

**MINUTES****MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION****December 18, 2007**

**Mayor Bernard** called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Council Present: Mayor Bernard and Councilors Barnes, Chaimov, Loomis, and Stone

Staff Present: Operations Director Paul Shirey, Community Development / Public Works Director Kenny Asher,

**Mental Health Services**

This report was rescheduled.

**Proposal to Form a Clackamas County Extension Services and 4-H District**

**Prof. Michael Bondi**, Extension Agent, Clackamas County, discussed the proposal from the County Commissioners to form a special service district. He explained the programs provided by the extension service, and that it was the off campus branch of OSU. Every state in the US had a land grant university, which goes back to the days of Abraham Lincoln, and it was mandated that the states set aside land and set up a public university system. Unlike other universities that have a function or a mission of doing research and teaching the land grants had a third mission of extension outreach, which is engaging the community. As a result, he serves in Clackamas County with 5 other faculty members of OSU that live and work here in the community. The land grant extension was set up with a cooperative funding arrangement. For the last 90 years in Clackamas County they operated under the Federal mandate of three funding partners. Federal dollars come to the university to provide money for research that becomes the knowledge base that is extended into the community. The State has the obligation of providing the salary for faculty so the faculty members are state employees and faculty of the University. The County provides local funding, which provides office space in the local community and support staff. The three way funding is a requirement in order to have extension. There was currently no extension program in Multnomah County because they zeroed out the funding from their general fund. It was the only county in the State of Oregon that did not have an extension program. For those not familiar with extension by name programs included 4-H, Master Gardeners, family farm owners, food nutrition and aging, and low impact development. Even though they have been around for 90 years they have struggled with all 3 funding sources. In November 2006 the Advisory Council suggested that he contact the County about forming a district for a stable, long-term source of funding to build programs. There was a series of meetings with County officials and in April the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) indicated it would like to form a countywide district. The next step in that process as the staff chair of the extension office was that he was given the task of talking with all 17 cities. The proposal was for a countywide special service district with a permanent tax base of up to \$0.05 per thousand. They would then need the support of each City in the form of a resolution endorsing the process to move it forward. The BCC had asked him to come back to them by the end of February 2008 with responses from each of the cities

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to help them decide whether or not to go forward with the process of putting the matter on the November 2008 ballot.

**Councilor Stone** asked if a majority of the 17 jurisdictions adopted a resolution did it have to be all cities or just a majority for the BCC to proceed.

**Mr. Bondi** replied that he thought the BCC objective would be to cover the entire County, but they have told him they were prepared to consider something less.

**Councilor Stone** asked where they are currently located.

**Mr. Bondi** responded that they are currently located at 200 Warner Milne Road east of the County Tax Assessor's office.

**Councilor Stone** understood the funding mechanism. What was the cost to voters now as opposed to the proposal?

**Mr. Bondi** replied there was not a direct millage rate that he could quote because it currently came from general fund. They had been fortunate over the last six years with the Secure Rural School Funding. The BCC had been unable to expand the extension budget, and the annual general fund amount dedicated to extension had been the same since 1987. The budget had been flat for about 20 years. The BCC thought it was logical to fund education with the Secure Rural Schools funding but were not sure what Congress would do at the end of the funding cycle. He noted there was another facility in Clackamas County which was the North Willamette Research and Extension Center located across from Charbonneau in the Aurora area. It was a 160-acre farm that was donated to Clackamas County and the University had been leasing it for \$1 per year for the last 40 years. That is where they do all of their research and where the farm commodities were grown and the extension technology outreach was done.

**Councilor Chaimov** asked what a typical Milwaukie resident was likely to ask for in the way of services.

**Mr. Bondi** replied literally everything from soup to nuts. He provided a copy of a handout that depicted services. Last year they document over 51,000 requests for information from his office. Clackamas County had the largest 4-H Club program in the State with 35 adult volunteers living in Milwaukie and 59 participating youths from Milwaukie. The other major programmatic areas were family and community education (FCE), Nutrition Education Program, Family Food Educators Volunteers, Forestry Events, and Master Gardener Volunteers.

**Councilor Chaimov** asked how the proposed levy compared to others recently approved such as Soil and Water Conservation.

**Mr. Bondi** said it was very similar to it in the sense of the amount of \$0.05 per \$1,000 countywide levy.

**Councilor Barnes** asked how much money the levy would generate.

**Mr. Bondi** replied if fully funded at \$.05 it would generate approximately \$1.5 million. Right now total contribution to the extension was \$232,150, and the Title 3 money was about \$150,000. The County was obligated to provide the facility and building location that was valued at approximately \$40,000.

