

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
 December 8, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Gates via the City's Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, Brett Payton and Kristin Zasada.

4. REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Butler reported on the Colorado Education Association Zoom session he attended relative to the issues school districts are having with internet service. He noted that there are local and statewide issues in this regard.

5. COVID – 19 UPDATE

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, reviewed the information in the handout distributed to Council earlier in the day and noted that work continues to circle back and confirm numbers received relative to cases and deaths due to COVID over the weekend.

With regard to hospital data, Mr. Frazen stated that this data is quite elevated and noted that both hospitals are full in the ICU. He did add that positive cases and hospitalizations are coming down.

Mr. Frazen spoke of the new tab on the City's dashboard that will offer daily reports on the number of City employees with COVID.

He went on to advise that the drive-through community testing site at the Youth Sports Complex is going well and has relieved the UNC kiosk tremendously, and shared that the Governor extended the State Mask Order for an additional 30 days.

Councilmember Clark inquired about Mr. Frazen's confidence that identifying deaths as COVID and not some other condition, and Mr. Frazen stated that the Coroner makes that determination and that even with a underlying health condition, they can still be identified as a death due to COVID.

Roy Otto, City Manager, reported on the additional funds that are coming to businesses utilizing a third party to distribute, potentially the Greeley Chamber.

He added that Weld County will soon prop up a \$2 million grant recovery program for financial relief for restaurants, bars, live event venues, arcades, bowling center, recreation facilities and others.

Mr. Otto then spoke of a potential five-star program that would be submitted to the State for approval that would give restaurants and bars an opportunity to operate at one level above county-wide restrictions under certain conditions. He noted the program is designed for eligible counties, but that the County has not indicated a willingness to move forward with an application, so the City may venture out on its' own .

With regard to businesses applying for any of the now or soon to be available grant funding more than once, Mayor Gates clarified that priority would be given to those who have not applied before and that there would be enough money that most everyone could apply and get something.

6. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – FIRE-BASED EMS TRANSPORT

Dale Lyman, Fire Chief, reported that on September 22, 2020, City Council received a presentation of the recently-completed Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Transport Analysis and Assessment as produced by Emergency Service Consulting International (ESCI). At the time, City Council indicated it concurred with the staff recommendation to pursue Option 1B, maintain the current EMS response model with separate Banner Health Paramedics staffing. In addition, the City Council requested the following information about how the service is being provided in other communities, what differences there might be in quality of service, and the costs of fire-based EMS and how it could be funded.

Chief Lyman went on to review and share the results of the research done in each of these areas noting that fire-based service is quite common in the metro area and comparable sized cities to Greeley providing that service.

Jeff Stranahan, Division Chief, addressed Council who reported that staff is currently working through an amendment to the current ambulance agreement with Banner since the current one expires in November 2021, and went on to review the costs associated with establishing the City of Greeley as sole EMS transport provider, assuming a five-year cost of \$13,162,108 and 34 full-time employees; fleet of 5 operating over 5 years and .13 sales tax funding source.

Councilmembers expressed continued support for Option 1B, which is to maintain the current EMS response model with separate third-party vendor staffing, unless it is determined that there is a lesser quality of service with this model.

7. LANDSCAPE CODE UPDATE

Brad Mueller, Community Development Director, reported that the Community Development Department is updating the Landscape Code, Title 18.44, with an anticipated adoption date in January, 2021. He noted that the last rewrite of the landscaping code was in 2009, which added language that supports water-wise landscaping methods and objectives. In 2015, Ordinance No. 2015-40 adopted a "Landscape Policy Plan for Water Efficiency."

He went on to state that in the last five years, Greeley has experienced exponential growth and development that still often results in over-watering. During this time, the City has introduced new programs such as the Water Efficiency Audits, Water Restrictions, and Water Budgets to reflect how the community uses water. The Water and Sewer Department is also running a pilot program that encourages developers to implement a water-wise subdivision design.

To support these efforts and the goals of the 2015 Policy Plan, Mr. Mueller advised that this updated code is being proposed for Council's consideration which includes modernized water conservation language that influences and encourages planting practices to reduce each property's overall water consumption. The update seeks to achieve City Council's 2040 Vision and 3-Year Priorities, "Imagine Greeley: Comprehensive Plan" goals, and to improve code enforcement action.

It was noted that staff also conducted an online public survey in English and Spanish, and hosted a virtual public webinar on November 5th. The meeting provided information regarding the importance of water conservation and limited water supplies, Greeley's landscape tradition, and why it is essential to continuously review the Landscape Code in order to support City water efficiency goals. There have been 85 survey responses to date. Common themes are that the public cares about water conservation and is supportive of water-efficient landscaping.

Mr. Mueller introduced Thomas Jump who addressed the Council about the advisory committee work and public outreach conducted thus far.

Mr. Mueller then advised that the next steps would be for the Planning Commission to get this same review on December 15th and then back to Council on first reading January 5th and final reading and public hearing on January 19th.

Councilmembers were assured that this update will allow for a more robust, non-potable system to help take care of HOA's and shared properties in the community.

Councilmembers reached consensus for staff to move forward as outlined with this update.

8. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

Mr. Otto reminded the Council of the 2020 Virtual Holiday Employee Event set for December 10th at 11:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk