



City of Colorado Springs

City Hall
107 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Monday, October 23, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

How to Watch the Meeting

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- Stratus IQ Channel 76 / 99 (Streaming)

Estimated agenda item times are provided for planning purposes and do not constitute notice of a specific time for any item. Items may take more or less time than estimated. City Council may amend the order of items.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Helms called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Colorado Springs Fire Department Driver/Engineer Bobby Keese.

- Present** 8 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, President Pro Tem Lynette Crow-Iverson, Councilmember Dave Donelson, President Randy Helms, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember David Leinweber, Councilmember Brian Risley, and Councilmember Michelle Talarico
- Excused** 1 - Councilmember Mike O'Malley

Councilmember Risley arrived at approximately 11:09 AM.

Councilmember Leinweber attended the meeting virtually.

2. Changes to Agenda

There were no Changes to Agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, stated item 4B.N. was requested to be removed from the October 24, 2023 City Council meeting Consent Calendar. Consensus of City Council agreed to this change.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.A. [23-554](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes October 9, 2023

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [10-9-23 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the October 9, 2023 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

5. Presentations for General Information

There were no Presentations for General Information.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [23-527](#) Public Safety Communications Center

Presenter:
Chief of Police Adrian Vasquez

Attachments: [Public Safety Communications Center Review](#)

Adrian Vasquez, Chief, Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), presented an overview of the CSPD Communications Center which included staffing, total calls by type, answer call times, El Paso/Teller Counties combined call volume totals, definition of CSPD priorities, alternative reporting options, classification changes, salary, 2022 data from Employer's Council aged three percent, training requirements, and combatting the issues.

Councilmember Henjum asked if the total calls by type will continue to trend down. Chief Vasquez stated the 2021 and 2022 numbers are full year numbers and they anticipate 2023 will reflect approximate the same amount.

President Helms asked if full funding would create full staffing. Chief Vasquez stated even with full funding, they would not yet achieve full authorized strength.

President Helms asked if there is a national standard for the response time of 911 calls. Renee Henshaw, Manager, Public Safety Communications Center, stated National Emergency Number Association (NENA)does recommend a ninety percent response time of fifteen seconds and that ninety-five percent of the calls are answered within twenty seconds.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the minimum staffing of 911 calls dispatch is fifteen employees. Chief Vasquez stated fifteen is the minimum that NENA recommends, but even with full funding, it is difficult to achieve

full staffing.

Councilmember Donelson asked if a higher pay would increase staffing. Chief Vasquez stated he believes it would but does not think it would fully fix staffing issues.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the response times for non-emergent calls are an average. Amanda Terrell-Orr, Strategic Initiatives Manager, CSPD, confirmed they are, and they will provide additional information.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the reduction in the queue for calls for service was due to citizens being asked to fill out their report online. Jeff Jensen, Deputy Chief Operations Support Bureau, stated their ultimate goal is to have Officers available to respond quicker to the higher priority calls for service so after evaluating the pending call queue, there were a lot of things such as graffiti and abandoned vehicles which have been moved to have Neighborhood Services to address and that has led to some significant reductions in the calls for service queue.

President Pro Tem Crow-Iverson asked if there are any requirements to work in communication center. Chief Vasquez stated they must be eighteen years old and there is additional training required to work in dispatch.

Councilmember Donelson requested information regarding which positions are currently vacant. Ms. Henshaw stated they will provide that information.

Councilmember Donelson asked if a pay increase would reduce the number of vacancies. Ms. Henshaw stated it would help but they would still have challenges with vacancies due to the stressful nature of the positions.

Councilmember Donelson asked how much overtime is worked. Ms. Henshaw stated there is six hours of mandatory overtime required per pay period and they also offer voluntary overtime.

Councilmember Donelson asked how much the 911 bonus will be. Ms. Henshaw stated that employees which have worked for at least one year will receive a \$2,500 bonus at the end of the year.

6.B. [23-553](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [Agenda Planner Review 10-23-23](#)

There were no comments on this item.