**Mayor Bernard** asked what kind of relationship there was with the farming community.

**Mr. Bondi** said very often farmers contacted the agricultural extension service. The belief in 1900 when extension started nationally was that American

agriculture needed to be the best agricultural system in the world, and the way to do that was through education and research. Extension had the responsibility of taking that information to the community. The extension program had helped shape Clackamas County and much of that was certainly agriculture and natural resources. The reason why Clackamas County, in his opinion, was the second largest agricultural commodity center in the state of Oregon was because of extension growth. Many of the farmers involved in economic enterprises first turned to extension to get the information they needed to get started, so they were involved with those folks not only in agricultural research but also with business enterprise budget sheets. They did a lot of education in the business management area so people do turn to them. A small farms program started about 9 years to help those interested in starting small farming enterprises. Farmers' markets began in the 1970's on the east coast with the help of extension services. When he came here in 1985 there was already the beginnings of a Farmers' market system in place, and it was extension agents aided by OSU extension agents. Master Gardeners offered their expertise, and the extension service was trying to build capacity with food preservation folks.

**Councilor Loomis** asked if the extension service could offer more programs if the district passed.

**Mr. Bondi** replied that was one of the potentials. The BCC was interested in trying to create a stable source of funding that would be adequate in order to serve the community for the next 90 years or beyond. What they were looking at here was the potential to grow the capacity and provide more service. He said they were not as big in every city and community as they could be. Milwaukie had received a lot of service, which was not necessarily so in other cities in the County. He would like to think the program would be more proactive. Even though they had the biggest 4-H program in the State with 1,500 kids that meant they were only serving a fraction of youth in the County. About 3 weeks ago *Good Morning America* showed a special program about the study of youth programs across the country. 4-H was found to have the greatest positive influence on kids and their development as adults. To him that was a mandate to get more families and get more kids exposed. The program not only taught life skills but also leadership development.

**Mayor Bernard** understood the extension service went to the County to seek funding.

**Mr. Bondi** replied the direction came from the Advisory Council and not the faculty. They wanted to come up with a better way to serve more people and expand programs that had great value. Little can be done about getting additional resources at the State and local levels, so they came up with a completely different alternative in the form of a special district.

The consensus was to put this matter on the January 2 agenda.

### **County Library Information Campaign Proposal**

**Mayor Bernard** said the County would like the City to contribute \$10,000 to get information out to citizens about the creation of a Library District, and he went over Mr. Swanson's response, which was on the back of the staff report. It was a win-win situation for Clackamas County. Mr. Swanson was not opposing the formation of a district but felt the County should fund the information campaign. They had the resources and they were the ones that would benefit if the district were formed. Cities would suffer because they could potentially lose their library funding in the future.

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**Councilor Barnes** said her first impression was that Milwaukie should have its own information campaign for the \$10,000. Milwaukie residents were very passionate about their library, and the issue needed to be explained in realistic terms on a local level. She did not wish to contribute \$10,000 to helping the County sell its campaign when it could spend the money on informing Milwaukie voters.

**Councilor Chaimov** said this topic had been the subject of considerable discussion with the Library Board and the staff. Although the Board had expressed an interest in seeing the County ensure that libraries were on a sound financial footing perhaps through the formation of a district they had been concerned that the County was not sufficiently owning this proposal. It appeared to be the County's desire to shore up funding for some libraries that don't have the support in their communities like the Ledding Library did. At the same time the County could use those resources for other priorities. In the Board's view the County needed to be the entity that stepped up and convinced the voters that this was the thing to do. We can certainly convince the people of Milwaukie who are very supportive of their library as the continuing record setting circulation shows, but contributing to an effort that did not yet appear to have all of the wind in its sails at the County did not yet seem to be in the City's best interest.

**Councilor Loomis** said he would like to have the County explain how the \$10,000 would be spent.

**Mayor Bernard** said Mr. Swanson was meeting with Mr. Mantay tomorrow and several city managers to find out how the money would be spent. He was sure that Mr. Swanson would give a full report at the next City Council meeting.

**Councilor Loomis** wanted to get the message out the best way possible whatever that was. It was important that it passed whether the City explained it or the County explained it. The Council needed more information. He did not think the County was prepared to say how the \$10,000 would be spent.

