four counties of which Clackamas was one. Planning for density, in theory, is a good idea but is destructive to neighborhoods and generally disliked by most residents. He believed people needed space.

**Tomei** agreed livability was the main issue Milwaukie was facing in addition to working on its Comprehensive Plan. She added that Milwaukie had only increased its population by 1.25% last year.

**Councilor King** felt open spaces were critical to the area, and **Councilor Kappa** believed people want to notice a distinction between neighborhoods.

**Councilor Lancaster** said people moved to Milwaukie because it had a rural feeling while still being close to amenities. When that starts going away, people notice the impact.

**Mayor Tomei** felt it was elected officials' charge to make these changes in the least destructive ways.

**Councilor King** said it was important to keep in mind that people need to have greenspaces and areas of both passive and active recreation as populations increase.

**Kenemer** thought bikeways were a good idea, but he never sees that many people using them. Established neighborhoods are getting more crowded, and that is not the way he personally wants to live.

**Mayor Tomei** was concerned about people moving to the outer edges and creating untenable transportation and pollution problems.

**Councilor King** said there needed to be more need transportation options. Right now biking can be dangerous, but measures could be taken to make it more safe.

**Mayor Tomei** thanked Kenemer for supporting Milwaukie's transportation projects with Metro.

**Kenemer** commented it is very difficult to meet all of the transportation needs when there is so little funding.

**Councilor King** noted that Clackamas County was very large and asked if they felt the Board should have more commissioners.

**Kenemer** said there are arguments both ways. The Board most often operates as policy directors, and three commissioners makes sense. If the County operated like the City of Portland with bureau management responsibilities, then a larger board would certainly be appropriate.

The group discussed animal control and the difficulties of an under-funded program that can cause daily friction between residents.

### **Urban Growth Boundary Issues**

**Jordan** said he expected a petition from several CPOs requesting that Clackamas County terminate its Urban Growth Management Agreement (UGMA) with the City of Milwaukie. CPO members are firm about not wanting to annex into the City. The issues have to do with service and governance. The Commissioners have been discussing a strategy for growth and livability while providing urban services and giving residents the feeling that they can give valid input to their government. He discussed how Washington County has worked with the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro and its ongoing annexation issues. Studies continue to indicate that cities are subsidizing unincorporated areas. This has forced the County to take a stance, and CCSD #1 has been very firm about not providing sewer service unless the City of Milwaukie was unwilling to do so.

**Councilor Kappa** said one of his main issues was that the City of Milwaukie did not have any planning input on development adjacent to the City limits. Examples of these concerns were Sunnyside Road and upstream development impacting Kellogg and Johnson Creeks. The City has to spend its own time and money to correct these problems that originated because of development elsewhere. He added that he was not so sure that Milwaukie had such a bad reputation and felt the CPOs had perpetuated that idea.

**Jordan** was not sure how deeply that ran as a public attitude. It is a complex but not insurmountable issue.

**Kenemer** said it came down to the financial issue of increased property taxes.

**Jordan** said Washington County, after studying the situation, made a policy decision that people who had the service paid for it. While Washington County has moved closer to equity, it still has not spawned annexation. Residents, for example, do not perceive a great difference between speaking to the County Commissioners or the Beaverton City Council. He agreed there was a financial issue, but the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners is interested in trying to cooperate with the cities and developing whole communities where people can enjoy living.

**Jordan** said this Board is committed to working with its partner in governance to solve what are perceived as the problems. Milwaukie can help by getting a good case of amnesia and forgetting the past as far as the intergovernmental relationship goes.

**Sowa** added that city residents also vote against annexation, so it is not simply a one-sided issue.

**Jordan** said, if he were to draw a conclusion, it would be that the City and County should work more closely on the problems. The general attitude of the electorate should lead to more closely addressing growth and livability concerns and improving communication with residents.

**Councilor Lancaster** felt distrust of government in general drove the negativity. He felt Milwaukie and Clackamas County should work together to combat false negativism by bridging the gaps and letting people know what benefits they can get for their money.

