

# **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

**August 10, 2015**

Mayor Jay called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Jerry DiTullio	Zachary Urban	Kristi Davis	Bud Starker
Tim Fitzgerald	George Pond	Tracy Langworthy	Genevieve Wooden

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Police Chief Daniel Brennan; other staff and interested citizens.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 27, 2015 and Study Session Notes of July 20, 2015**

Without objection the minutes of July 27, 2015 and Study Session Notes of July 20, 2015 were approved as published.

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND CEREMONIES**

### **CITIZENS' RIGHT TO SPEAK**

**John Clark** (WR) spoke briefly on three things. 1) He encouraged citizens to support the TIF reform ballot question #300. It's a win-win. We can still use TIF money for quality projects and voters get to have a say before we spend over \$2.5M. 2) He encouraged everyone to come out to the Carnation Festival this weekend. The WR High School STEM team's car will be in the parade. 3) He reported that some of the kids from Wheat Ridge did really well at the recent Jefferson County Fair and won awards. He praised them for the effort they put into their animals, and then have to see them go off to market. It's a wonderful event; people should attend. He invited the Council to come next year.

**Amanda Stevens** (Lakewood), candidate for the Jeffco School Board District 4 seat, introduced herself and talked about her background. She is a former teacher who has been involved as a school accountability chairperson and served on other committees.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

1. Council Bill 19-2015 – An ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article VIII of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws concerning Floodplain Regulations

Councilmember Wooden introduced Council Bill 19-2015.

The proposed amendments are recommended primarily because they introduce additional safeguards that improve public safety, enhance hazard protection and provide potential savings for residents in flood zones.

**Motion** by Councilmember Wooden to approve Council Bill 19-2015, an ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article VIII of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws concerning Floodplain Regulations on first reading, order it published, Public Hearing set for Monday, September 14, 2015, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, and that it take effect 15 days after final publication, seconded by Councilmember Urban; carried 8-0.

### **DECISIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

2. Motion to approve award of RFP-15-20 38th Avenue Public Outreach and Streetscape Design Services to Britina Design Group, Arvada, CO in the contract amount of \$101,623

Councilmember Starker introduced Item 2.

Council directed staff to hire a streetscape design consultant for the implementation of the 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor Plan. The consultant will develop a comprehensive public process to achieve community consensus on a revised streetscape design. During the RFP process Britina Design Group proposed more project promotion and stakeholder outreach in 2015 and into 2016. This company was chosen to provide public outreach and streetscape design services for the street reconfiguration.

There was no staff presentation.

Answers to questions from Council and discussion points included:

- People will have opportunities to provide input about lanes.
- Evaluation of parking will be considered.
- Extensive public outreach will be done prior to the first full public meeting on January 14.
- Before the election they will reach out to key stakeholders – businesses on the corridor, people who have been involved to date, and key players.
- Staff feels the public process is essential and wanted a consultant that is experienced and good at that. Britina has done projects where building consensus was difficult and they come highly recommended.
- Additional fees are being paid for the public outreach process.
- Yes, there will be options for lanes on January 14.



- Mr. Goff's intent is that everything is on the table. Nothing is predetermined; we are starting with a clean slate.
- A representative from Britina will be at the August 31 Town Meeting.
- Mr. Brink assured there will be lots of opportunities for public input, and Britina will use a wide range of methods for reaching out to the public.

#### Public Comment

**Vivian Vos** (WR) commented that we had community meetings and community consensus last year. It's frustrating to see time and money wasted yet again. She'd like Council to agree this will be the last time we go through this and that if the public asks for certain amenities and number of lanes that you will implement that immediately.

**Motion** by Councilmember Starker to approve the award of RFP-15-20 38th Avenue Public Outreach and Streetscape Design Services to Britina Design Group, Arvada, CO in the contract amount of \$101,623; seconded by Councilmember Pond.

