

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
January 24, 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.

The following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler

Councilmember Deb DeBoutez

Councilmember Dale Hall

Mayor Pro Tem Brett Payton

Councilmember Ed Clark

Councilmember Johnny Olson

Mayor John Gates

4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members

Councilmember Olson reported that the legislative breakfast was a success and commended City Manager, Raymond Lee, and Staycie Coons, Governmental Affairs Officer, for their efforts.

Councilmember Hall discussed opposition to an initial proposal to have a “certificate of zoning” from the State level. Council expressed support on responding to the proposal with a letter to the Governor. Staycie Coons will draft a letter and work with the City Attorney’s Office to circulate for council review.

5. Updates: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Financial Audits (2021, 2022, 2023)

ERP

Chief Information Officer, Bret Naber and Senior Project Manager/Information Technology, Krystal Dilka shared a presentation at 6:12 p.m.

Ms. Dilka presented the phases of the project. Phase 1 addressed the most critical issues such as payroll stabilization, better employee experience, error resolutions, improved reporting, essential review, license assessment, and project management oversight.

Phase 2 included configuration and system error, reconciliation, support structure, self-service features, reporting dashboard functionality, and compensation/class activities.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked if staffing shortages were an issue. In response, Ms. Dilka responded that staffing resources were an issue due to turnover. Deputy City Manager, Paul Fetherston added that additional staffing will be needed for the critical function of payroll.

Mayor Gates acknowledged the team's efforts, knowing there is still work to do, and he is pleased with the progress.

Audits

Finance Director John Karner, and Deputy Finance Director Tammy Hitchens updated Council on the status of the 2021 Audit. The City was notified that in accordance with Colorado statutes (a) the State of Colorado will withhold specified grant funding; and (b) Weld County will withhold property tax payments an audited financial audit is submitted to the State.

Ms. Hitchens spoke on the timeline and efforts to get back on track in future years. The City's external auditor is in the process of completing the audit of the City's 2021 financials. The goal is to have the audit out and approved by the end of February/early March. The audit for 2022 will begin immediately, anticipating that data would be caught up by July.

Councilmember Clark inquired about the City's ratings. In response, Mr. Karner replied that he has been in contact with the ratings agency. The City does not expect an impact on ratings.

Councilmember DeBoutez and Mayor Gates acknowledged the team's efforts and thanked the team for their hard work.

6. Overview of "Cigar Bar" Legislative Options

Interim Community Development Director, Becky Safarik, led a presentation on this item at 6:41 p.m.

Brad Inhulsen was interested in a venue to smoke cigars and consume incidental refreshments. He asked that Council consider a change of regulation, as the Greeley Municipal Code bans smoking in public places.

Proceeding with this request would involve an ordinance change in one of the following ways:

1. Amend Sec. 12-153. - Ban on smoking to provide an exception for Private Smoking Clubs
2. Provide a definition of a Private Smoking Club
3. Assign the land use category for this land use, including any further conditions associated with such a club.

City Attorney Doug Marek advised there is a State overlay of the indoor air quality act which specifically applies to home rule municipalities. In 2013 similar proposals for hookah bars were considered.

Mayor Gates allowed Brad Inhulsen to comment briefly to Council.

Councilmember Butler emphasized the importance of including some regulation requirements.

Councilmember DeBoutez inquired as to why this can't be at his own residence, and she asked if he intended to have employees. In response, Mr. Inhulsen expressed that his private residence is not an option. He has not considered employees at this time, as he preferred not to invest time and money into an idea that the Council may oppose.

Ms. Safarik expressed that the next steps, if Council were to consider pursuing this proposal, was to clarify the Health Department's position, and the statutory community to confirm there aren't any limitations. Mr. Marek advised that there are limitations, specifically pertaining to employment.

Council consensus was to proceed with research for the private club option.

7. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

None.

Mayor Gates reminded Council that there will not be a Council Meeting next Tuesday, as it is the fifth Tuesday of the month.

8. Consideration of a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice from the City Attorney and to determine positions, develop strategy, and give instructions to negotiators regarding 2023 collective bargaining with Greeley Firefighters.

Councilmember Olson made the motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Butler. The motion carried 7-0 at 7:04 p.m.

Council will not return to the open meeting and therefore will adjourn and go into executive session.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

At 7:11 p.m. Mayor Gates, made record as required by Open Meetings Law and noted that the session was being electronically recorded, except during Attorney-Client privilege.

Present for participation in the Executive Session were all members of Council, City Attorney Doug Marek, City Manager Raymond Lee, Fire Chief Brian Kuznik, and Director of Human Resources Noel Mink. Deputy City Manager Paul Fetherston joined at 7:14 p.m.

The Executive Session was for the following purpose: To confer with the City Attorney to receive legal advice and to determine positions, develop strategies, and provide instructions to negotiators regarding collective bargaining, as provided in C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), and Greeley Municipal Code 2-151(a)(2) and 2-151(a)(5).

The City Attorney cautioned each participant to confine discussion to the stated purpose and reminded that no formal action may occur during the Executive Session. If at any point any participant believed that the discussion was going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, participants were advised to interrupt the discussion and raise an objection.

The recording resumed at 7:39 p.m. and the Executive Session concluded.

The recording will be retained as provided in the City's records retention policy and in conformity with the Colorado Open Meetings Law for a period of 90 days.

Approved:

John D. Gates, Mayor

Attest:

Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk