

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
AGENDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2010, 5:30 p.m.
MEDICINE LAKE CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. 2010 Council Goals and Legislative Priorities

3. SET FUTURE STUDY SESSIONS

4. ADJOURN



**REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

January 26, 2009

To: Laurie Ahrens, City Manager

Prepared by: Calvin Portner, Administrative Services Director

Reviewed by:

Item: City Council Goals and Legislative Priorities Discussion

1. ACTION REQUESTED:

Discuss and indentify 2010 City Council goals and legislative priorities.

2. BACKGROUND:

Each year the City Council reviews and sets goals and legislative priorities. Attached for your discussion are the following:

- 1) 2009 Council Goals
- 2) 2009 Legislative Priorities
- 3) 2010 Draft Legislative Priorities for discussion
- 4) 2010 Draft Council Goals for discussion

3. BUDGET IMPACT:

N/A

4. ATTACHMENTS:

- 2009 Council Goals
- 2009 Legislative Priorities
- 2010 Draft Legislative Priorities for discussion



2009 City Council Goals

- **Implement Solutions to Economic Challenges.** Prioritize and maintain the strong core services that helped Plymouth achieve its status as Money magazine's #1 City. Seek additional efficiencies and expand collaborative efforts to maintain service levels within financial constraints.
- **Protect Plymouth's Strong Financial Position.** Maintain Plymouth's fiscal health through sound financial management practices. Strengthen long-term financial planning through continued biennial budgeting and forecasting. Maintain Aaa bond rating and promote transparency through financial reporting.
- **Address Transportation Issues.** Advance transportation and transit issues to improve the local economy, promote business growth and development, and improve area roadways and highways to reduce commuter congestion. Specific emphasis is on maintaining suburban transit and advancing the following projects: third lane on I-494, study of Highway 169 between I-494 and I-94, and improvements to Highway 55.
- **Pursue Northwest Greenway and Environmental Initiatives.** Continue acquisition of property for the Northwest Greenway and park land, as directed by voter referendum, and complete Phase 2 of the Millennium Garden. Collaborate with watershed agencies to ensure effective progress on water quality mandates. Continue energy conservation efforts in city buildings.
- **Continue Proactive Public Safety Initiatives.** Build on the successes of fire prevention and fire service programs as well as proactive policing strategies to promote and enhance livability.
- **Protect the City's Infrastructure Investment.** Continue to monitor financial resources, economic conditions and timing with regard to infrastructure needs to ensure that the City can protect and enhance the useful life of streets and utilities.

2009 Legislative Priorities

- **Local Control.** The City opposes legislation that erodes local control or creates mandates without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism.
- **Levy Limits.** The City opposes levy limits. State-imposed limits on local decision making are inconsistent with local accountability.
- **Market Value Homestead Credit.** The City supports payment of MVHC directly to the homeowner (not using cities as a conduit) in order to improve transparency and eliminate unpredictability in budgeting.
- **Fiscal Disparities.** The City encourages the legislature to reexamine the fiscal disparities program. Many of the factors which supported the original fiscal disparities law in the early 1970's may no longer be valid.
- **Transportation and Transit Funding.** To efficiently transport commuters and promote business growth, the City encourages the legislature to identify long-term funding sources with growth potential to allow the building of efficient transit and highway systems. The City supports preservation of suburban transit, and the expansion of the transit taxing district.
- **Public Safety**
 - **Primary Seatbelt Law.** The City supports legislation for a primary seatbelt law.
 - **Sentencing Guidelines for Weapons Crimes on School Property.** The City supports an increase of the sentencing guidelines for both adults and juveniles for weapons-related offenses on school property to better protect our schools.
 - **Secure Task Force Funding.** The City supports continued funding for Drug Task Force, Gang Strike Task Force and other multijurisdictional organizations that pool regional resources.
 - **Maintain Judicial System Funding.** The City strongly encourages support for maintaining judicial system funding levels as it relates to pre- and post-sentencing impacts and retaining the Ridgedale Court.
 - **Fire Insurance 2% Fund.** The City encourages the continued use of insurance 2% funds to be devoted for firefighter pension funds. Additionally, the City supports the continuation of state funding for fire training activities.
- **Metropolitan Council.** The City encourages the legislature to broaden the metropolitan council boundaries beyond the current seven county area and to evaluate whether the Council would be more effective as an elected or appointed body.
- **Sales Tax Exemption on Local Government Purchases.** The City supports legislation to reinstate the sales tax exemption for all local government purchases.
- **Utility Relocations.** The City supports efforts to ensure relocation of utilities in a timely manner, efforts to increase service reliability, as well as indemnification from fees and fines when relocation is beyond the City's span of control.
- **Election Law.** The City supports enhancements to election law that improve efficiency, while maintaining system integrity.

