

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MARCH 1, 1999**

**Mayor Tomei** opened the work session at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Community Meeting Room.

Present: Councilors Kappa, King, Lancaster, and Marshall.

Staff present: City Manager Bartlett; Assistant City Managers Richards and Bennett; Fleet Manager Somers; Neighborhood Services Coordinator Gregory; and Information Specialist Wheeler.

**Information Sharing**

1. The group discussed involving youth in City activities and the feasibility of including them as advisory board members.
2. The group reviewed issues covered at the recent legislative briefing.
3. **Bartlett** distributed copies of a State of Oregon document regarding commuter rail. The information would provide some background for Crandall Arambula on the downtown/riverfront redevelopment project. **Councilor Kappa** agreed commuter rail could create a significant influx of people and needed to be considered in downtown/riverfront planning. **Mayor Tomei** added that Metro was very interested in the proposal.
4. The group discussed the feasibility of a trip to Sister City, Iwaki, Japan.
5. **Mayor Tomei** had spoken with Tri-Met regarding enhanced service to Precision Castparts and businesses in the Omark Industrial Park.
6. The group discussed McLoughlin Boulevard improvements, and **Bartlett** said Mike Swanson was covering the meetings for Milwaukie.
7. **Councilor Marshall** said he would be a panel member at the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Forum on March 3.
8. When asked about upcoming meetings with Tri-Met, **Bartlett** responded that Tri-Met understands there are opportunities at the Safeway Building. A staff person has been assigned to look at the site, and federal demonstration funds are assigned. **Mayor Tomei** had gotten similar input from Fred Hanson. There is no money in this year's budget, but it seems as if there will be funds in the next cycle.

9. **Councilor King** announced an upcoming Johnson Creek Watershed Committee meeting and asked if Bartlett or M. Bennett would attend.

### **Electric Vehicle Demonstration**

**Somers** introduced **Tom Riddle** from Portland General Electric. At the regular session, he will request the City Council approve an \$11,500, three-year, closed-end lease for an electric powered Ford Ranger pickup and charging equipment.

**Riddle** addressed the issues Council brought up at its January 19 meeting. He provided basic information on costs and efficiencies along with limitations such as limited travel capabilities and battery technology. Currently, electric powered vehicles are limited to a fifty to seventy mile trip. The vehicle may be recharged on either a 110 or 220 source.

This type of vehicle consumes very little power in the scheme of overall electricity sales. Electric powered vehicles would likely be recharged during non-peak hours at which time electricity is less expensive.

**Councilor King** said she had environmental concerns with fish and hydroelectric dams. If the dams were removed at some time in the future, what would happen to the cost of electricity?

**Riddle** said studies are underway to identify methods to make dams more environmentally sound since removing them is simply not feasible. New technology will likely reduce the costs of operating electric powered vehicles. He discussed what he foresaw as a result of fee regulations.

**Somers** added that two federal mandates affect future fleet acquisitions and alternate fueled vehicles: the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992. The electric vehicle has zero emissions, and Milwaukie would meet regulations. He did not have information on non-compliance repercussions.

**Councilor Lancaster** had serious concerns with unfunded mandates. He suggested eliminating some vehicles and looking at doing business in a different way.

**Somers** believed that cities like Milwaukie needed to show support to companies developing this type of vehicle. The Portland area has very high emissions, and he supported efforts in attaining zero emissions. He discussed other options such as propane and natural gas powered vehicles. The electric powered vehicle would be ideal for Code Enforcement use.

**Bartlett** added that the Community Services staff using the vehicle was supportive of innovative environmental improvements and would document its use.

**Councilor Marshall** asked the area's source of electricity.

**Riddle** responded that about 65% of the annual purchase is from hydro and 35% from gas-fired plants.

### **City Newsletter and Council Column**

**Gregory** and **Wheeler** sought comments and further direction from the Council in the areas of content, distribution, costs, and format of the City newsletter. The current total annual cost is estimated at about \$73,000.

The group considered a 50# paper and determined the change would save the City about \$500 a month without radically decreasing quality. **Wheeler** said the City Council could also consider eliminating the Oak Grove carrier routes and save an additional \$600 per month.

**Councilor Marshall** thought it was a good idea to send newsletters to future annexation areas. He wanted to be sure that Milwaukie residents would not be eliminated from distribution if certain routes were dropped.

**Wheeler** said areas outside the City could be excluded, and he noted that distribution to the east goes to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue which is well within the City's urban growth boundary.