7. Items for Introduction

- 7.A. [23-516](#) A resolution accepting and endorsing the recommendations from the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Citizen Advisory Committee for expenditures from the LART special fund for inclusion in the 2024 budget

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

PK McPherson, Chair, LART Citizens' Advisory Committee

Attachments: [LART Resolution - 2024 Projects](#)

[2024 LART Resolution Exh A](#)

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Resolution accepting and endorsing recommended expenditures from the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) special fund for inclusion in the 2024 budget. She stated the total amount available for appropriation for 2024 was \$9,882,950 and their recommendations inclusive of an amount for the banking investment fees is \$9,875,569 with the difference being \$7,381 that will be left in the LART fund if the recommended list of events and projects is approved.

There were no comments on this item.

- 7.B. [23-351](#) A Resolution to amend the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2023 Annual Action Plan to enable the City of Colorado Springs to apply for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Presenter:

Paul Morrow, Senior Analyst, Housing and Community Vitality Department

Attachments: [2023 AAP Amdt 1](#) [ConPlan Amdt 3](#) [Council Resolution](#)

[Attachment A - ConPlan Amendment 3](#)

[Attachment B - 2023 Annual Action Plan Amendment 1](#)

[Council Work Session Presentation 10-10-23](#)

Paul Morrow, Senior Analyst, Housing and Community Vitality Department, presented the Resolution to amend the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to apply for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. He provided an overview of the AAP, 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan amendments, Senior Center connection to the City's HUD plans, and timeline.

Councilmember Henjum asked if there has been any public comment. Mr. Morrow stated they have not yet received any comments on this item which is an amendment to the plan.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the loan would be for \$6 million. Mr. Morrow stated the line of credit would be up to \$6 million and they would only use what is needed.

- 7.C. [23-559](#) A Resolution Repealing Resolution 50-16 and Dissolving the Council President's Special Marijuana Working Group

Presenter:

Randy Helms, Council President and Councilmember District 2
Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 50-16 AND DISSOLVING THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MARIJUANA WORKING GROUP](#)
[Resolution 50-16-1](#)

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Resolution repealing Resolution 50-16 dissolving the Council President's Special Marijuana Working Group and stated the Working Group was appointed to study the issue of marijuana regulation within the City, has accomplished its purpose, and is no longer needed.

President Helms stated this Working Group could be reinstated if needed in the future.

- 7.D. [23-568](#) A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs for the Cleanup of Homeless Camps

Presenter:

Peter Wysocki, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services

Attachments: [IGA for homeless camp cleanup_CCWS 10-23-2023](#)
[Resolution](#)

Peter Wysocki, Director of Planning and Community Development, provided an overview of the Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between El Paso County and the City for the cleanup of homeless camps near the City limits and within County enclaves.

President Helms asked if the County would reimburse the City for any expenses incurred. Mr. Wysocki stated that is the intent.

Councilmember Risley requested that the City be aware of the cleanup of homeless camps often means those camps moving elsewhere including private property.

Councilmember Donelson asked if there are vacancies within the Quality of Life Unit. Mr. Wysocki stated there are and the Mayor's Office has granted exemption from the hiring freeze for these positions.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the County locations will be prioritized over City homelessness camp cleanup. Mr. Wysocki stated the sites are evaluated to determine priority status and citizens are not always aware of where the City boundary ends.

Councilmember Donelson asked why the City would agree to this IGA when the City already has a backlog of cleanup requests. Mitch Hammes, Neighborhood Services Manager, explained the cleanup would only occur on County property, not private property, and would only extend one mile past the City boundary which in turn would assist in keeping the City clear of trash and debris.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the County's long-term plan for cleanup is. Jamie Fabos, Chief of Staff, stated this issue has been discussed for approximately two years and if the County can fully fund positions and equipment then they will certainly look at that.

Councilmember Leinweber asked if the Neighbor Services will be coordinating with the new Parks Department Ranger program. Mr. Wysocki stated he anticipates they will be able to identify where the abandoned homeless camps are and report them, but they will not do the cleanup or have the ability to issue the twenty-four notice to leave.