2010 Legislative Priorities

TRANSPORTATION

To efficiently transport commuters and promote business growth, the City encourages the legislature to identify long-term funding sources with growth potential to allow the building of efficient transit and highway systems. Specifically, Plymouth supports the following:

- Third lane expansion on I-494 from Highway 55 to I-694, the only portion of I-494 still with two lanes.
- The City supports preservation of suburban transit, and the expansion of the transit taxing district.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Housing Persons Not Capable of Self-Preservation.** The city encourages clarification with respect to a conflict between the Fair Housing Act and the Uniform Building Code. Housing of more than five (5) persons not capable of self-preservation in the same building requires that the building be constructed to the Uniform Building Code specified standards.
- **Day Care Facilities in Residential Areas.** The city encourages the Legislature to amend or clarify MN Stat. 245A.14 Subd. 1. to require that a residential day care facility must be accessory to the principal use of a residential property and the business must be operated by residents of the residential structure.

MN Stat. 245A.14 states: “A licensed nonresidential program with a licensed capacity of 12 or fewer persons and a group family day care facility licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0314 to 9502.0445, to serve 14 or fewer children shall be considered a permitted single-family residential use of property for the purposes of zoning and other land use regulations.” This is interpreted by Hennepin County and the State to mean that a day care can be operated from a single family home independent of whether someone lives in the house or not.

- **180 Day Building Permit Rule.** The city encourages the adoption of legislation amending MN Stat. 326B.121 subd. 2 (2), to allow cities the ability to adopt ordinance language that could require exterior work of residential structures be completed within 180 days of building permit issuance.

Recent court cases have concluded that the strict interpretation of the Statute prohibits cities from adopting such ordinances. The current statute reads: *a municipality must not by ordinance, or through development agreement, require building code provisions regulating components or systems of any structure that are different from any provision of the State Building Code.*

- **Vehicle Miles Traveled.** The city opposes legislation mandating comprehensive plan amendments that includes requirements to calculate, monitor and reduce vehicle miles traveled to a previous date.

In 2009, bills were introduced (HF0898 and Senate SF549) requiring cities to calculate 1990 vehicle miles traveled and 2005 vehicle miles traveled and then update comprehensive plans by 2015 to include ways on how that city would reduce vehicle miles traveled through redevelopment and other means. This requirement would have resulted in updating Comp Plans three years prior to the current 2018 deadline. The bill was not passed, however, direction was provided to the Met Council to complete a Land Use and Planning Report on transportation by January 15, 2011.

- **Next Round of Comprehensive Plan Updates.** The city encourages the Legislature to amend MN Statute 473.864 Sec. 14. Sub 2., requiring the next mandatory Comprehensive Plan Updates to be completed by 2018 so that it is better tied to the census. Currently cities are updating plans using census data that is approximately seven to eight years old. To better plan for demographic changes, updates should be required by the second year of a decade.

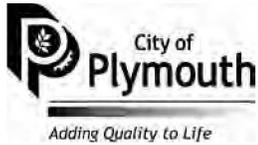
PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Local responsibility to collect and dispose of over-the-counter and prescription drugs**
There is a proposal requiring local police agencies to act as a repository for the general public's unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Under the proposal, a department would collect unused drugs and make the proper provisions for disposal. This unfunded mandate would increase city liability exposure and would be incredibly expensive.
- **Forfeiture and Seizure laws** - there may be a proposal to change the current forfeiture laws. Under the new proposal, all proceeds from lawful seizures will go to the state versus the local task forces. The current law has a number of checks and balances and law enforcement has sustained their drug task force funding with the proceeds.
- **"Buy American Law"** - Needs to be altered to provide better clarity. There are very few uniform specialized technology and equipment companies that manufacture all of their products in the U.S. or are of inferior quality. The League of MN Cities and most of the professional police and fire organizations have voiced concerns with the availability of service weapons and public safety equipment. The mandate's impact is a significant expense to cities.
- ~~**Primary Seatbelt Law.** The City supports legislation for a primary seatbelt law.~~
- **Sentencing Guidelines for Weapons Crimes on School Property.** The city supports an increase of the sentencing guidelines for both adults and juveniles for weapons-related offenses on school property to better protect our schools.
- ~~**Secure Task Force Funding.** The City supports continued funding for Drug Task Force, Gang Strike Task Force and other multijurisdictional organizations that pool regional resources.~~
- **Maintain Judicial System Funding.** The city strongly encourages support for maintaining judicial system funding levels as it relates to pre- and post-sentencing impacts and retaining the Ridgedale Court.