Consensus was to wait for a report from Mr. Swanson before making a decision.

### **Riverfront Board Appointments**

**Mayor Bernard** said that almost all of the members on the Riverfront Board had served for many years. A majority of the members' terms were extended Council could have a discussion. He proposed extending their terms for another 2 years.

**Councilor Stone** had a question about the process and was it going to be changed because usually members needing re-appointment came before the Council for interviews. Would it be a matter of looking at the process?

**Councilor Loomis** suggested they come in as a group to discuss the work plan.

There was consensus to reappoint Riverfront Board members for two years.

### **Council Reports**

**Councilor Loomis** attended the Winter Solstice Event and thanked Gary Nebergall from Citywide Tree Service for providing the wood for the bonfire. He attended Gary Klein's open house.

**Councilor Stone** attended the Winter Solstice and took the interstate MAX tour.

**Councilor Chaimov** appreciated the time people have taken with him to bring him up to speed, including Madalaine Bohl, at the Milwaukie Museum. He commented on the publications highlighting local history.

**Councilor Barnes** discussed her work with the Harmony PAC which had been challenging. She appreciated working with Ms. Macken-Hambright and she thought they had come to a solution. They stopped the Harmony Project from going forward, and she was still trying to find out where they need to go from here. She had read in the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) minutes that they have opened applications for the new board. Mr. Kuenzi told her it was not announced publicly and he had replied they put it off and there are four members that are up for renewal. She also brought in an *Oregonian* article about the wastewater situation. Her first instinct was, "why do we need yet another task force?" There had been three reports and a lot of money spent. The time had come. She was trying to figure out why this was being put off again.

**Councilor Stone** said there was a real disconnect between the jurisdictions that are involved and they all needed to sit down together to hammer out a solution.

**Councilor Barnes** said the solution was there but there was some political lack of will at this point to deal with moving forward. Every time they had sat down as cities they had said the same thing, but everything gets put on hold again. She did not understand why they were not taking the cities' thoughts as strongly as they did the CAC and the unincorporated area.

**Councilor Stone** she said there needed to be a summit with the County.

**Mayor Bernard** said he was on the Clackamas County Business Alliance Group, and one of the members was on the locating committee. He was tired of going to meetings that never went anywhere. The answers were never good enough. They needed to sit down with people that are really going to be impacted like Happy Valley, Damascus, and Milwaukie and talk about annexation. This had been going on for 10 years.

**Mr. Asher** said he didn't know anything more than Council did. From a staff perspective they have been watching the developments, and anytime they hear or get something from the County they analyze it, file it and discuss it with Mr. Swanson. The file is growing and the City was, from a staff level, starting to try and figure out where our position was and it had been more a matter of timing. He thought that Mr. Swanson was looking for the right timing as well. When they had discussed it was pretty imminent because they seemed to be closing in pretty fast on their interim plan at least. They had reported to the City but had never talked to the City about our participation. There hadn't been a real communication even with the interim plan.

**Councilor Stone** asked for clarification on the Harmony Road project. Was it completely off the table?

**Councilor Barnes** said the Harmony PAC said 'no' to moving forward on the Harmony Road extension and had asked staff to look at 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as a possible alternative. That was the Committee recommendation but no final County decision had made.

**Mayor Bernard** said in his discussion with the County he understood they would probably pull it.

**Councilor Loomis** understood that the PAC was to study another option. It had nothing to do with pulling the Harmony Road extension project.

**Councilor Barnes** said that was not true. She was called by Cam Gilmore confirming that the 4 members at the table recommended not moving forward with Harmony and to move forward with studying the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue option.

**Mr. Asher** said that Mr. Parkin was preparing a full progress report for the January 2 work session, and they should be getting that staff report in the next couple of weeks.

**Mayor Bernard** attended the C4 meeting where they talked about libraries and the feasibility of a County vehicle registration fee on the March ballot to pay for capital improvements for streets. The County said they were going to create a task force. Those at the meeting felt it was pretty quick for that kind of move, but the County's concern was that the next ballot opportunity might be full of money measures. He also attended the Solstice Event. The Rotary helped set up, the Lewelling NDA did very well with its concessions and helped with the clean up. It was a very successful event. Celebrate Milwaukie Inc. discussed creating a vendor committee.

**Mayor Bernard** adjourned the work session at 6:51 p.m.



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Pat DuVal, City Recorder