

**MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2000**

The work session came to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Milwaukie City Hall Conference Room.

City Council present: Mayor Tomei and Councilors King, Lancaster, Marshall, and Newman.

City staff present: City Manager Pro Tem Swanson, Assistant City Managers Bennett and Richards, and Program Specialist Herrigel.

Information Sharing

1. Councilor King referred to a letter from a Milwaukie High School parent regarding parking problems during school construction. She suggested the comments be shared with the Historic Downtown Milwaukie Neighborhood District Association (NDA) in order to add another perspective to the issue.
2. The group discussed implementing portions of the tree ordinance as soon as possible. **Councilor Marshall** suggested putting the Committee in place and moving the process forward.
3. **Councilor King** applauded those attending a joint Providence Hospital and Ardenwald NDA meeting to discuss sharing a traffic divider/neighborhood entrance treatment on 32nd Avenue.

Public Access Studio Options

Herrigel reviewed several options for providing cable access studio space. At the end of January 2001, AT&T will no longer operate the studio on International Way as agreed upon in the franchise.

Milwaukie has a strong core of users, but not all are proficient in production and programming. This indicates production would vanish or at least decrease if the City chose an option to provide equipment on a check-out basis. Herrigel's research points to the need for a studio, technical support staff, production and editing equipment, and the ability to send out programming.

Users are sending a strong message they want to keep the studio in Milwaukie, and they prioritized the options:

1. Keep the studio at its current International Way location;
2. Find an alternate location in the City; and

3. Pursue an agreement with an access provider in another jurisdiction as the last resort.

Herrigel is in the process of preparing a recommendation and taking general fund requirements into consideration. She asked Councilors to identify those critical check points at which they wished to provide input.

The City could choose the option of subletting the International Way site from AT&T until March, contracting with Richard Beck for interim operations, and relocating to a temporary site until the City and School District establish a jointly-operated studio. If the City does not sublet from AT&T, then the studio would move in January to an, as yet, unidentified location and contract with Beck for interim operations. Choosing the latter option would result in the City's letting a request for proposal (RFP) to other entities to operate a studio for Milwaukie.

Mayor Tomei understood about \$100,000 in franchise fees goes into the general fund.

Councilor Newman asked how much of those fees were saved for capital projects.

Herrigel said about \$30,000 has been saved so far, and \$5,000 was spent on upgrading the interactive bulletin board. Although these funds are dependable, she was not sure the City could borrow against them.

Councilor Marshall and **Councilor Lancaster** agreed relationships are tenuous, and the franchise fee revenues could change.

Councilor King asked if I-Net could deplete PEG access fees.

Herrigel explained each was so new, she had not developed any budgets. There can be significant costs associated with all aspects of cable service. I-Net serves 8 schools and 4 city buildings in Milwaukie. She discussed the School District's interest in access studio space; however, the District is not prepared to enter into discussions until next July.

Mayor Tomei asked the feasibility of doing something in City Hall.

Herrigel replied City Hall has a feed, but there are space issues. She estimated equipment and production space would be over 1,500 square feet. The fire bay, in addition to being unheated, houses records and the electric truck. Other City buildings have space, feed, and access issues.

Councilor King asked if there was unused school space such as North Oak Grove.

Herrigel responded the District is not making any commitments at this time. North Oak Grove, for example, is outside Milwaukie city limits and is on another trunk. One option is to film in one location and feed it from another.

Councilor Newman suggested housing the studio in the Junior High site if the bond measure passes recognizing temporary storage would be an issue.

Herrigel explained the City would need to make a decision no later than late November on whether or not to pursue a short-term sublease from AT&T as well as a long-term lease.

Councilor Marshall noted the citizen survey might contain some pertinent comments, and there may be as yet unknown funding issues related to ballot measures. From a policy perspective, the Council has a lot to consider including the desirability of creating a quality facility others would wish to rent.

Mayor Tomei suggested using the old police building for storage.

Swanson suggested looking at public access issue between now and the end of the fiscal year and continuing a scaled-down operation. He also suggested Richard Beck be identified as the sole source provider. He sensed the community would support an identified, least-cost alternative. During this interim period, the City could identify partners and develop a more permanent solution to put into the budget process.

The City Council agreed to:

- Continue operations between now and June;
- Review cost estimates in two weeks;
- Develop a budget package; and
- Commit to sustaining the process unless there are serious budget impacts.

Municipal Court Update

Judge Ron Gray discussed court revenues and the 50% fee charged by Metro Area Collection Services. He felt the City could increase its revenues by accepting credit card payments and using contempt power to collect fines.

Gray believed accountability practices were weak and there needed to be an audit. Currently, fees go into the general fund rather than into a dedicated account for disbursement. Parking citation fees go into the facilities fund to maintain the parking lots. He was concerned about outdated software and court staff splitting its time with front desk duties. He did not believe the current software could accommodate new programs like juvenile smoking enforcement.

He urged the Council to consider taking on misdemeanors such as shoplifting, criminal mischief, and assault but excluding DUIIs. Officers are currently reluctant to cite people and choose instead to give verbal warnings. He believed the community would be better served if misdemeanors were handled locally.

Councilor King and **Mayor Tomei** supported looking into the feasibility of a misdemeanor court. **Councilor Lancaster** saw it as an issue of providing services people expect and determining whether or not a misdemeanor court would pay for itself.

Council direction:

- Prepare municipal court redesign proposal; and
- Implement and track credit card payment program immediately.

Community Development Update

Bennett discussed changes to the Community Development portfolio and realignment to meet objectives. Changes included moving operations under her supervision, converting the engineering inspector position to program services coordinator, and eliminating the vacant Utility Worker 1 position in the water division. The engineering staff will report to the Engineering Director. She believed the alignment would improve collaboration between engineering and planning. **Bennett** plans to implement the change on November 27 and begin recruiting for the program services coordinator position.

Swanson noted the change will flatten the organizational chart and break down the wall between planning and engineering.

Councilor Lancaster commented change is the most important thing an organization can do to improve itself.

The group discussed the importance of empowerment and communicating with employees to get a better understanding of what each does.

Committee Interviews

Mayor and Council interviewed Don Trotter for a position on the Transit Oriented Development Selection Committee.

Swanson announced the City Council would meet in executive session immediately following adjournment of the work session to discuss potential litigation pursuant to ORS 192.660.

The work session ended at 7:20 p.m.

Pat DuVal, Recorder