

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
 May 25, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the remote meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. 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.

PRESENT

Mayor John Gates

Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Brett Payton

Council Member Dale Hall

Council Member Michael Fitzsimmons

Council Member Ed Clark

Council Member Kristin Zasada

4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members

Council Member Hall reported that the Poudre River Trail has been topped by the river in a few different locations, due largely to runoff. Additionally, he spoke of the availability of a new trishaw designed to help our senior population access and move around on the trail.

5. November 2021 Keep Greeley Moving (KGM) Sales Tax Reauthorization Discussion – Survey/Polling Results and Next Steps

Paul Fetherston, Deputy City Manager, along with Alex Dunn, Strategies360, reviewed the public polling and outreach done of 502 registered Greeley voters between April 21-25, 2021. Those polling results were also made part of the Council agenda packet.

Deputy Manager Fetherston noted that during its May 19th meeting, the Citizen Budget Advisory Committee met to review the results of the polling and offered unanimous recommendation for renewal of the Keep Greeley Moving Tax at the current rate with no increase. He also noted that with Council consensus, introduction of the ordinance would be set for August 3rd and final reading of the ordinance and a public hearing would be set for August 17th.

Following Council discussion, consensus was reached to proceed with the renewal of

the Keep Greeley Moving tax at the current rate with no increase as outlined by staff, as well as a communication plan for the community.

6. Front Range Passenger Rail Project Update

Will Jones, Deputy Director of Public Works, provided a project overview, potential project and legislative next steps, and Greeley's considerations and potential next steps. He was joined in these discussions by David Singer and James Souby with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

After much discussion, Council Members expressed concern with this project given the lack of benefit to Greeley residents and tax payers.

Council consensus was to provide an official letter noting that significant concern over the staff-mentioned considerations to CDOT and Colorado Legislative Representatives.

7. COVID-19 Update

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, provided a COVID-19 update and referenced a packet of information which included the new link to the City's dashboard.

Council Member Clark requested an opportunity to be on the City's policy committee as it relates to COVID-19 response. He expressed concerns with still being at 50 percent, a slow return to the office roll out, and with the calls and inquiries he is getting about customer service. Council Member Zasada expressed concerns with the slow roll out as well, and Mayor Gates noted calls he has gotten as well and stated that he would discuss this further with City Manager Roy Otto upon his return.

Raymond Lee, Deputy City Manager, shared that all Council and community concerns are being taken into consideration when planning for returning to the office. He also emphasized that all City services are operating at 100 percent.

Anissa Hollingshead, City Clerk, reported on the plan for Councils return to in-person meetings, and the work being done to offer a hybrid option for those wanting to continue to participate remotely. She noted that this work will be inclusive of hybrid meetings for all of the City's Boards and Commissions.

Andy McRoberts, Culture, Parks & Recreation Director, provided an update on the status of facility capacities, hours, and cleaning protocols.

8. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

There were no additional meetings or events scheduled.

Council Member Butler asked that staff bring back the cost, timing and any other consideration for conducting polling about a tax for open space for this election year.

Mayor Gates expressed his support for that, and consensus was reached for staff to proceed with this research.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Worksession was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

John Gates, Mayor

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk