

City of Greeley, Colorado  
**COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT**  
October 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 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, Mike Finn, John Gates, Rochelle Galindo, and Brett Payton.

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

## **1. RAILROAD QUIET ZONE UPDATE**

Tom Hellen, City Engineer, reported that in 2016 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) opened train horn rules for comment nationwide and also held a meeting with FRA officials, both Colorado U.S. Senators, the City's U.S. Representative and local officials on June 17, 2016. At the June 14, 2016 City Council Worksession, background information on the train horn rules and a comment letter to the FRA were presented. A follow-up report was presented to City Council on January 10, 2017 and a decision was made to conduct a preliminary Quiet Zone study to more accurately determine options and costs for future consideration. To date no changes to the federal train horn rules have come out and none are anticipated any time soon.

Mr. Hellen noted that with direction from City Council to proceed with a preliminary Quiet Zone study a Request for Proposal was prepared, advertised and distributed to known railroad engineering consultants. Six proposals were received and the top 3 rated submittals were interviewed. CTC, Inc. was selected to perform the study.

Mr. Hellen stated that CTC began work in May and has prepared two separate reports; one for the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossings that run N/S located west of Highway 85 and one for the Great Western Railway (GWR) crossings generally running along North Greeley from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 'O' Street just west of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue; outlining the options and costs of establishing a Quiet Zone within Greeley.

Mr. Hellen reviewed a summary of options available to Council and noted that staff is recommending an option entitled Option C in the report which is to end the quiet zone at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue installing crossing gates at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue with concrete medians sufficient to qualify as a quiet zone, with consideration for adding 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He noted that this is the lowest cost option of all the options he reviewed.

Mayor Norton expressed his support for the report and encouraged getting it in the budget to see what can be done.

Mayor Norton then left the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Councilmember Casseday expressed appreciation for the study and stated that he is ready to move forward as recommended. He added that this is a great plan and would support Option C. He suggested getting this in the queue now, along with other grant opportunities that might be available.

Councilmember Finn noted that the recommendation is a good one and would support it, as did Councilmember Elder.

Councilmembers Galindo and Payton expressed hesitation about closing off another street in this area, but that would be their only concerns. They both expressed appreciation for the work and the report.

Mayor ProTem Gates stated that he likes the project, but wants to be cautious about getting input from all stakeholders and those most affected.

## 2. 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CIP REPORT

Joel Hemesath, Public Works Director, reported that staff in the Public Works, Water & Sewer, and Culture Parks & Recreation Departments work together each month on an internal committee called the Capital Projects Committee (CPC) that consists of department heads and division managers that meet and coordinate capital projects. This coordination includes 5 year planning, budget status updates, and coordination of projects to minimize disruption to areas, debriefing on projects, and training. Each quarter, staff assembles a report that details the status of projects.

Mr. Hemesath noted that this year's budget has 89 projects for a total of \$153,032,444 and proceeded to review the status of those projects to date.

Bob Neal, Water & Sewer Operations Manager, also reviewed a variety of Water & Sewer projects going on currently that are a part of these 89 projects.

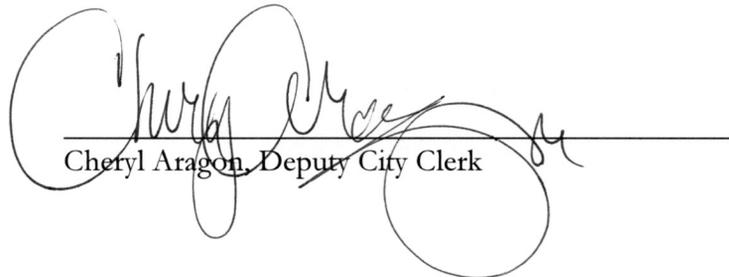
## 3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Robert Miller reviewed the Monthly Financial Report for the month ended September 30, 2017. He reviewed the report by fund and provided a General Fund summary, as well as sales tax distribution and the water and sewer funds in particular.

## 4. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS

Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, reported that there is one item at least to be considered, so the November 7, 2017, regular City Council Meeting will go on as scheduled. There had been some discussion of cancelling the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor ProTem Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.



Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk