

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**  
**7500 WEST 29<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**October 14, 2019**

Mayor Starker called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Zachary Urban	David Kueter	Amanda Weaver	Kristi Davis
Janece Hoppe	Leah Dozeman	Larry Mathews	

Absent: George Pond (not excused)

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Interim Police Chief, Dave Pickett; Community Development Director, Ken Johnstone; Parks & Recreation Director, Karen O'Donnell; Administrative Services Director, Allison Scheck; City Treasurer, Chris Miller; Judge Randall; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**CITIZENS' RIGHT TO SPEAK**

**Vivian Vos** (WR) reported attending a test of the ballot counting machines at Jefferson County Elections. She was encouraged to know that the computer system that counts the ballots is a stand-alone system and cannot be hacked. She noted the County will be giving tours of the Elections Division at 1pm on November 4. People can go to their website to find out details about how to do it.

**Carol Mathews** (WR) recognized and thanked Sara Spalding, the City's Public Information Officer. She is the lady behind the scenes planning and promoting City events. She led the volunteers for the historic 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala. She facilitates most city gatherings, and takes and posts pictures. She has worked to improve communications to all citizens; she provides factual accounts of accidents and street closings on social media; she has broadened the city's communication network beyond the website to include Facebook and Nextdoor. Communication is key to running a city, and she is always working on it with expertise and grace.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA** There was no consent agenda.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

2. Resolution No. 56-2019 – A Resolution adopting the City Budget and appropriating sums of money to the various funds and spending agencies for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for the 2020 Budget Year

Councilmember Urban introduced Resolution 56 -2019.

Mayor Starker opened the public hearing.

### **Staff presentation**

Mr. Goff presented a quick overview of the budget and a summary of funds since great detail had been provide at a study session a few weeks ago. He noted that best practices have been followed in preparing the budget.

The proposed 2020 budget includes the following:

- General Fund projected revenues of \$39,870,759 -- which would be a 10% increase compared to 2019
- General Fund projected expenditures of \$39,435,240 – a 7.9% increase compared to 2019; primarily due to \$2.5M for Rec Center expenditures. (General Fund expenditures are 51% of the whole budget.)
- An unrestricted fund balance of \$7,404,800 or 18.8% of expenditures. Any extra or unspent revenue will be put in reserves.
- A General Fund transfer of \$3,600,000 to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and \$100,000 to the Equipment Replacement Fund
- A 7.9% increase in the General Fund budget compared to the adjusted 2019 budget
- Proposed CIP Fund expenditures in the amount of \$18,361,877
- Proposed 2E Bond Fund totals \$15,109,308 -- includes \$11.6M for projects and \$3.4 for debt service (Debt service is 23% of total bond fund budget)
- Special Revenue Funds in the amount of \$4,022,231
- Proposed Budget (Expenditures) of all funds in the amount of \$76,928,656
- Rec Center Fund (Fund 64) of \$70,977 is being dissolved, moving revenues and expenditures into the General Fund.
- We should have a Reserve of \$7.4M (18%)
- Restricted fund balance is \$2.5M
  - \$1.1M for TABOR 3% emergency reserve
  - PEG fees of \$271K can only be spent on certain things.
  - \$1M for Fruitdale is restricted also.

Capital \$18M; majority for Wadsworth reconstruction for final design and ROW acquisition. Construction could start end of next year.

2E Bond Fund \$11.6M; Anderson Building/Park is finished and the hook ramps for Clear Creek Crossing are being constructed. 2 projects left: Gold Line Station 54%: for infrastructure, and the Wads project 23%, plus the 23% for debt service

Open Space major projects are developing a community gathering place on 38<sup>th</sup> Ave, trail maintenance repair and an Open Space Master Plan.

Conservation Trust Fund (lottery money) \$821K; complete renovation of Prospect Park, Rec Center maintenance projects, and a new playground at Bonnie's Park.

Rec Center Fund Remaining \$70K to be transferred to the General Fund in 2020.

Staffing changes have a net increase of 3.25 FTE in 2020

- 1 FTE Neighborhood Engagement Specialist - Community Development
  - A Senior Planner was authorized in 2019
- 0.75 FTE Landscape Inspection Program Manager – Comm Dev
- 0.5 FTE part time Payroll Technician – Admin Services
- 0.5 FTE half time Sustainability Coordinator – City Manager's Office
- From Crime Prevention Fund -- 0.5 FTE Homeless Navigator.

Public Comment none

#### Council Questions

Councilmember Urban was told

- The Green project will come to Council for approval next Monday.
- A modified IGA for Wadsworth will be the next step requiring Council approval.
- All monies for Wadsworth are in – including the federal and DRCOG grants.

