

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
January 10, 2023

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor John Gates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1001 11th Ave, Greeley, Colorado, with hybrid participation available via the City's Zoom platform.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

City Clerk Heidi Leatherwood called the roll.

Present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler

Councilmember Deb DeBoutez

Councilmember Ed Clark

Councilmember Johnny Olson

Mayor John Gates

Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Brett Payton - Excused

4. **Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers**

Councilmember Hall reported that Barry Wilson, a Windsor Town Board Member, is the new Poudre Trail Executive Director.

Councilmember DeBoutez reported that she spoke with some consultants, in Loveland, that are considering building and designing a Children's Museum for the Northern Colorado region.

5. **Office of Emergency Management and Disaster Response Overview**

Fire Chief Brian Kuznik introduced this item with a presentation at 6:02 p.m.

Chief Kuznik led the follow-up presentation to Council's October 4, 2022 initiative, specific to the City's response to emergencies to limit service interruptions to the community. Chief Kuznik gave a high-level overview of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) management and coordination of the City's emergency operations in support of a local response. The OEM is currently a division positioned within the Fire Department.

Also in attendance:

Fire Lt. Dominic Tatti – City of Greeley Interim Emergency Manager
Weld OEM – Director of Emergency Management – Roy Rudisill
Xcel Energy Representative – Andrew Holder
Atmos Energy Representative – Kurtis Paradisa
Poudre Valley REA Representative – Jay Mendoza
Verizon Wireless Representative – Jared Hilzendeger (via zoom)

Chief Kuznik highlighted the success of the City’s preparedness and the organization’s commitment to assist in achieving this goal.

Emergency Operations Plan –

- a. Provides general guidelines and principles for managing and coordinating the overall response and recovery
- b. Provides Greeley officials with a basis for the coordinated management of disaster incidents for minimizing impact and restoration

Councilmember Butler inquired if the OEM would grow by more than two staff members by end of the year. In response, Chief Kuznik answered that the City will wait until the analysis is completed. City Manager Lee mentioned that a city of this size usually takes on additional resources. An update will be provided to Council in the spring.

Councilmember Clark asked why the OEM isn’t under the City Manager’s Department. In response, City Manager Lee, indicated it depends on the individual municipality. The assessment will provide feedback on this issue, as the community grows, the City Manager’s Office will assess if OEM should be a stand-alone department.

Councilmember Hall (a) shared his experience with communication issues during a hurricane in Florida and wants to ensure the City is paying attention to problems that could arise; and (b) asked if the City has backup generators. In response, Chief Kuznik replied that OEM was in communication about power outages as they arose and work to ensure power is restored rapidly. Essential buildings are equipped with backup generators.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked if the City’s partners, such as Red Cross, United Way, and hospitals will be included in the assessment. In response, Chief Kuznik indicated that while this assessment is intended to review the City’s OEM, there is an internal/external stakeholder list established. Assistant City Manager, Juliana Kitten, indicated she is in contact with other businesses, and this is a work in progress.

6. **Overview of the Greeley Downtown Plan Update**

Interim Community Development Director, Becky Safarik and Progressive Urban Management Association (P.U.M.A.) representatives – the third-party consultant which conducted the Plan Update - Brad Segal, Amanda Kannard, and Todd Wenskoski, provided an update on the downtown plan at 6:23 p.m.

Ms. Safarik shared that in 2011, the Greeley Downtown Development Authority completed the “Downtown Greeley Investment Strategy”, which provided a vision, analysis of conditions, goals, and strategies to help direct downtown investments. Then summarized the actions and recommendations identified in the study and the timelines outlined for these items.

Councilmember Butler asked what is being done to assess downtown parking and whether a parking garage has been investigated as well. Ms. Safarik indicated there are development projects currently being reviewed that include a parking garage - which is a separate issue and is being considered for incorporation in other ways.

Councilmember Olson expressed a need for public safety and cleanliness to address some of the citizen’s concerns and inquired if the City has a standard for infrastructure. Ms. Safarik discussed the cleanup efforts that Public Works is currently undertaking.

Councilmember Hall inquired about the effort to blend the edge of the city with downtown. In response, Ms. Safarik said improvements are not limited to the boundary lines, but rather improvements are considered as a whole to strengthen surrounding neighborhoods.

Mayor Gates commented that the plan is in sync with the City Council’s strategic focus areas and thanked the team for its efforts.

7. **Water & Sewer Department Updated Design Criteria & Construction Specification**
Water and Sewer Director Sean Chambers, Water and Sewer Department Chief Engineer Adam Prior, and Water and Sewer Department Conservation Manager Dena Egenhoff introduced the item with a presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The update incorporated the findings and analysis from the recent Water & Sewer Department’s infrastructure master plans covering Non-Potable Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Potable Water Transmission & Distribution. Standards and Specifications were simultaneously revised and referenced to maintain consistency and increase comprehensiveness.

The update aligns with the City’s development code updates in 2021 and the 2022 Water Efficiency Plan. The Water and Sewer Board, and the Planning Commission have each had extensive reviews and engagement with public outreach. The feedback received has been incorporated into the updates.

Councilmember Clark asked about joint water meters. In response, Mr. Chambers replied that design criteria does not eliminate the allowance for joint water meters.

Councilmember DeBoutez inquired about what model is being used, specifically if Trakit is being used and asked about underground utilities. In response, Ms. Egenhoff added that Trakit is currently being considered. Mr. Prior shared that utilities are buried when desired and needed.

Councilmember Olson asked about (a) GIS database for “as built” and if there is a GIS database for utilities and (b) about Parks’ involvement in Section 6, and water conservation impact on rights of way and future growth planning. In response, Mr. Prior responded that there is a GIS database available online. Ms. Egenhoff shared that all vested parties and department liaisons were consulted. Mr. Prior added that aesthetic strategy is tied to economic development and quality of life.

Councilmember Butler shared his individual commitment to being good stewards of water conservation efforts, for this reason, he is a proponent of natural and native grasses.

8. **Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events**
None.

9. **Adjournment**
Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

John D. Gates, Mayor

Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk