

City of Greeley, Colorado  
**COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT**  
September 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Mayor Tom Norton, in the School District Six Board of Education Meeting Room, 1025 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

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

## **1. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

The Council heard budget presentations from the Culture, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Community Development and Public Works departments.

Andy McRoberts, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, overviewed the 2017 achievements in each division, which included the completion of the Uptown Tree Project on 8th Avenue; the installation of concrete paths at golf courses; the addition of over 500 new trees in Greeley's parks; over 400 park shelter rentals; new playground amenities; a joint use agreement with School District 6; and various renovations at recreation facilities.

He also discussed 2018 budget highlights, which include addressing minimum wage challenges by increasing revenues, fees and memberships; implementing a pilot project for public art on 10 Xcel Energy boxes; hiring two new employees in Natural Areas Management, continuing relationships and partnerships with School District 6; focusing on customer service efforts and the look of recreation facilities; and continued efforts to effectively reorganize staff.

Mayor Norton and Councilmember Elder inquired more about the 2018 staffing issues. Mr. McRoberts explained that the increase of various fees is to offset minimum wage issues. Councilmember Finn provided an update on the progress of efforts to hire a Poudre Trail Manager. There was also a discussion about continuing to utilize volunteer organizations.

Mr. McRoberts continued his presentation by explaining the 2018 budget of \$21,294,273. He went on to demonstrate the department's performance measures, such as the increase in youth sport participation; the number of teams registered in adult sports programs; specific operations of the parks; downtown technicians; and the Union Colony Civic Center, Recreation Center, and FunPlex.

Mr. McRoberts mentioned the design of a new website, which should be more user-friendly and better informs citizens of closures, in response to a question from Councilmember Elder.

Councilmember Elder inquired of the work that was done this summer at various School District 6 facilities. Mr. McRoberts stated that Quality of Life funds did allow the City to participate in cost and use sharing of projects such as the new track and field at Heath Middle School, the new tennis courts at Greeley Central, the new turf field at Frontier, and other projects. Mayor Norton asked staff to demonstrate what the public is getting for the money invested in this collaborative effort.

Councilmember Galindo asked about the rental of tables and chairs from Island Grove, and Mr. McRoberts explained that the chairs are intended to be used for events hosted at Island Grove, although they try to be accommodating to public events, such as the upcoming OktoBREWfest. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient staffing or logistical support to continue or expand renting these supplies.

Dale Lyman, Fire Chief, discussed the 2017 achievements of the Fire Department, including the improvement of their ISO insurance rating; training for a recent gas issue; relocating to a new fire station; the successful pilot program for Alternative Response Vehicle (ARV) plan; and a new Banner ambulance transport contract.

He went on to discuss the 2018 budget highlights, which included increased dispatch costs; increased radio maintenance; the reduction of calls due to the ARV; the ambulance contract; the expanding fleet replacement schedule; and the addition of three new employees.

The Fire Department's 2018 proposed budget is \$15,226,684. Chief Lyman overviewed the budget by division and discussed various performance measures, such as a five minute-or-less response time; total number of fires, fire loss, and property saved value; and permit and plan turnaround goals.

Mayor Norton and Councilmember Elder commended Chief Lyman on the efforts being made to improve efficiencies with the Fire Department.

Councilmember Payton inquired about the Fire staff that is assisting in other states. Chief Lyman advised that the four firefighters sent to Texas, were re-deployed to Florida for search and rescue efforts. He also noted that there is a task force assisting with fires in Oregon. Mayor Norton asked for a report when they return.

Brad Mueller, Community Development Director, discussed the department's 2017 achievements, which included the implementation of TRAKit, the completion of phase 2 of the Comprehensive Plan, successful re-staffing and onboarding efforts, and record levels of development review.

He went on to discuss the 2018 budget highlights, which included successful development review improvements, the implementation of Comprehensive Plan elements, and development code updates and modifications. The 2018 proposed Community Development Budget is \$3,538,533. Performance measures were also overviewed, such as the number of on-call requests; response times; development review turnaround times; building inspection turnaround and response time; response to code violation complaints, timeliness of compliance, and observed versus complaint ratios.

A discussion ensued about the goals, implications and outreach of TRAKiT. Mr. Mueller overviewed the impacts to customer service, goals of public online access, the expectations to staffing, and potential module use in other departments.

Joel Hemesath, Director of Public Works, discussed the department's 2017 achievements, including increased ridership on the new transit route system, Keep Greeley Moving funding impacts, establishment of 3rd radio tower, completion of the project at 65th Avenue, Transit Transfer Station, and Fire Station #1. There was a discussion about the remaining section of the 65th Avenue project, which is under the City of Evans management.

Councilmember Elder inquired about what more could be done to communicate to the citizens about what is a Greeley construction project as opposed to what is the City of Evans, Atmos Energy or Xcel Energy. Mr. Hemesath stated that a press release would go out soon regarding the status of the 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. Mayor Norton expressed that the Greeley Tribune has been doing a fine job of reporting on all the major projects.

Mr. Hemesath went on to discuss the 2018 budget highlights which included, no new positions or programs; succession planning of Facilities staff; the City Center construction progress; various road improvements; and Sheep Draw Bridge improvements.

Mayor Norton inquired about the response to early morning concrete pouring at the City Center site. Mr. Hemesath stated that the work is almost complete and that there had only been one complaint.

Mr. Hemesath outlined the 2018 proposed budget of \$25,112,526 by each division. He also discussed the performance measures, including how long it takes to repair potholes after reported; the status of pavement quality index; graffiti incidents; public bus usage data; and traffic pavement marking goals.

In response to a question from Councilmember Galindo, Mr. Hemesath advised the Council that there is a contract under negotiation to increase the number of bus benches.

Mayor Norton and Councilmember Elder inquired about the increased instances of pavement marking issues this year and the lack of coordinating road construction with the school district. Mr. Hemesath concurred that pavement marking has been a concern this year and discussed the expectation of contractors to coordinate better.

Victoria Runkle, Assistant City Manager, advised the Council that the Police Department will make the last budget presentation at the September 26th Council Worksession. The first reading of the 2018 budget will be on October 3rd and the public hearing and approval will be on October 17th. The City Council will have an opportunity to ask more questions at the October 10th Council Worksession.

## **2. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS**

Roy Otto, City Manager, reminded Councilmembers to respond to staff regarding their attendance at the upcoming Greeley Remarkable event on September 27, 2017.

## **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Gates moved, seconded by Councilmember Elder to adjourn the Worksession and move into Executive Session for the purpose of engaging in negotiations strategy pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) and Greeley Municipal Code 2.04.060(5) and receiving or requesting legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and Greeley Municipal Code 2.04.020(2). The motion carried: 7-0

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m. and moved into Executive Session until 6:52 p.m.



Lory Stephens, Assistant City Clerk