- **Fire Insurance 2% Fund.** The city encourages the continued use of insurance 2% funds to be devoted for firefighter pension funds. Additionally, the City supports the continuation of state funding for fire training activities.
- **Metropolitan Council.** The city encourages the legislature to broaden the metropolitan council boundaries beyond the current seven county area and to evaluate whether the Council would be more effective as an elected or appointed body.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Control.** The city opposes legislation that erodes local control or creates mandates without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism.
 - **Mandates.** Remove unnecessary reporting and other mandates and provide a funding source for state-required mandates.
 - **Levy Limits.** The city opposes levy limits. State-imposed limits on local decision making are inconsistent with local accountability.
 - **Market Value Homestead Credit.** The city supports payment of MVHC directly to the homeowner (not using cities as a conduit) in order to improve transparency and eliminate unpredictability in budgeting.
 - **Fiscal Disparities.** The city encourages the legislature to reexamine the fiscal disparities program. Many of the factors which supported the original fiscal disparities law in the early 1970's may no longer be valid.
- **Sales Tax Exemption on Local Government Purchases.** The city supports legislation to reinstate the sales tax exemption for all local government purchases.
- **Utility Relocations.** The city supports efforts to ensure relocation of utilities in a timely manner, efforts to increase service reliability, as well as indemnification from fees and fines when relocation is beyond the city's span of control.
- **Election Law.** The city supports enhancements to election law that improve efficiency, while maintaining system integrity including improvements in absentee voting and early voting.



Agenda
Number: 3

**SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING**

January 26, 2010

To: Laurie Ahrens, City Manager

Prepared by: Sandy Engdahl, City Clerk

Reviewed by: Cal Portner, Administrative Services Director

Item: Set Future Study Sessions

1. ACTION REQUESTED:

Review the pending study session topics list, and set study sessions or amend the topics list as desired.

2. ATTACHMENTS:

Pending Study Session Topic List
Official Calendars

Pending Study Session Topics

(at least 3 Council members have approved the following study items on the list)

- Discuss Future Transit Service (CC)
- Review sign ordinance as it relates to athletic fields (JJ, GB, TB)

Other requests for study session topics:

- Update with the City Manager (spring)
- Meet with prosecutor for update (fall) (TB)
- Consider incentives to encourage tree preservation
- Architectural guidelines (fall)
- Review dangerous dog regulations/process (JW/JJ)

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2  PRECINCT CAUCUSES	3 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	4 7:00 PM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING Parkers Lake Room	5	6 2:00–7:00 PM Fire and Ice Festival Parkers Lake
7	8	9 5:30 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Medicine Lake Room City Assessor Update 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	10 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE (EQC) MEETING Council Chambers	11 7:00 PM PARK & REC ADVISORY COMMISSION (PRAC) MEETING Council Chambers	12	13
14	15  PRESIDENTS DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	16	17 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	18 6:00 PM BOARD AND COMMISSION RECOGNITION EVENT Plymouth Creek Center	19	20
21	22	23 5:30 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Medicine Lake Room Review City Fees 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	24 7:00 PM PLYMOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT (PACT) MEETING Medicine Lake Room	25 7:00 PM HRA MEETING Medicine Lake Room	26	27
28						

Modified on 01/15/10

March 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 7:30-9:30 AM STATE OF THE CITY MEETING Medicine Lake Room 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	4	5	6
7	8	9 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	10 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE (EQC) MEETING Council Chambers	11 Cancelled PARK & REC ADVISORY COMMISSION (PRAC) MEETING	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Commences Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour	15	16	17 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	18	19	20
21	22	23 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	24 7:00 PM PLYMOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT (PACT) MEETING Medicine Lake Room	25 7:00 PM HRA MEETING Medicine Lake Room	26	27
28	29 PASSOVER Begins at Sunset	30	31			

Modified on 01/15/10

April 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 7:00 PM Board of Equalization Council Chambers	7 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	8 Cancelled PARK & REC ADVISORY COMMISSION (PRAC) MEETING	9 6:00-8:00 PM Yard & Garden Expo Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse	10 9:00 AM– 1:00 PM Yard & Garden Expo Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse
11	12	13 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	14 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE (EQC) MEETING Council Chambers	15	16 Primavera Plymouth Arts Council Show Plymouth Creek Center	17 Primavera Plymouth Arts Council Show Plymouth Creek Center
18 Primavera Plymouth Arts Council Show Plymouth Creek Center	19 Primavera Plymouth Arts Council Show Plymouth Creek Center	20 7:00 PM Board of Equalization Reconvened Council Chambers	21 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	22 7:00 PM HRA MEETING Medicine Lake Room	23	24
25	26	27 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	28 7:00 PM PLYMOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT (PACT) MEETING Medicine Lake Room	29	30	

Modified on 01/15/10