

# STUDY SESSION NOTES

## CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO

**Council Chambers**  
**7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**May 16, 2011**

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present: Davis Reinhart, Karen Adams, Tracy Langworthy, Karen Berry, Wanda Sang, Mike Stites, Joseph DeMott, and Joyce Jay. Also present: Deputy City Clerk, Bruce Roome; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Police Chief, Dan Brennan; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; City Treasurer, Larry Schulz; Economic Development Manager, Steve Art; Staff and interested citizens.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Staff Report(s)

No staff reports provided

2. Impact of Wheat Ridge Business District

***John Marriott*** with the Wheat Ridge Business District (WRBD)

The WRBD has received \$40,000 annually from the City of Wheat Ridge as part of a dollar for dollar matching program for façade improvements. Early on in the program WRBD was not dispersing too often and the balance grew. However, in 2010 the surplus was completely spent. During 2010 the City was able to grant an additional \$30,000 in funding. Due to several projects including a larger one which he explained below, the current fund balance is around \$12,000. Mr. Marriott is asking for additional funding from the City of Wheat Ridge in order to continue the grant program through 2011.

Mr. Marriott discussed a new program called the large grant program. The first grant was for Modmood and Retro Consignments at 7700 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This project was completed through the WRBD with help from Wheat Ridge 2020 and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through Jefferson County. The applicant applied through the WRBD and they got the project approved through CDBG and the company was granted \$60,000 and dramatic changes were made. The company is having success since the changes.

Mr. Marriott stated that the WRBD wants to focus on more of these grant programs. The way the grant program works is they apply for the CDBG and the WRBD to obtain approval for the grant. Once this occurs the WRBD provides the capital funding either by reimbursing the applicant or setting up a draw account and the WRBD gets reimbursed by Jefferson County through the CDBG. Without the additional funding by the City they might not be able to fund this type of program. The WRBD has to wait upwards of 4 months for reimbursement from CDBG and that is why this additional funding is crucial

to help continue the program this year. Mr. Marriott is seeking an additional \$100,000 in funding from the City of Wheat Ridge.

***Britta Fisher***, Executive Director of Wheat Ridge 2020, stated that due to a good working relationship with Jefferson County she foresees future chances of larger grants as well.

***Patrick Gooch***, with Modmood and Retro Consignments discussed how much this program has positively impacted his business. Business has doubled since the construction was completed which has therefore doubled their sales tax revenues.

**Consensus was to proceed by first having a discussion at the weekend retreat and then bring a specific amount to the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for possible approval.**

3. Debt Policy and Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy

***Christine Harwell and Sara Hunsche***, from Clifton Gunderson presented their reports that were completed at Council's request. Clifton Gunderson partnered with CML in August to identify the City of Wheat Ridge's policies.

Ms. Harwell and Ms. Hunsche discussed the debt management Policy report in depth (Attachment #1 in packet.)

**Consensus was to proceed with an adoption plan for the City of Wheat Ridge Debt Management Policy.**

Ms. Harwell and Ms. Hunsche also discussed Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy report (Attachment #2 in packet.)

Mr. Goff stated that there is a typo on page 2 of attachment #2, paragraph 2 (Excess Funds.) It should read 35%, not 40%.

**Consensus was to proceed with an adoption plan for the City of Wheat Ridge Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy removing the sentence requiring super majority vote.**

4. Citywide Emergency Medical Services

Representatives for various agencies were in attendance as follows:

Mike Donner, Consultant, Rural Metro Ambulance  
David Patterson, Division General Manager, Pridemark/Rural Metro Ambulance  
Dave Mitchell, Director of Operations, Pridemark Paramedics  
Joel Hager, Interim Chief, Fairmount Fire Department  
Steven Gillespie, Fire Chief, Wheat Ridge Fire Department  
Mike Murphy, Operations Chief, West Metro Fire Department

Chief Brennan presented the findings in the memo. (attached to packet.) The memo offered three alternatives for Council's considerations as follows:



1. Continue with the current process of the City contracting with a private vendor to provide EMS services within the corporate limits of the City. The Police Department would oversee this process for the entire City and maintain monthly meetings to ensure service levels specified in the IGA are met. The department has planned to add performance measurements to any future IGA.
2. Allow the four fire protection districts to provide EMS services within their district boundaries. Because of past history in this area, the Police Department would recommend some service performance expectations be established to ensure consistent and professional services.
3. The City maintains an EMS contract with a private contractor, while Arvada and Wheat Ridge Fire Protection Districts train EMS paramedic personnel to staff their fire apparatus and submit a complete business plan for review by the Police Department and City Council before further actions are taken. A cutover date would need to be established.

City staff recommended Alternative #3.

Mayor DiTullio left the meeting at 8:22 PM

**Chief Murphy** addressed questions from Council regarding EMS services and the costs therein associated. He discussed the difference from mill levy fees for fire service only versus the costs associated with EMS transport. Chief Murphy pointed out that costs are generally offset by insurance as most users have insurance.

**Chief Gillespie** clarified for Council that Wheat Ridge Fire Department is 100% satisfied with the current system and is very happy with Pridemark. Their plan is to augment the current EMS system in case of a delay in Pridemark's response. Wheat Ridge Fire Department wants the governance of the contract since the City doesn't oversee the fire department.

**Consensus was carried to continue with Alternate #1 and not take any further action at this time.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.



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Bruce Roome  
Deputy City Clerk