Highlights from Council discussion included:

- It's been a long process; resolution will be appreciated.
- While the money spent to date and the efforts of the past are appreciated, there's been no serious discussion about what any of these amenities will cost or how they will be paid for.
- This process will not produce an engineered design ready to build – only a concept plan. Engineered designs will come later.

Motion carried 8-0.

3. Motion to accept Kipling Street Rights-of-way and Temporary Construction Easements from the property at the southeast corner of 44th Ave. and Kipling St.

Councilmember Langworthy introduced Item 3.

This parcel is the last right-of-way and construction easement necessary to complete the Kipling Trail.

There was no staff presentation

Discussion followed.

- The trail should be finished by year's end or January.
- Mr. Goff gave a quick progress report on the undergrounding and relocation of the various utilities.
- This last transaction did require negotiations. The agreed upon price is not substantially different than the appraised price.

**Motion** by Councilmember Langworthy to accept Kipling Street Rights-of-way and Temporary Construction Easements from the property at the southeast corner of 44th Ave. and Kipling Street; seconded by Councilmember wooden; carried 8-0

4. Motion to approve the addition of a Full-Time Public Information Officer position to jointly support the Police Department and the City at Large

Councilmember Pond introduced Item 4.

Information about this new position had been presented and discussed at the August 3, 2015 City Council Study Session. This position is needed to keep up with the increasing demands for staff time and the effort it takes to be proactive with communication tools and implement new technologies that connect citizens with their government.

There was no further information or discussion.

Councilmember DiTullio read the Financial Impact into the record:

Overall, the PIO position will be an increase of one FTE in the 2015 Budget. The total amount needed for the remainder of 2015 is \$24,733 which can be absorbed in the current budget; therefore, no supplemental budget appropriation is needed to fund the new position in 2015. The 2015 budget for Stasko Agency is \$60,000 and this amount is recommended to stay the same. The Stasko Agency provides media relations and marketing services to the City. For 2016, this amount will be reduced to \$36,000. The decrease of \$24,000 will be re-allocated to the PIO position. Approximately \$90,482 (salary and benefits) will be budgeted in 2016 to fund this position. Professional memberships and training will also be included in the budget and are not expected to require more than \$5,000 in additional funds. The estimated overall increase in the 2016 budget for this position will be \$61,482.

**Motion** by Councilmember Pond to approve the addition of a Full-Time Public Information Officer position to jointly support the Police Department and the City at Large; seconded by Councilmember Wooden; carried .8-0

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Proposed 2016 Legislative Program Budget ~ Patrick Goff & Heather Geyer

The legislative program budget includes funding to support the work of the Mayor and City Council. Highlights proposed for 2016 include:

- Salary and benefits for the assistant to the Mayor and City Council
- Mayor and Council monthly salaries – \$67,680
- City Council community outreach funds – \$1,500 per Council member
- Mayor and Council training – \$1,500 per each
- Mayor's community outreach funds – \$5,500
- Visioning and strategic planning – \$6,000
- National League of Cities lobbying program – \$9,000
- Metro Mayors Caucus dues – \$2,500



- Legislative memberships (CML, DRCOG, NLC and Transit Alliance) – \$35,500
- Outside Agency Contribution program – total program budget is \$11,500, with \$1,500 for marketing and advertising and \$10,000 toward assisting organizations that provide essential social services in Wheat Ridge. A memorandum with recommendations for this program funding will be included with the proposed budget.
- Carnation Festival/Zoppe Italian Circus – \$50,000 for contractual agreement with the City, plus \$3,000 for parade barricades and \$25,000 for parks and police overtime.