**Mayor Tomei** recommended the newsletter just go to residents.

**Wheeler** said that would result in 6,000 fewer newsletters per month at eleven cents each.

**Gregory** said these options would bring the total annual cost to about \$44,000.

**Councilor Kappa** liked the eight-page format because he felt it filled a gap between *The Oregonian* and the new *Clackamas Review*.

**Mayor Tomei** heard people comment that there was an overwhelming amount of text, and she recommended getting public input on a four-page format. She also commented that some of the articles could be more concise and suggested **Wheeler** write some of the Neighborhood District Association (NDA) articles.

**Councilor King** respectfully disagreed and made her recommendation that the four-page format be tried during the summer when there are fewer NDA meetings. She supported the eight-page format because more pages offered additional flexibility. She suggested family-oriented and rumor control columns.

**Councilor Kappa** agreed with King's suggestion of trying the four-page format during the summer. If getting articles was not a problem, he recommended staying with the eight-page format for the other months. People have told him they get valuable information from *The Pilot*. He suggested starting a youth-oriented section.

**Bartlett** reminded Council that Wheeler would have to let other projects go if he wrote the NDA articles. He was concerned the Associations would think their responsibilities were reduced.

**Councilor Marshall** was against anything less than eight pages and felt it was important to continue soliciting participation from the NDAs. He appreciated Wheeler's editing, but the Associations must be allowed to write what they feel is important. His own neighborhood, Lewelling, was very concerned that the newsletter often came out the day of or after its monthly meeting. He suggested workshops or training sessions so that perceived negatives could be worked into positive solutions. Once the City begins writing articles for the NDAs, their reasons for participating are gone. He also suggested the NDAs designate the secretaries as their newsletter writer and take that extra responsibility from the chair. He supported the ideas of using a 50# stock and eliminating circulation outside the City.

**Councilor Lancaster** agreed with Marshall's comments and supported continuing the eight-page format. Recent policy changes at the *Clackamas Review* have made *The Pilot* an even more valuable local news source. He believed the NDAs should submit what is important to them and not worry if they occasionally do not have an article to submit. He suggested a one-week period each month with no NDA meetings to take away the pressure of deadlines.

**Mayor Tomei** commented that Island Station NDA was not that flexible because the Grange was only available to the group on the first Friday of the month.

**Councilor Kappa** felt it was important to meet the needs of the NDAs by having the newsletters out on time, and he did not feel Council should tell the NDAs when to meet. He agreed the Associations needed to take on some responsibilities in order to alleviate deadline pressures.

**Councilor King** in no way wanted to suggest taking any power away from the NDAs; she was looking for a way to make it easier for the NDA chairs. Anyone in the neighborhood who enjoyed writing could take on the newsletter column task.

**Councilor Lancaster** commented that some people have been concerned about what can and cannot be said in their articles. He suggested a "letters to the editor" column since that feature was dropped from the *Clackamas Review*.

**Gregory** added that, as a taxpayer-funded publication, guidelines would have to be established.

**Bartlett** said he was essentially acting as the newsletter publisher and the Council was the board of directors. Staff can set out guidelines in conjunction with the City Attorney in order to avoid any issues of undue influence or problems with the Government Standards and Practices Commission.

**Councilor Marshall** was in favor of a "Councilor's Corner."

The group agreed to have the Council picture re-taken.

**Councilor King** suggested setting up a voice mailbox so citizens could leave messages sharing something they are excited about or expressing their concerns.

**Bartlett** said the main concern with the "Councilor's Column" would have to do with election law violations. Since there are no elections going on right now, this would be a good time to start that sort of column.

**Councilor Kappa** suggested that Councilors provide updates on their regional activities. He felt it was important for constituents to know what was happening at the regional level and how Milwaukie was involved.

**Councilor Marshall** agreed the "Councilor's Column" would have to be done with reserve and limited self promotion. This would be, however, a way for those who do not attend or watch the televised Council meetings to get to know the Mayor and Council as individuals. Citizens can learn more about who each Councilor is by reading his/her opinions.

**Mayor Tomei** suggested Wheeler interview Councilors on specific issues.

**Bartlett** said an official City publication should be the voice of the City. He thought the Mayor's suggestion was a good one.

The group discussed the potential for setting up adversarial positions.

**Mayor Tomei** suggested the City offer a brief writing workshop.

**Councilor Marshall** said he had always intended the newsletter to provide an avenue for the NDAs to get their word out to the community.

The Mayor and two Councilors were in favor of the four-page format from June to August, and two Councilors were opposed to the suggestion. **Councilor Marshall** felt there was enough information available for a year-round, eight-page newsletter.