**Jordan** asked the members of the group if they felt communication strategies were coordinated.

**Councilor Kappa** agreed that with both new City and County leadership, communication strategies needed to be compared and coordinated. He agreed with the previous statement that people probably did not want to annex to the

City because of cost. He reiterated that Milwaukie needed to be involved in planning for unincorporated areas.

**Jordan** felt that should be a general statement for all cities and agreed in principle.

**Kennemer** added there was no mechanism in place to do this. He was concerned about going against the wishes of 94,000 unincorporated area residents.

**Jordan** said governance is the real struggle -- who do people really want to be responsible for them. It is a critical time for the urban area, and issues need to be resolved.

**Councilor Lancaster** agreed it would be irresponsible of elected officials not to be candid and put the hard issues on the table.

**Mayor Tomei**, addressing Kennemer, said it was imperative that Milwaukie get the message from him that he would relinquish being "mayor" of unincorporated Clackamas County if citizens agreed with that change. Both entities need to address the growth and livability issues as a team.

**Kennemer** said his view, generally, was that he and his colleagues were in office to serve those people in the best possible way. Both entities need to look at what will work best for the citizens. It may be annexing to Milwaukie or it could be becoming its own city.

**Sowa** felt a stand needed to be taken against continually expanding the Urban Growth Boundary.

**Jordan** said the County will act with the cities to make sure development is well-planned and coordinated. He felt there would be a policy change regarding infrastructure concurrency. Livability issues will be very important to inner cities like Milwaukie. He committed that the Commission would notify the City of Milwaukie when making major policy decision. There will be people coming to the Board asking it to get out of its UGMA with Milwaukie, and that is the type of issue that will require help from the City.

**Bartlett** discussed the Southgate Neighborhood and development impacts to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Rejection of certain elements of the Clackamas Regional Center Plan made things worse.

**Jordan** discussed the relationship between growth and connectivity.

**Kennemer** said the Southgate CPO made a conscious decision and were willing to take responsibility for what is currently taking place on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

## **Transportation Funding**

The group discussed funding, current needs, and use of South/North Light Rail money.

**Kenemer** said Tri-Met wants to install high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on McLoughlin Boulevard and Hwy. 224. He discussed the problems with Sunnyside Road and the need for office and commercial space.

**Councilor Kappa** suggested that the Board consider establishing an advisory body relationship with the cities.

**Jordan** said there was already a mechanism of sorts with the Clackamas County Mayors and Managers.

**Bartlett** said Milwaukie has a stake in the light rail money so it can leverage Tri-Met into moving the transit center to the Safeway site. Tri-Met is considering funds for express bus service.

**Kenemer** said Tri-Met is admitting it gives Clackamas County poor service. With the failure of South/North light rail, all the players need to pick up the pieces and decide on other options. He expressed his concern with Tri-Met's idea for a park-and-ride at Tacoma.

**Bartlett** said the City has talked with Tri-Met on the staff level and offered the opinion that Tacoma would be a bad spot. Milwaukie feels, based on the volume of cars going through the City on a daily basis, that the park-and-ride should be no farther north than Park Avenue. Milwaukie's riverfront/downtown redevelopment plan consultant, he added, was offering up some relatively radical alterations to McLoughlin Boulevard. The Operation Listen project is coming to an end, so some joint agreements need to be considered. Washington County may not have solved its annexation problems, but it has passed transportation funding bonds. He believed if Milwaukie and Clackamas County followed a model of working together with its citizens, that this area could also pass bonds.

**Jordan** said this is an integrated problem that needs a metropolitan solution. The needed transportation infrastructure will never be built by trying to fund one element.

**Councilor Kappa** discussed zoning code legislation that passed in the House. He felt it was important to let the legislature know that the County and City are working together to solve its problems.

## **Youth and Family Programs**

**Councilor King** discussed the importance of funding youth and family programs, and **Mayor Tomei** agreed that it was imperative to have after-school programs.

**Rhodes** said juvenile service funding was being cut this fiscal year, but the Juvenile Department is working with the Parks District.

**Bartlett** discussed the success of Milwaukie's experimental summer 1998 youth program and suggested that the District might be focused on traditional programs.

**The group agreed to meeting on a quarterly schedule.**

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

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Pat DuVal, Recorder