Also presented for Council consideration was whether or not to provide funding for the following special requests:

<b>Program/Event Agency</b>	<b>2016 Request</b>	<b>2015 Funding</b>
Kite Festival	\$2,000	\$3,000
Active Transportation Advisory Team	\$1,500	\$1,000
SRC Circulator Bus	\$30,000	\$52,500
Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)	\$4,000	\$4,000
Jeffco Schools Outdoor Lab	\$19,940	\$0
Jeffco Action Center Capital Campaign*	\$0	\$0
Feed the Future Backpack Program	\$10,000	\$10,000
Exempla Lutheran Leaves of Hope	\$2,500	\$2,500
WR High School Farmers 5000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Arvada food Bank	\$15,000	\$10,000
Family Tree	\$650	\$650
Jefferson County Mental Health**	\$2,500	\$2,500
General Table Sponsorships	\$3,000	\$3,000
Carnation Festival Battle of the Bands	\$2,500	\$2,500

\* The City received a request for a contribution to the Jeffco Action Center Capital Campaign in 2014. The City donated \$10,000. No funding was allocated for 2015.

\*\*The City has typically sponsored the annual fundraising event by purchasing a table for \$2,500.

Discussion followed.

- It was clarified that the \$22,000 of the \$52,500 contribution to the SRC was for a special rebate on their construction. Councilmember DiTullio suggested increasing funding for the Circulator Bus as that figure has been at \$30,000 for several years.
- Councilmember Fitzgerald supports the Circulator Bus, but would like to see some documentation from the SRC to justify the funding.
- Councilmember Wooden asked for a line item list of how money is spent for the Carnation Festival and also what other donations the Carnation Festival gets.
- Councilmember Davis expressed support for outdoor lab but thinks a first request of \$19,900 might be high. She also noted the kite fest is asking for less this year.
- Councilmember Starker inquired about the NLC lobbying program. It provides for up to three councilmembers to attend NLC in Washington DC and pays for the legislative forum we have. He's pleased to see funding for the Battle of the Bands.

There was consensus to bring this back as is, with some of the information councilmembers requested.

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

Mr. Goff noted the Carnation Festival this weekend and reminded everyone there is a pancake breakfast from 7-9am at the WR Grange Saturday morning before the parade.

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

Mr. Dahl relayed a request from the Judge for a procedural change that will streamline the handling of animal violations. He'd like to handle cases involving rabies and licensing requirements the same way that proof of insurance is handled: If folks show up with the appropriate documentation and pay the fine, they wouldn't have to go through a court process. Mr. Dahl has reviewed the code and believes the Judge has the authority to implement this procedure; it makes sense to free up time to deal with more important animal cases. Unless there is objection he will proceed. Mr. Dahl will provide Council with a copy of the order when it is ready.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS' MATTERS**

**Janelle Shaver** said she'd see everyone at the Carnation Festival.

**Jerry DiTullio** also announced the Pancake Breakfast this Saturday. The Grange is at 3850 High Court. Donations will be appreciated. For information contact Dominic Breeden at 303-919-2680.

**Kristi Davis** thanked Dominic for arranging the Pancake Breakfast and the other things he does for the Grange. She invited people to the Carnation Festival and the parade.

**Zach Urban** reminded folks that school is back in session and encouraged everyone to drive slowly and be mindful of kids along the street.

**Bud Starker** thanked the people in advance who have put in so much work on the Carnation Festival and the Zoppe Circus. He looks forward to seeing everyone there.

**George Pond** wished everyone a great Festival. He reminded people to keep their eyes out for children walking to school.

**Tim Fitzgerald** reported from the WR Business District that the Gold's Grocery shopping center has a new owner. He plans a complete renewal of the center and has applied for some matching grants.

**Tracy Langworthy** thanked the City for the new pavement on Miller Street – just in time for school. She looks forward to the parade.

**Genevieve Wooden** reported the Safe Routes to School group met last week. They're contacting each school. October 8 is national Walk-to-School Day. Details will follow.

**Joyce Jay** announced there will be a town hall meeting on Aug 31 at the Rec Center to give citizens an opportunity to talk face-to-face with their elected officials.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

  
Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON August 24, 2015

  
Bud Starker, 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.