

City of Greeley, Colorado  
**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT**  
January 11, 2022

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Roll Call**

Stacey Aurzada, Interim City Clerk, called the roll.

PRESENT

Mayor John Gates

Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Deb DeBoutez

Council Member Dale Hall

Council Member Brett Payton

Council Member Ed Clark

Council Member Johnny Olson

**4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members**

Councilmember Olson gave a report about the Weld County lawsuit regarding the air quality non-attainment area.

**5. Scheduling of meetings, other events.**

Nothing to report.

**6. COVID-19 Update**

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, provided an update highlighting the Covid-19 metrics tracked via the City's dashboard. He noted metrics are continuing to trend upward and reviewed items that are tracked on the City's dashboard.

Mayor Gates asked Mr. Frazen to clarify why the data is lagging.

Councilmember Olson asked Mr. Frazen to clarify the potential curve of the Omicron variant. Mr. Frazen reported that he participated in a conference call with CDPHE this week and there was discussion on this call about the potential for the surge to last four weeks.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked Mr. Frazen for more information about the 27 employees who are unable to work. Mr. Frazen stated the majority of the affected employees are from the Police, Fire, Public Works and Water and Sewer departments. Councilmember Olson asked how many of these cases were breakthrough cases. Mr. Frazen indicated there are quite a few infections among vaccinated employees.

Mr. Frazen encouraged people to look to the dashboard for detailed information regarding Covid-19. A discussion was held regarding the timing of Covid-19 information to be provided to City Council. Mr. Lee indicated a weekly report would continue to be provided.

## **7. 2020 Financial Audit Report and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Finance Director, John Karner gave an overview of the 2020 Financial Audit process. Mr. Karner introduced Randy Watkins from BDO, USA LLP to present information regarding the Audit and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Watkins presented as set forth in the presentation deck in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Olson asked about the City's liability related to the \$312,000 questioned costs from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Mr. Karner indicated that the City is at risk of having to pay those funds back, but explained that the City has already taken steps to correct the concern.

Mr. Karner indicated that the City does have a plan to hire a grants specialist as recommended by the audit.

Councilmember Payton requested more information about the finding related to the Federal Transportation Administration grant. Mr. Karner indicated that the identified issues related to reporting requirements.

Councilmember Olson questioned whether there will be enough work to keep a grants specialist busy. Mr. Karner described the duties intended for the grants specialist.

## **8. ShurView Property Acquisition Update**

Kelly Snook, Interim Director of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department, provided an overview of the ShurView property acquisition. Ms. Snook introduced Wade Shelton from the Trust for Public Lands. Mr. Shelton described the mission of the Trust for Public Lands. Ms. Snook and Mr. Shelton presented as set forth in the PowerPoint deck in the agenda packet.

Mr. Shelton answered a question from Councilmember Olson about the cost for the property.

Councilmember Hall indicated that the Poudre River Trail Corridor Board has been working with the County to identify potential uses of Missile Silo Park and stated that the acquisition of the Shur View property will provide access between the Poudre River Trail and Missile Silo Park.

Mayor Gates questioned the disparity between the funding contribution being made by Greeley and Windsor. Councilmember DeBoutez stated that this site is in Greeley's Long Range Plan. Ms. Safarik confirmed that Windsor has no continuity with this property. Mr. Lee indicated he would engage Windsor in a conversation about the amount of their contribution. Justin Scharton, Natural Areas and Trails Superintendent, said he and Mr. Shelton made a presentation to the Windsor Town Board about the project. The Windsor Town Board is enthusiastic and supportive of this project but they had concerns about their budget.

Councilmember Butler asked whether the County had been asked to contribute to the funding. Mr. Scharton said that he didn't think the County had been approached for funding but that discussions have been held with the County regarding the Missile Silo Park development.

Councilmember Olson commented about the need to plan for the future maintenance of the site.

## **9. Bittersweet Park Turf Strategies**

Kelly Snook, Interim Director Culture, Parks and Recreation Department, presented as set forth in the PowerPoint deck in the agenda packet.

Mayor Gates expressed his ongoing concerns about the turf replacement project.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked how much has the City spent on the Bittersweet turf conversion already. Eric Bloomer indicated that 1.5 million has been spent to date to upgrade the irrigation system and to convert the turf at Bittersweet to natural grasses. Councilmember DeBoutez indicated that the Culture, Parks and Recreation department held a lot of community outreach meetings before the turf replacement project began and the community feedback was positive at that time. Mr. Bloomer described challenges related to the property.

Councilmember Hall asked for clarification regarding the difference between bluegrass and fescue. Mr. Bloomer explained the differences and discussion was held about the use of fescue or bluegrass turf.

Mayor Gates asked Mr. Bloomer about the timeline for the various options presented. Mr. Bloomer indicated the seeding could be done by the Spring. Mr. Lee indicated that it will be important to include community engagement in the timeline.

Council discussed the options. Mayor Gates asked Councilmembers for consensus on the proposed options, and discussion was held regarding each of the proposed options. Mr. Lee indicated that City staff will bring forward an appropriate plan to the

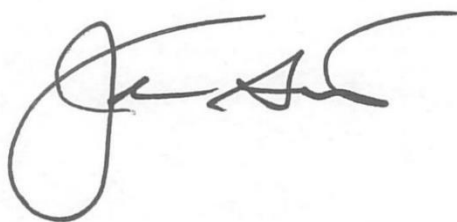
City Council based on the feedback received tonight. Ms. Snook and Mr. Bloomer confirmed they received adequate direction from the discussion.

**10. Discussion of 2022 Council Meeting and Work Session Calendar**

Raymond Lee, City Manager, presented the proposed Council Meeting and Work Session Calendar. The final calendar will be presented to Council for approval at a regular meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Gates", written over a horizontal line.

John D. Gates, Mayor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stacey Aurzada", written over a horizontal line.

Stacey Aurzada, Interim City Clerk