Councilmember Mathews asked if the completed 2E projects stayed within budget.

- Mr. Goff reported the money dedicated for the Anderson Building project was combined with \$7M from the Open Space Fund and the Conservation Trust Fund.
- We have \$10M dedicated for the Clear Creek Crossing hook ramps. The contract is \$16M for the work. The Longs Peak Metropolitan District will reimburse the City for the extra \$6M.

Mayor Starker closed the public hearing.

**Motion** by Councilmember Urban to approve Resolution No. 59-2019, a resolution adopting the City Budget and appropriating sums of money to the various funds and spending agencies for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for the 2020 Budget Year, seconded by Councilmember Weaver; carried 7-0

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

3. Council Bill 16-2019 – An Ordinance amending section 26-205 of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws concerning the regulation of minor accessory structures in the Residential-One zone district (Case No. ZOA-19-04)

The ordinance would modify the standards for minor accessory structures, specifically the rear and side setbacks and maximum square footage allowed per structure.

Councilmember Davis introduced Council Bill 16-2019.

**Motion** by Councilmember Davis to approve Council Bill 16-2019 - an ordinance amending section 26-205 of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws concerning the regulation of minor accessory structures in the Residential-One zone district, on first reading, order it published, public hearing set for Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, and that it take effect 15 days after final publication; seconded by Councilmember Dozeman; carried 7-0.

4. Council Bill No. 17-2019 – An Ordinance vacating any interest held by the City in a portion of West 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a public roadway

The City of Wheat Ridge holds rights-of-way in trust for the public. An irregular-shaped strip of ROW running along the south side of West 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue eastward from Youngfield Street has been deemed to be excessive and unnecessary by the Public Works Department. Staff recommends transferring the ROW to U.S. Retail Partners, LLC, owners of the Applewood Shopping Center.

Councilmember Weaver introduced Council Bill 17-2019.

**Motion** by Councilmember Weaver to approve Council Bill 17-2019 - an ordinance vacating any interest held by the City in a portion of West 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a public roadway, on first reading, order it published, public hearing set for Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, and that it take effect 15 days after final publication; seconded by Councilmember Urban; carried 7-0

## **DECISIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

5. Resolution No. 57-2019 – A Resolution levying general property taxes for the year 2019, to help defray the costs of government for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for the 2020 budget year

Councilmember Hoppe introduced Item 5.

**Staff Presentation**

Mr. Goff reported the City's property tax mill levy will remain at 1.830 mills for the 2020 budget. Since TABOR still restricts the City from raising the property tax mill levy without voter approval, this approval, while required by statute, is really just a formality.

There was no public comment and no discussion by Council.

**Motion** by Councilmember Hoppe to approve Resolution No. 57-2019, a resolution levying general property taxes for the year 2019, to help defray the costs of government for the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for the 2020 budget year; seconded by Councilmember Dozeman; carried 7-0

6. Motion to cancel the December 23, 2019, regular business meeting of the Wheat Ridge City Council due to the Christmas holiday

Councilmember Dozeman introduced Item 6.

**Motion** by Councilmember Dozeman to cancel the December 23, 2019, regular business meeting of the Wheat Ridge City Council due to the Christmas holiday; seconded by Councilmember Urban; carried 7-0

#### **CITY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

**Mr. Goff** reported that all the new retail tenants for Applewood Shopping Center are now open. The ones that opened this weekend had people waiting in line for the opening. Unfortunately Hacienda Colorado will be delaying its opening due to corporate priorities. It won't open until after the first of the year.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**

Mr. Dahl was not in attendance.

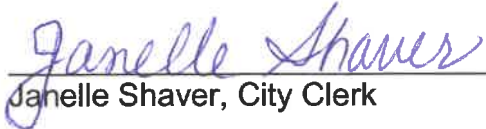
#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS' MATTERS**

**Janece Hoppe** thanked Council for the extra time they have spent recently with extra study sessions, late night meetings and executive sessions. She also reminded folks of the District 1 meeting she is having on October 22.

**Mayor Starker** reminded everyone of the upcoming city election and encouraged everyone to participate.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

  
Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON November 18, 2019

  
Janece Hoppe, Mayor Pro tem

The preceding Minutes were prepared according to §47 of Robert's Rules of Order, i.e. they contain a record of what was *done* at the meeting, not what was *said* by the members. Recordings and DVD's of the meetings are available for listening or viewing in the City Clerk's Office, as well as copies of Ordinances and Resolutions.