

**MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
JUNE 3, 2002**

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

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

Staff present: City Manager Mike Swanson, Community Development/Public Works Director Alice Rouyer, Program Specialist Jason Wachs, and Police Chief Larry Kanzler.

### **Information Sharing**

**Kanzler** described the concept behind a Public Safety Committee and will prepare a recommendation for July City Council work session.

### **Board and Commission Interviews**

City Council interviewed Sherri Dow, Roger Cornell, Teresa Bresaw, and Dolly Macken-Hambright for appointed advisory board positions.

### **Policy Discussion on Neighborhood District Association Tree Grants and Social Services Funds**

The group discussed the amounts budgeted to Neighborhood District Associations (NDA) for general grant purposes as well as \$500 annually for tree planting. The community goal is to reach a maximum of \$10,000 per neighborhood in \$1,000 annual increments for general grants and a maximum of \$1,000 for trees in \$500 increments.

**Mayor Bernard** supports planting trees on private property as long as there is a match.

**Councilor Newman** envisions working with an organization like Friends of Trees to foster community awareness and generate neighborhood tree planting efforts. He recommends using public funds to auger holes, pay for equipment and supplies, and perhaps help bring down the cost of the trees to be planted. He questions the appropriate ness of planting trees on individual properties.

**Councilor King** feels planting on private property is appropriate use of funds since there is a limited amount of public property for tree planting.

**Councilor Lancaster** believes the original intent of the tree planting grant was to do something affirmative, and replacing trees on private property is an acceptable use of grant funds. It should be up to the individual neighborhood associations to regulate.

**Councilor Newman** said Friends of Trees go door-to-door to inform residents they can purchase trees at a discounted rate. Grant funds could be used to auger the planting holes and provide some supplies. His interest is with a project that has community impact. If trees are planted on private property, Newman feels the resident should be responsible for some kind of match. His preference would be for the City to act as a facilitator.

The group agreed the grant program should apply to planting trees on private property.

**Swanson** said it was evident during the budget hearings that members wanted to make sure the tree planting grant did not interfere with the general grants incrementally reaching the \$10,000 goal. In comments via e-mail, Councilor Marshall says he recalls the original intent was to increase the tree canopy throughout the City, and, initially, planting on private property was considered. Marshall further suggests the NDA leadership develop a plan to equitably use these funds.

**Councilor King** suggests focusing some of the tree planting on pedestrian routes to enhance walking.

**Wachs** added this is a matching program, and the NDA membership must vote on any grant proposals. He believes there are built-in safeguards that would prevent individuals from taking advantage of the program.

**Councilor Newman** pointed out trees are expensive, and he wants to stretch the tree planting money as far as possible. He feels the property owner should match dollar for dollar.

The group agreed to promote community wide planting and leverage money by looking for opportunities to partner with organizations such as Friends of Trees. **Councilor Newman** feels there should be a 50% monetary match from the residents planting trees on private property. The group agreed to put the issue before the NDA leadership to determine how best to promote the program.

**Councilor King** requested clarification of how social service grant funds are awarded.

**Wachs** said the social service grant requests are similar to the general grants and are handled directly by the office of neighborhoods. Applicants must meet selection criteria and verify there is an overall community benefit.

**Councilor King** questioned social service grant funds going to Festival Daze.

**Mayor Bernard** understood the grants are awarded to help make Festival Daze a more quality event.

## **Discussion of Possible Annexation to Clackamas County Fire District #1**

**Swanson** said a resolution proposing annexation to Clackamas County Fire District #1 (CCFD1) will be considered at the June 18 Council meeting. Milwaukie is currently contracting with the District for services in the amount of \$2.8 million per year. Annexation would result in a tax increase to City residents. If voters approve the measure, the District would impose its permanent tax rate of \$2.40 per thousand assessed value.

At the same time, the City will see a financial benefit in that the contract amount would be freed up to be used for other services. At this time, Swanson anticipates about a \$1.2 million general fund shortfall in 2003 – 2004. Milwaukie currently provides a level of service not available in the unincorporated areas that includes code enforcement, neighborhood services, enhanced library services, cable access studio, and a 1.5 police officer to thousand-population ratio. For example, the Milwaukie Police Department provides a “welcome wagon” and monitoring program for known sex offenders living in the City. All of these are programs within the general fund. Swanson wants to get the City’s story out to the public and present the services it provides in a positive manner. Annexing to the Fire District is one way of ensuring that those things that distinguish Milwaukie as a city can continue.

The proposed City Council resolution is a request to the District Board to consider Milwaukie’s request to annex. Both the City and District will put measures on the November 5 ballot asking voters in each jurisdiction if they approve of the annexation. He discussed the election measure process. The citizen members of the Budget Committee will work on a proposal of what services and projects to fund.

**Mayor Bernard** asked the length of the current service contract between the City and CCFD1.

**Swanson** responded by contract is reviewed every 10 years. The District’s permanent tax rate cannot exceed \$2.40, but the Board can go out for a levy. There is an additional bonded indebtedness of \$.17 per thousand assessed value, which Milwaukie property owners will assume if the measures pass. He is in discussions with Chief Bruegman about an offset for what is being paid on the Public Safety Building in order to reduce Milwaukie property taxes. He briefly discussed the senior citizen property tax deferral process. There is some assistance for seniors who are committed to ongoing community support but are living on fixed incomes. In the contract scenario, Milwaukie does not have representation on the CCFD1 Board, but if the annexation does take place, a Milwaukie resident may run for any of the at-large Board positions.

**Councilor Newman** believes annexation is the only alternative, and the City must propose specific projects that will be done with the funding. He would like to lower the overall tax rate and Public Safety Building bonded indebtedness.

**Swanson** added, at this point of the process, the City would have to lower its expectations. One of the tasks the citizen members of the Budget Committee will face is how much of the \$2.8 million can be reasonably requested from the taxpayers. It is important to be open and honest, with laser-like intensity.

**Councilor Lancaster** believes it is important to outline the consequences of not annexing to the District.

The group discussed the Portland State University Study on Urban Services. **Mayor Bernard** is concerned about providing services within the City's urban growth boundary particularly in the unsewered areas where there are public health concerns.

**Councilor King** urged development of a communication plan to more effectively convey Milwaukie's goals and purposes to other civic leaders around the community.

**Mayor Bernard** adjourned the work session at 7:10 p.m.

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Pat DuVal, Recorder