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**City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
Nutria at Fernhill Wetlands**

**Monday, March 20, 2023
Zoom Community Auditorium**

Minutes are unofficial until approved by City Council.

1. **ROLL CALL: COUNCIL PRESENT:** Donna Gustafson, Council President (via Zoom); Michael Marshall; Karen Martinez; Timothy Rippe; Elena Uhing (via Zoom); Mariana Valenzuela; and Malynda Wenzl, Mayor. **COUNCIL ABSENT:** None.
2. **STAFF PRESENT:** Paul Downey, Acting City Manager/Finance Director; Bryan Pohl, Community Development Director; Dan Riordan, Senior Planner, and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

A. 5:30 PM – COUNCIL WORK SESSION (NUTRIA AT FERNHILL WETLANDS):

Mayor Wenzl called the work session meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. via in-person and Zoom Webinar Video Conference.

Staff Report:

Pohl introduced the work session, explaining that it would focus on the invasive rodent nutria in the Fernhill Wetlands and that Staff would propose a Code change to allow effective species management.

Jared Kinnear and Chris Faulkner, Clean Water Services (CWS), facilitated the discussion via PowerPoint presentation focusing on the impacts of the invasive nutria and potential ramifications if left uncontrolled. The damage caused by the nutria population creates \$100,000 of expenses each year. Nutria would not be eradicated at Fernhill, but they need to get the population under control so they could better control water temperature and avoid having to close the Fernhill treatment plant.

Pohl explained Staff's recommendation to have Council change the Code to allow licensed wildlife controller to shoot nutria for population control purposes.

Downey added that in anticipation of having another layer of protection for the public, the City had installed an automatic gate at the entrance to Fernhill, which would be closed when this work was done.

During discussion, Council reached the following consensus:

- Signage would be installed on pedestrian pathways into the area to warn of shooting activity

- Staff would decide an appropriate length of time for permit duration
- Advance notice should be given to the Chief of Police when shootings would occur, and those could occur the same nights each week
- Staff would bring a draft ordinance to the next City Council meeting to amend the Code as requested

Council took no formal action nor made any formal decisions during the work session.

B. Adjournment:

Mayor Wenzl adjourned the work session at 6:00 p.m.