

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

**2:00 PM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber**

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:** 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

**2. Public Communication**

John Carter, City of Portland: Mr. Carter testified on potential tax revenues for the proposed transportation measure. He explained that taxes such as a payroll tax or general sales tax could hurt working people and the local economy, while other forms of taxes, such as a gas tax or digital sales tax, could better serve the region.

Lightning Super Karma: Lightning shared concerns about referring the proposed homeless services measure to the ballot in May before the proposed transportation measure in November. He encouraged the Metro Council to focus on transportation first.

Quincy Brown, City of Portland: Mr. Brown, a member of Metro's Committee on Racial Equity, spoke about transportation displacement. He explained that the region was facing a transportation crisis, that further exacerbated displacement and gentrification in the Portland area, and noted that the issue needed to be addressed as part of a larger plan to address racial equity in the region.

**3. Ordinances**

- 3.1 Ordinance No. 20-1442, For the Purpose of Seeking Voter Approval of a Personal Income Tax and Business Profits Tax for Supportive Housing Services

Council President Peterson called on Mr. Paul Slyman, Ms. Elissa Gertler, Mr. Andy Shaw, and Ms. Jes Larson, Metro

staff, to jointly present Ordinance No. 20-1442, Resolution No. 20-5083, and Resolution No. 20-5085. Mr. Slyman provided an overview of the proposed homeless services measure, including a timeline of community engagement around the issue. Mr. Shaw reviewed the proposed revenue mechanisms and explained that funds would be raised by a combination of a 1% high-earner marginal income tax and a 1% business profits tax. He also explained the proposed governance structure as well as the projected distribution of resources, which would be based on population across the three counties and include up to 5% to Metro for oversight and administration. Ms. Larson noted that performance and finance audits, an annual review of the cost of collection and administration, and a requirement for voter approval after ten years would be used to provide accountability. She highlighted the significant need for expanded services across the region and added that the measure would focus on prioritizing the communities in need, including people with disabilities experiencing prolonged homelessness, people at risk of homelessness, and communities of color. Ms. Gertler then provided a proposed implementation for the measure, starting with referral in February 2020 and ending with program implementation in summer 2021.

### 3.1.1 Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 20-1442

Council President Peterson opened up a public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-1442 and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak. She noted that the Metro Council would also take public comment on Resolution No. 20-5083.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland: Mayor Wheeler testified in favor of the proposed homeless services measure. He highlighted the urgent need for these services in the region and recognized the joint efforts needed to address the crisis.

Chair Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County: Chair Kafoury testified in favor of the proposed measure. She explained that the nation had never adequately invested in solutions to homelessness and emphasized that it was time to remedy that history.

Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Clackamas County: Commissioner Fischer testified in favor of the proposed measure. She provided an overview of the work that had been done to build a coalition around this issue and expressed support for a regional solution.

Mayor Pete Truax, City of Forest Grove: Mayor Truax expressed support for the proposed measure. He highlighted the urgent need to address homelessness in the region and encouraged the Council to pass Ordinance No. 20-1442.

Ms. Elizabeth Mazzara-Myers, on behalf of Chair Kathryn Harrington, Washington County: On behalf of Chair Harrington, Ms. Mazzara-Myers read a statement of support into the record from Chair Harrington, Commissioner Schouten, and Commissioner Treece. The statement expressed support for the proposed measure and urged the Metro Council to pass the related legislation.

Andrew Hoan, Portland Business Alliance: Mr. Hoan, on behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, expressed support for the proposed measure. He highlighted the collaboration that had been created within the HereTogether coalition to create the effort and acknowledged the significant need in the region.

Katrina Holland, HereTogether Advisory Committee Chair:

Ms. Holland testified in support of the proposed measure. She highlighted that homelessness was a regional problem and noted that the solution required a large scope that included services to help keep people in housing.

Jennifer Langston, City of Portland: Ms. Langston testified in favor of the proposed measure. She shared her history as someone who had experienced homelessness and spoke to the programs that had helped get her into housing. She highlighted that these programs were severely underfunded and explained that the measure could help expand the ability of these organizations to provide services to those who need it most.