Councilmember Avila stated she does not see this IGA as being equal and the City will have to bear the burden of cleaning up the homeless camps. Mr. Wysocki stated the County does not have the resources to clean up these areas due to the size of the area they are responsible for.

Councilmember Donelson asked how the distance of one mile outside of City limits was settled upon which he feels is excessive and why not a quarter or half mile. Mr. Hammes stated it was the reasonable distance determined where City residents would understand that anything past that was County property. Councilmember Donelson stated with the manpower shortages Neighborhood Services is already experiencing, they may want to shrink that distance to a quarter mile outside City limits and including all enclaves inside the City.

- 7.E. [23-509](#) A Resolution Fixing and Certifying a 4.409 Mill Levy for the Colorado Springs Briargate General Improvement District 2021, Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 2024 Budget Year

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [01 Res to Fix Mill Levy for Briargate GID 2021 10 23 23](#)

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Resolutions fixing and certifying a mill levy, summarizing expenditures and revenues, adopting a budget, and appropriating funds for the Colorado Springs Briargate General Improvement District (GID) 2021, and Colorado Springs Marketplace at Austin Bluffs GID for the 2024 budget year, .

There were no comments on this item.

- 7.F. [23-510](#) A Resolution Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues, Adopting a Budget, and Appropriating Funds for the Colorado Springs Briargate General Improvement District 2021, Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2024 and Ending on the Last Day of December 2024

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [2024 Briargate GID 2021 Budget](#)

[02 Res to Adopt Budget and Appropriate for Briargate GID 2021 10 23 23](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 7.E.

- 7.G. [23-512](#) A Resolution Fixing and Certifying a 50.00 Mill Levy for the Purpose of Servicing Debt on the General Obligation Bonds of the Colorado Springs Marketplace at Austin Bluffs General Improvement District, Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 2024 Budget Year

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [01 Res to Fix Mill Levy for MAB GID 10 23 23](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 7.E.

- 7.H. [23-513](#) A Resolution Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues, Adopting a Budget, and Appropriating Funds for the Colorado Springs Marketplace at Austin Bluffs General Improvement District, Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January

2024 and Ending on the Last Day of December 2024

Presenter:

Charae McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: [MAB GID Budget 2024](#)

[02 Res to Adopt Budget for MAB GID 10 23 23](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 7.E.

8. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

9. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Avila congratulated President Helms on the United States Air Force Academy football win over Navy and stated she attended the White Cane event at Acacia Park and an event for the Latina Equity Foundation where Tatiana Bailey, as well as an entrepreneur who had started a daycare center in February at the Urbanite Center, now has another one at the Family Success Center, and potentially may have another opportunity to have one at the Air Force Academy spoke.

Councilmember Donelson expressed his condolences to the family of Firefighter, Bobby Keese, who lost his life, expressed appreciation to the whole Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFS) for the work they do for the City, and congratulated CSFD Fire Chief, Randy Royal, for being named Fire Chief of the year

Councilmember Leinweber stated he had been in Greece for two weeks and even though Rome has a large housing density, they have a much lower suicide rate which may be related to the community that density housing creates.

President Helms stated the season of road repairs, gutters, and sidewalks has ended and expressed gratitude for the amount of work the Public Works Department has accomplished over the last year.

10. Executive Session

10A. Open

There was no Open Executive Session.

10B. Closed

10B.A. [23-569](#)

In accord with City Charter art. III, § 3-60(d) and its incorporated Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), the City Council, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding fair housing laws.

The President of Council shall poll the City Councilmembers, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may conduct a Closed Executive Session. In the event any City Councilmember is participating electronically or telephonically in the Closed Executive Session, each City Councilmember participating in the Closed Executive Session shall affirmatively state for the record that no other member of the public not authorized to participate in the Closed Executive Session is present or able to hear the matters discussed as part of the Closed Executive Session. If consent to the Closed Executive Session is not given, the item may be discussed in Open Session or withdrawn from consideration.

Presenter:

Wynetta Massey, City Attorney

Attachments: [23-569 Closed Session memo - 10-13-23](#)

This item was postponed to the November 13, 2023 Work Session meeting.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, President Helms adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk