

# **City Council Meeting Minutes**

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

**September 14, 2020**

**Note:** This meeting was held virtually, using Zoom video-teleconferencing technology. As duly announced and publicly noticed, Council previously approved this format in order to continue with normal business and respond to the CoVid-19 Pandemic and the related public emergency orders promulgated by the President of the United States, the Governor of Colorado, and the Wheat Ridge City Council. Before calling the meeting to order, Mayor Starker stated the rules and procedures necessitated by this meeting format.

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**

Janeece Hoppe      Judy Hutchinson      Zachary Urban      Rachel Hultin  
Amanda Weaver      Korey Stites      Leah Dozeman      Valerie Nosler Beck

Also present: City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; City Treasurer, Chris Miller; Administrative Services Director, Allison Scheck; Community Development Director Ken Johnstone; Senior Planner, Jeff Hirt; Parks and Recreation Director, Karen O'Donnell; Grant and Special Project Administrator, Brandon Altenburg, other staff, guests, including three gentlemen from the Arvada Fire Protection District; Mr. Bob Loveridge, VP of the Board, new Chief Mike Piper and new Deputy Chief Kirk Lock, and interested citizens.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND CEREMONIES** – None for this session.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Without objection or corrections, the City Council Minutes of August 24, 2020 were approved as published.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Without objection or correction, the agenda stood as announced.

## **CITIZENS' RIGHT TO SPEAK**

This item began at 7:02 PM.

Mr. Bob Loveridge, VP of the Arvada Fire Protection District, introduced Chief Mike Piper of the Arvada FD, who joined the Department March 11, and Deputy Chief Kirk

Lock, who recently joined the Department after 30 years with the Memphis, TN FD. The three gentlemen introduced themselves and expressed their ongoing desire to have a collaborative and collegial relationship with the City of Wheat Ridge, our Police Department and City Council.

**Note about Wheat Ridge Speaks:**

Citizens may visit the Wheat Ridge Speaks website and enter written comments of up to 1,000 words on any Council agenda item. The deadline for citizens to submit comments is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time on the day of a Council session so that Council members, other elected officials and City Staff have time to review the comments before the meeting on Monday evening.

The City Clerk's Office transcribes those Wheat Ridge Speaks comments into these minutes, placing each comment along with the record for that agenda item, including items that include a public hearing (verbatim, if the comments do not contain lascivious language or unlawful hate speech).

There were no comments submitted through Wheat Ridge Speaks concerning tonight's agenda.

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

Discussion began at approximately 7:08 PM

Councilmember Hutchinson introduced the consent agenda items.

- a. Motion to approve payment to Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$148,476.06 for the annual renewal of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement
- b. Motion to award a contract to Design Mechanical, Inc. of Louisville Colorado, in the amount of \$115,651 for HVAC upgrades at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center and City Hall and approve a 3% contingency in the amount of \$3,470 for unforeseen project expenses.

Motion by Councilmember Hutchinson to approve both Consent Agenda Items a.), and b.), seconded by Councilmember Stites; motion carried 8-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

None for tonight.

**ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

None for tonight.

**DECISIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

Discussion began at approximately 7:10 PM

**2. Resolution No. 45-2020 – A Resolution in support of an application for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Grant for a feasibility study and cost assessment for improvements to Tabor Lake**

Councilmember Nosler Beck introduced the Resolution

This Resolution is to support the City's application for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) non-motorized trail grant to fund a feasibility study and cost assessment for improvements to Tabor Lake. The grant has a maximum value of \$45,000 and requires a 30% match of a combination of in-kind and cash funds with at least 10% of the match being a cash match. The project must be completed within 2.5 years of being awarded the grant, which gives the City until July 2023 to utilize the grant funds.

Staff Presentation by Karen O'Donnell and Brandon Altenburg, who gave some background of the resolution whereas Tabor Lake is established along the Clear Creek Trail and adjacent to Prospect Park, West Lake, and Bass Lake. The majority of this area has well-maintained banks and trails, with the exception being Tabor Lake. This highly-trafficked area is a highlight in the City for residents and visitors alike, and improving this area has been identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission as a recommended upcoming project for the department.

This work would need to begin by contracting with a design firm to analyze the area and provide improvement designs and estimates. This grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife would support funding the feasibility and cost assessment phase of this work.

Should the grant be awarded and the feasibility and cost assessment phase be funded and completed, the next steps would be for the City to take that information and decide if, and potentially when, the improvement work should be undertaken. Once the feasibility and cost assessment information are available, the City can make that decision, budget funds, and/or pursue outside funding (such as grants) to complete the construction work if the trail project is identified as a priority.

**Public Comment**

No one came forward to speak.

**Council Questions**

Council asked why their packet included a blank application. Staff answered that it was included for completeness and transparency, along with a site map and explanation of the project.

**Motion** by Councilmember Nosler Beck to approve Resolution 45-2020, a resolution in support of an application for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Grant for a feasibility study and cost assessment for improvements to Tabor Lake, seconded by Councilmember Dozeman; motion carried 8-0

**CITY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

Mr. Goff thanked Chief Murtha for inviting Mr. Montgomery, the head of the NAACP in Colorado, who spoke to the Police Department Executive Team. Chief Murtha commented that his presentation was well received and addressed many significant issues in policing and community relations.

Mr. Goff gave an update on the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy. We are ready to launch the program, which will begin in the East Wheat Ridge and Bel Air neighborhoods. We are moving forward with hiring the Homeless Navigator position and have a finalist selected.

Councilmembers had several detailed questions, which staff answered, about the early stages of implementing the program.

He also addressed homelessness issues. We have a number of restraints including CoVid, Constitutional rights and law enforcement, our capacity to work on the issue. Initially we will focus on 44<sup>th</sup> and Kipling and 38<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth. The City will deploy resources in these two areas to begin to address the issues related to people experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Goff listed the actions the City is taking to alleviate problems, including public health cleanup and illegal camping in wooded areas. He also briefed Council on the Heading Home Committee, a regional effort among municipalities in Jefferson County.

Chief Murtha reported on the PD effort to work with businesses, residents and those experience homelessness in the area of 44<sup>th</sup> Ave and Kipling St, near I-70. The Chief also detailed the Department's community policing approach to those experiencing homelessness.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**

Mr. Dahl would like to add to a Study Session agenda an item on campaign finance and how complaints about campaign financing shall be addressed at the municipal level. Council agreed to address this question.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' MATTERS**

City Clerk Steve Kirkpatrick reported that the group of citizens circulating the referendum petition to reverse Ordinance 1691, the zoning change to PRD at 38<sup>th</sup> and Johnson St submitted their amendments to their original submission on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This latest submission was received this afternoon about 4:30 PM, so any further details are pending a thorough verification review. The Clerk issued a receipt to the petitioners for a total of 61 petition sections.

Councilmembers rooted for the Broncos!

Councilmember Dozeman announced that this Saturday, at the Old Village Inn Parking lot at 10:00 AM, volunteers will gather to conduct a refuse and litter pickup in the area of Kipling and I-70.

Councilmembers Stites and Weaver reported on a successful Ridge Fest event last Saturday. The Mayor echoed these sentiments.

Councilmember Hultin thanked the neighbors who helped others with downed tree limb cleanup after the recent snowstorm.

Councilmember Hutchinson expressed admiration for the sidewalk chalk art she has seen around the City.

The Mayor thanked the Arvada Fire executives and Chief Murtha for attending.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.



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Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON September 28, 2020



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Janeece 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 by contacting the City Clerk's Office, as well as copies of Ordinances and Resolutions.