**Councilor Lancaster** thought the positive effects of the newsletter were just beginning to be seen. He recommended maintaining the momentum by continuing with the eight-page format for the full year.

**Mayor Tomei** said her reason for the suggestion was in response to comments that there was just "too much."

**Councilor Kappa** thought readership would decline in the summer, and **Councilor King** felt fewer pages would also help cut expenses.

Other suggestions: guidelines for neighborhood articles; youth column; "Councilor Column" guidelines with input from City Attorney; more white space; keep the Council action box; more graphics; drop distribution from areas outside the City limits; and keep the name "*Pilot*."

### **Youth Center**

**Gregory** provided a detailed report on the 1998 Summer Youth Center Project. Staff was seeking direction on if and how the City should be involved in future youth service provision either at the Safeway Building or some other location.

Over 1,000 youth registered to use the facility during the two-month period. Most of the participants were 13 - 16 year old males from Milwaukie. The Center provided a place for non-competitive activities that included artistic and intellectual pastimes. Safety was not an issue, and there were only several early intervention incidents ending with positive results. It was determined the space clearly could not be used again without an adequate ventilation system.

The report contained a long list of accomplishments including bringing relevant, safe programs to youth, cultivating community activism, and creating a positive link between youth and other segments the City such as businesses and neighborhoods. Feedback indicated the youth really appreciated having a place to go that was easily accessible.

The financial viability of continuing the program in Milwaukie was yet to be determined. Estimates for bringing the Safeway building up to code and a level of comfort ranged from \$200,000 to \$250,000. It might be advisable to partner with other non-profits to find an alternate location.

The group agreed the program was a success, but the Safeway site was probably not the right location. They agreed it would be necessary to bring in partners in order to fund a good, comprehensive program.

**Gregory** suggested a Youth Advisory Board to consider programs, location, and funding.

**Bartlett** discussed options that included a consortium of providers or establishing a community development association independent of the City. The City could look at short-term goals while a non-profit organization focused on the long-term

**Mayor Tomei** suggested an outdoor skate park this summer using the equipment built last summer. She felt an advisory board should be established to provide follow-through.

**Bartlett** suggested Council provide direction on what it specifically wants to accomplish so those interests can be communicated with other groups. It would be a matter of utilizing what was learned during the pilot project.

**Mayor Tomei** specifically wanted to address equal provisions for females.

**Gregory** said it was important to remember this was a two-month snap shot, and a lot was learned about what types of programs provide a balance.

**Councilor Kappa** was in favor of a youth board to act as advisors.

The group discussed partnering and collaborating on community solutions. Staff was directed to come back in two to three months with suggestions.

**Bartlett** summarized Council discussion: (1) commit Community Services Department staff time; and (2) develop budget decision packages relating to grants and funding.

**Councilor King** asked if the Safeway building could be used for a youth or skate center if \$250,000 became available.

**Bartlett** explained that, if the site were to become the downtown transit center, the building would likely be removed. Any proposed use of the site would be tied to some type of northern Main Street anchor with mixed use development. Tri-Met would provide money for transit development, and the City would seek a developer to do the rest. Improvements will likely be in next year's budget for a test site. Based on current discussion with Tri-Met, he did not advise investing any more in that building.

**Councilor Kappa** suggested a *Pilot* article that would let the public know the Council was still supportive of youth activities, but the Safeway Building was never intended to be the location.

**Councilor Lancaster** urged moving forward as quickly as possible in order not to lose any opportunities.

A member of the audience asked if the City would help in grant writing, and **Mayor Tomei** said the Council is committing staff time.

A member of the audience asked if the half-pipe would be left for Milwaukie Festival Daze, and **Mayor Tomei** said staff will respond to that request.

**Anthony Dean** acknowledged Sylvia Milne's work in keeping interest alive and added that the School District supports the endeavor.

### **Getting to Yes**

**Bartlett** lead a training session on personal interaction and *Multi-Party Public Policy Negotiations*. He pointed out there were no single decision-makers in modern government. He reviewed the "Six Paradigms of Human Interaction" and the characteristics involved with attaining a common goal with a win/win outcome.

**Mayor Tomei** felt it was important for Council to be aware of this common interest, non-positional model when interacting and working toward its own decisions.

**Councilor King** felt frustrated that there was so much to do and not enough time to spend on this type of mutual gain, non-positional process. She recommended the Council use this model in goal setting.

**Bartlett** added that groups cannot use this method on all decisions because of the time involved, so the most important issues must be identified. He discussed the need to identify roles and relationships.

The work session ended at 8:45 p.m.

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Pat DuVal, City Recorder