

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
August 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Mayor ProTem John Gates in the School District Six Board of Education Meeting Room, 1025 9th Avenue.

Those present were Mayor ProTem Gates and Councilmembers Robb Casseday, Sandi Elder, Michael Finn, Rochelle Galindo, and Brett Payton. Mayor Tom Norton arrived late.

Mayor Norton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REPORT

Mayor Norton arrived at 5:07 p.m.

Roger Muller, Human Relations Commission (HRC) Member, provided a review of the report conducted by the City's Human Relations Commission relative to a public inquiry conducted on issues pertaining to human rights as requested by the City Council at its March 21st meeting. He noted that specifically, the request was for the HRC to initiate a review of all efforts currently in place in Greeley to educate the immigrant and non-immigrant populations on immigration issues in this community.

Mr. Muller's highlights of the report included information on the groups identified for contact, which included religious, governmental, individual, resource, organizational, and educational; development of questions to ask; a determination of what is going on in the community, which he noted that there are tremendous resources and services available to serve this population; debunking some myths about this population and the realization that there are a lot of misunderstandings in the community; the identification of gaps and fears in terms of resources; a note about what is going on to educate people about immigration in general; the responsibility of local law enforcement, which appeared to show that law enforcement is following protocol called out; and finally, the identification of what the local community could do.

Mr. Muller reviewed the recommendations offered from the Human Relations Commission which included the acknowledgement of the positive past and ongoing contributions of immigrants to this community; the acknowledgement of the on-going efforts of local law enforcement in the prevention and suppression of crime in this community; the continuation of bridge building to celebrate diversity and ethnic backgrounds by continued support of neighborhoods, the Drug Task Force, School Resource Officers, Neighborhood nights, and many other events in the community; the continued communication between the City Council and the HRC to address and resolve community issues; and an acknowledgement by the City Council that immigration is a significant emotional issue for this community consisting of many different perspectives which must be discussed and addressed.

Mayor Norton expressed appreciation for the work and efforts put forward by the HRC on this and encouraged ongoing work and recognition just as recommended.

Councilmember Elder expressed appreciation for the difference between undocumented individuals and refugees. She also announced an upcoming event titled "A Walk in Their Shoes" and encouraged everyone to participate if possible.

Councilmember Galindo stated that there does seem to be a lot of good support out there for Greeley's refugee population and noted that a lot of really good community members stepped up here to address

this important issue. She especially appreciated that the Report seemed to debunk the myths out there about what is or is not going on, and asked what the City Council can do moving forward. She also offered kudos to law enforcement for what it is already doing to respect someone's constitutional rights.

Aaron Wooten, HRC Member, conveyed to the Council that the HRC will continue to be a sounding board and resource for the City Council in this arena. He stressed that there are a lot of opportunities to build better and stronger relationships and to make some connections.

Councilmember Gates stated that the best way to honor this work done by the HRC is to formally accept this written report.

Deb Suniga, HRC Member, emphasized all the work that has been done and pointed out the diversity of the membership of the HRC who work throughout the entire State. She stated that she wants to continue to work closely with Council to build better communication.

Jeremy Davis, HRC Member, recommended the sharing of this powerful information. It is a very broad look at the pulse of the community, and there is a responsibility to share and educate the community in various conversations with family, friends, and constituents.

Mayor Norton expressed his agreement to accept this report and agreed with continued work and communication. He asked that staff publish and disseminate this report to the community and that this Report be placed on a future Council agenda for formal acceptance.

2. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Victoria Runkle, Assistant City Manager, introduced Robert Miller, Budget Manager, who reported that the proposed 2018 Budget will be provided to the Council in a series of meetings. He stated that this is the second year of the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget limited primarily to changes. He noted that updates will be provided by each Department over three upcoming Worksessions, and that this particular meeting would include budget overviews from Human Resources, IT, Finance, City Attorney's Office, City Council/City Clerk/City Manager's Offices, Economic Development, and Municipal Court.

Sharon McCabe, Human Resources Director, provided a review of the Department's accomplishments for 2017 and highlights for 2018. The total budget shows no changes, and staff count will remain the same. Charts showing employee turnover rates and 401K participation were discussed.