Maggie, City of Portland: Maggie spoke to the significant needs of those experiencing homelessness and shared some of the challenges that they face, including a lack of reliable resources and mismanaged funds.

Alan Crouch, City of Portland: Mr. Crouch encouraged the Metro Council to vote in favor of the measure and refer it to the May ballot for voter approval.

Chris Smith, City of Portland: Mr. Smith testified on the proposed homeless services measure. He expressed support for the progressive nature of the funding mechanisms and highlighted the need to build staff capacity at the agency to support the effort.

Lighting Super Karma: Lightning expressed concerns about the timing of the proposed housing measure. He explained that the affordable housing bond and the homeless services bond needed to be implemented in harmony.

Dan Newth, City of Portland: Mr. Newth testified on the root

causes of homelessness. He highlighted that in order to successfully address the issue, the corrosive effects of capitalism and other aspects of the current economic system would need to be acknowledged.

David Kevin Bailey, City of Portland: Mr. Bailey testified in support of the proposed housing services measure, noting that the services it would fund would greatly expand the opportunities currently available to those experiencing homelessness.

Terrell Garrett, City of Portland: Mr. Garrett expressed his opinion that revenue bonds should not be used for ongoing issues, but for one-time expenses. He also highlighted the importance of addressing homelessness in the region.

Alexa Simpson, City of Portland: Ms. Simpson encouraged the Metro Council to consider incorporating the efforts of the Stop the Sweeps coalition as part of the proposed housing services measure. She spoke to the importance of mutual aid and collaborative efforts.

Laurie Palmer, City of Portland: Ms. Palmer shared her experiences of homelessness and highlighted the importance of raising more funds to address such needs. She encouraged the Metro Council to refer the proposed measure to voters.

Council President Peterson gavelled out of the public hearing. She then entertained a motion for immediate adoption of Ordinance No. 20-1442. Councilor Lewis moved to immediately adopt the ordinance, citing the nature of the crisis and the Friday deadline to add the measure to the May 2020 ballot for voter approval. Councilor Dirksen seconded.

*Council Discussion*

Council President Peterson acknowledged that there had been testimony and concerns raised about the possibility that a person's income could be taxed as both business and personal income. She clarified that Metro would address the issue in rulemaking to minimize any impact on the small number of businesses that could be potentially affected. Councilors expressed support for the proposed measure and emphasized the significant need for expanded housing services throughout the region.

**4. Resolutions**

- 4.1 Resolution No. 20-5083, For the Purpose of Referring to Metro Area Voters a Ballot Measure Authorizing a Personal Income Tax and Business Profits Tax to Provide Funding for Supportive Housing Services

**A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

- 4.2 Resolution No. 20-5085, For the Purpose of Recognizing the HereTogether Framework for Supportive Housing Services and Directing the Development of a Work Plan

**A motion was made by Councilor Stacey, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

**5. Consent Agenda****Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

- 5.1 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for February 06, 2020
- 5.2 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2020
- 5.3 Resolution No. 20-5081, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Thomas Egleston to the Regional Waste Advisory Committee
- 5.4 Resolution No. 20-5080, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Additional Members to the Transportation Funding Task Force
- 5.5 Resolution No. 20-5062, For the Purpose of Amending the FY2019-20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Add Funding for the Mobility Policy Update Project
- 5.6 Resolution No. 20-5079, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Issue a New Non-System License to Veris Industries-Schneider Electric for Transport and Disposal of Non-Recoverable Solid Waste, Including Putrescible Waste, at the Covanta Waste-to-Energy Facility Located in Brooks, Oregon
- 5.7 Resolution No. 20-5076, For the Purpose of Adding a New Project to the 2018-2021 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Supporting Project Development Activities for TriMet's New Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project (FB20-08-FEB)

**6. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

There was none.

- 6.1 2019 Compliance Report

**7. Councilor Communication**

There was none.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 3:50 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting



on March 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator