

Metro

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oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

2:00 PM

Revised 12/4

This meeting was held virtually

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session call to order at: 2:01 p.m.

Present: 5 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Councilor Bob Stacey

Work Session Topics:**2:05 Regional Wildfire Resilience Panel Discussion**

Presenter(s): Courtney Patterson, Metro
Nancy Bush, Clackamas County Disaster Management
Director
Commissioner Hilary Franz, Washington State
Commissioner of Public Lands
Mary Kyle McCurdy, 1000 Friends of Oregon Deputy
Director

President Peterson introduced Courtney Patterson, Nancy Bush, Hilary Franz, and Mary Kyle McCurdy to discuss regional wildfire resilience.

Ms. Bush explained the most recent wildfires in August and their effect in the region. Ms. McCurdy summarized the current fire resilience situation in the state of Oregon. Ms. Franz highlighted the urgency in preparing and preventing wildfires instead of reacting to a disaster. She reviewed the actions being taken such in her state of Washington and how similar policy can be implemented in the Portland area.

Council Discussion

Councilor Stacey asked panelists about how to mitigate push back from developers who do not want to be required to use fire safe materials when building houses.

Councilor Lewis thanked panelists work and shared how

impressed she was with the fire mapping tool.

Councilor Craddick shared two observations: First, that urban development is growing in un-incorporated areas of our counties and second, FEMA will buy land from land owners if a flood has occurred multiple times on that land. She asked staff to speak to how Council can incorporate emergency preparedness into land use policy.

Councilor Dirksen expressed his concern over the requirement to alert homeowners if it's in a wildfire area when they are going to purchase a home that developers and sellers will not want to do business there. Secondly, he shared his concern with FEMA's wildfire policy does not sufficiently pay for forest management and fighting fires which leads to increased burdens on states to reduce wildfires.

Councilor Chase thanked staff and panelists for their work and their presentation. He additionally seconded his fellow Councilors questions and comments.

Council President Peterson brought up the issue of Metro not being included in regional emergency preparedness IGA's which makes it difficult for Metro to receive funding from FEMA for their emergency management work throughout the region. She proposed either including Metro in emergency preparedness regional IGA's or developing a new regional emergency preparedness IGA with Metro.

Council President Peterson thanked staff and the panelists for their work and moved on to the next agenda item, *Solid Waste Rate Options*.

2:50 Solid Waste Rate Options Discussion

Presenter(s): Brian Kennedy, Metro

President Peterson introduced Brian Kennedy to present on

Solid Waste Rate Options. Mr. Kennedy explained why Metro is involved in solid waste removal and what fees and taxes Metro imposes to pay for solid waste removal. He then reviewed the new rate recommendations and the public's reaction to the rate increase. Furthermore, Mr. Kennedy explained why staff after community engagement events and review decided to recommend option 2.

Metro Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal explained the process of the rate increase from December 2020 to July 1, 2021. Mr. Kennedy explained that if Metro does not increase this fee then there will be a \$7.5 million loss revenue from February and June 30, 2021. Additionally, he explained that Metro won't be able to rebuild these reserves until after the next fiscal year.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez expressed his support of option 2 based off of his experience working with community engagement. He thanked staff and partners for their work in this project.

Councilor Dirksen asked staff to review the tax and fee implementation timeline and process.

Councilor Lewis highlighted the importance of maintaining a sufficient budget for the transfer center not only for their waste removal services but also their educational and community services. She overall expressed her support of option 2.

Councilor Chase expressed his overall support for option 2 and asked staff about the financial impact of option 2 on Metro's reserves.

Councilor Stacey shared his support for option 2 and thanked the COO and CFO for stepping in to help determine

this rate increase.

Council President Peterson thanked staff and expressed her support for option 2.

3:35 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Madrigal shared that outdoor trade shows are permitted under the new Covid-19 retail regulations. She explained that this means Expo Center and Oregon Convention Center employees could come back to work in some capacity.

3:40 Councilor Communication

There was none.

3:45 Adjourn to Executive Session

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Karlin, Council Policy Assistant

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