Discussion ensued about a policy change to be more competitive in the Labor Trades and Professional job classifications. Ms. McCabe noted that staff is looking at skill-based pay and a potential change to the merit policy, as well as some merit differential.

Mayor Norton asked that staff come back to Council with some recommended options to address this concern. He also suggested some comparisons with private sector companies rather than just the typical municipal government comparisons.

Patty Stokes, Information Technology Director, reviewed 2017 accomplishments for the Department, as well as 2018 highlights.

Discussion ensued about Spillman software and the recent upgrade, and overall some improvements and speed are being realized.

Ms. Runkle, Assistant City Manager and Finance Director, reviewed 2017 accomplishments and 2018 highlights.

Councilmember Galindo inquired about the average per person refund through the City's Food Tax Rebate Program, and Ms. Runkle advised that she would follow up and provide that to the Council and include the faith-based groups that were part of staff's outreach efforts as part of this program.

Doug Marek, City Attorney, noted that the 2018 budget is a status quo budget with no changes and reviewed 2017 achievements and 2018 highlights, and reviewed active projects by Department.

Betsy Holder, City Clerk, reviewed the policy and administration budgets, including Municipal Court, by looking at 2017 achievements and 2018 highlights.

Councilmember Elder inquired about the possibility of increasing parking tickets from \$10 in an effort to try and impact the number of people who don't pay fines because they are low.

Ms. Runkle advised that parking permits will be increasing, and Ms. Holder stated that a graduated fine schedule has been discussed.

Roy Otto, City Manager, reviewed the Economic Development Budget by discussing 2017 achievements and 2018 highlights. He discussed the Director position being held open going into 2018.

Councilmember Finn expressed that he continues to not be a fan of having an Economic Development Department and asked about collaborative efforts with Upstate.

Mr. Otto advised that the Economic Development Manager is very well connected with Upstate and engages with them and follow up on Upstate's leads on a regular basis.

Councilmember Finn noted that there are never any City staff members at the Upstate Board meeting each month, and Mr. Otto emphasized that it is at the request of Upstate that no staff be in attendance.

Councilmember Galindo expressed appreciation for the Economic Development staff and their young, fresh ideas and perspectives.

Mr. Miller noted that another budget review will occur at the next Worksession on September 12, 2017.

3. 2018 – 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Miller provided a brief review of the 2018-2022 CIP and individually reviewed the 2018 resources by fund and overall capital spending.

Item Nos. 4 and 5 below were switched at Council's request.

4. PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

Councilmembers conducted interviews with Paulette Weaver and Gloria Hice-Idler for a vacant Planning Commission position. Candidate Lou Rotella did not show up for his scheduled time with the Council for this position.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

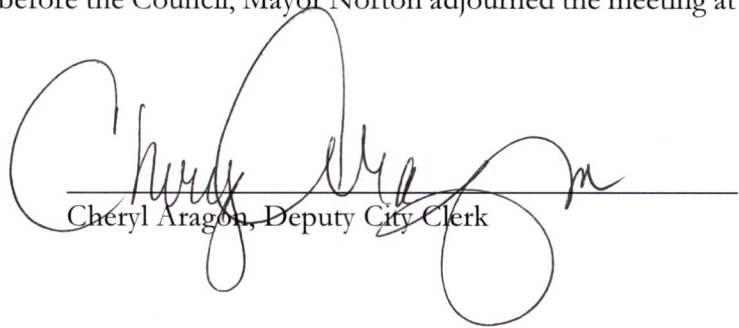
Councilmember Elder moved, seconded by Councilmember Finn to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, potential litigation, and a cross-conveyance and stipulation of interest with Union Colony Company as provided under Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) and Greeley Municipal Code sections 2.04.020(2) and (5) in order to receive or request legal advice from the City Attorney and to provide instructions to negotiators. A vote on the motion was taken, and it carried: 7-0

The Executive Session began at 7:37 p.m. and ended at 8:33 p.m.

6. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS

No additional meetings or events were scheduled.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.



Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk