

# **Adopted Minutes Special Council Meeting January 29, 2008**

Mayor Slavik called a Special Meeting of the Plymouth City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Medicine Lake Room of City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on January 29, 2008.

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers Murdock, Willis, Bildsoe, Stein, and Hewitt.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Black.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Ahrens, Police Chief Goldstein, Public Works Director Cote, Administrative Services Director Portner, Deputy Fire Chief Hurr, Finance Manager Bursheim, Community Development Director Juetten, Fire Chief Kline, Park and Recreation Director Blank, and City Clerk Engdahl.

## **2008 Goals**

The Council discussed the following items as their goals for 2008:

1. Complete and Implement the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Continue Emphasis on Street and Utility Maintenance and Reconstruction (review procedures relating to reconstruction projects so that property owners are notified about proposed reconstruction projects and expected costs two years prior to project commencement).
3. Address Transportation Issues (partner with other jurisdictions and groups to advocate on transportation and transit issues that will improve area roadways and highways and reduce congestion).
4. Pursue Northwest Greenway/Park Initiatives (continue acquisition of greenway and park land, and begin Phase 2 of the Millennium Garden).
5. Continue Proactive Public Safety Initiatives (build on the successes of fire prevention and fire service programs as well as the proactive policing strategies initiated in 200).
6. Conduct Long-Term Financial Planning (analyze factors affecting Plymouth's financial status to ensure continued financial health and prudent financial management. Conduct studies of utility rates, internal service funds, and reserve funds).
7. Work with the Watershed Districts on Unfunded Water Quality Mandates (collaborate and communicate with watershed agencies to ensure efficient, effective progress on water quality mandates from state and federal agencies).

Adoption of the above goals would either be on the February 12 or February 26 Council agenda.

**Legislative Priorities**

The Council discussed the following items as their Legislative Priorities for 2008:

1. Local Control. The City opposes legislation that erodes local control or creates mandates without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism.
2. Levy Limits. The City opposes the reenactment of levy limits. State-imposed limits on local decision making are inconsistent with local accountability.
3. Market Value Homestead Credit. The City supports full funding of the Market Value Homestead Credit in order to remove unpredictability in budgeting and improve transparency.
4. Transportation and Transit Funding. The City encourages the legislature to identify long-term funding sources with growth potential to allow the building of high quality, efficient transit and highway systems. The City supports preservation of suburban transit, and the expansion of the transit taxing district.
5. Firefighter Staffing. The City encourages the State to enact legislation to enhance recruitment and retention of paid-on-call firefighters.
6. Affordable and Life Cycle Housing. The City urges the legislature to maintain and increase resources to the extent possible in order to encourage the development of affordable housing.
7. Sales Tax Exemption on Local Government Purchases. The City supports legislation to reinstate the sales tax exemption for all local government purchases.
8. Utility Relocations. The City supports efforts to ensure relocation of utilities in a timely manner, as well as efforts to increase service reliability.
9. Cable Franchise Authority. The City supports the continued authority of local government relating to franchising of cable services.
10. Primary Seatbelt Law. The City supports legislation for a primary seatbelt law.
11. 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.
12. Fair and equitable distribution of Local Government Aid funds.
13. Evaluation of Metropolitan Council. Encourage possible expansion of this agency's jurisdiction of a broader area other than just the seven-county metro area.

**Advisory Commissions' 2008 Work Plans**

Motion was made by Councilmember Willis, and seconded by Councilmember Bildsoe, to approve the 2008 Work Plans for the Environmental Quality Committee, Human Rights Commission, Plymouth Advisory Committee on Transit, Park and Recreation

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Advisory Commission, Planning Commission and the Youth Advisory Council. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

The Council stated that the future of the Youth Advisory Council would be discussed in June when the current terms expire.

The Council also stated that at a future Study Session, they would like to discuss Housing and Redevelopment Authority's policy issues.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

  
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(Sandra R. Engdahl) City Clerk