



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

City Council meetings are broadcast live on Channel 18.

Monday, March 9, 2015

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

- Present** 8 - Councilmember Larry Bagley, President Pro Tem Merv Bennett, Councilmember Helen Collins, Councilmember Jill Gaebler, President Keith King, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Jan Martin, and Councilmember Andy Pico
- Excused** 1 - Councilmember Val Snider

Councilmember Snider arrived late.

2. Changes to Agenda

Councilmember Knight suggested Council hold the planned Closed Executive Session later in the meeting due to the short agenda. Council President King and Eileen Gonzalez, City Council Administrator, stated presenters have been given approximate presentation times based on the routine meeting flow including an estimated length of the Executive Session.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

Ms. Gonzalez explained City Hall has been equipped with Hearing Loop System technology to improve the ability of hearing aid users to hear City Council meetings.

Councilmember Knight stated he will be calling the meeting minutes off the Consent Calendar tomorrow. He requested his explanation about the Rawles Open Space area being included in two Council districts and the rationale behind his vote on this issue be included in the Meeting Minutes.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.A.** [15-00176](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes February 24, 2015

The Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Executive Session

A) Open

There was not an Open Executive Session.

B) Closed

B)A. [15-00171](#) Closed Executive Session Item

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) and (e), the City Council, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed include: (1) legal advice and consultation with the City Attorney regarding a potential litigation matter pertaining to a notice to file a citizen suit pursuant to the Clean Water Act; and (2) legal advice and consultation with the City Attorney regarding a litigation matter pertaining to former employees of the Memorial Health System.

The President of Council shall poll the City Councilmembers, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a 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.

President King polled the Councilmembers regarding the Closed Executive Session, consensus of Council agreed to proceed with both discussions in a Closed Session.

Councilmember Snider arrived.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [14-0762](#) Agenda Planner Review

Ms. Gonzalez stated there are a few additions to the March 23, 2015 Work Session Agenda, an IGA with CDOT to accept grant funding relating to a study identifying potential expansion of the South Tejon Park and Ride parking area, a plan for land acquisition for the Sand Creek Police Substation and a resolution concerning stormwater post fire mitigation issues. Staff has requested extra time on the last two items.

Council President King stated Council has decided not to postpone or change the date of the next meeting due to the election schedule and other potential conflicts.

Councilmember Collins requested an update on the Sand Creek Police Substation. Bret Waters, Deputy Chief of Staff, will provide an update.

Councilmember Pico stated he is working on three items that will be included on agendas in the near future, a code of ethics review, business personal property tax phase out, and concealed carry for Licensed Security Officers.

Councilmember Collins reminded Council that Councilmember Snider had requested a process for moving items through Council in a timely manner.

7. Presentations for General Information

7.A. [14-0757](#) Regional Business Alliance Briefing on Results of Entrepreneurship and Existing Business Surveys

Al Wenstrand, Chief Business Development Officer, provided an overview of the information obtained from the surveys.

Councilmember Gaebler asked what the City should be doing, based on the results of this survey, to encourage and help entrepreneurs in this City. Mr. Wenstrand stated the community needs to work on creating a total environment that supports entrepreneurship, including funding options. Councilmember Gaebler requested Mr. Wenstrand initiate more conversations about how to move small businesses forward.

Council President King asked about recent legislation on the State level encouraging business development. Mr. Wenstrand stated they have been tracking, but not endorsing these initiatives. Council President King asked about the lack of workers available on the survey. Mr. Wenstrand stated this is usually skilled labor such as welders.

7.B. [15-00122](#) Colorado Department of Transportation Presentation on New Intercity Bus Service

Craig Blewitt, Transit Services Manager, stated this proposal is to provide transportation service for professionals who commute between Colorado Springs and Denver.

Michael Timlin, Bus Operations Manager, CDOT, provided an overview of "Bustang", the planned transportation service between Colorado Springs and Denver, which also includes connections to the largest

transportation agencies in the State. Mr. Timlin also provided information on the planned schedules, vehicles, park and ride facility improvements, fares, and promotion and advertising plan.

Council President King asked about additional sources of funding. Mr. Timlin stated CDOT receives State funding and the plan includes using a percentage of those funds to cover the difference between projected revenue and costs.

Councilmember Bennett expressed support of this service.

Councilmember Knight stated it is important for this service to also bring people from Denver to Colorado Springs and suggested a mid-day trip from Denver to Colorado Springs. Mr. Timlin stated they are starting with a limited schedule with plans to expand.

Councilmember Knight asked about plans to improve the Woodmen Park and Ride and suggested the Tiffany Center Parking lot might be a good alternative. Mr. Timlin stated they have considered that option.

8. Items for Introduction

- 8.A.** [15-00135](#) A resolution authorizing the acquisition of a portion of property owned by Danion and Janice E. Gill for the Woodmen Road Corridor Improvements Project (Phase 2).

Mike Chaves, Engineering Manager, provided an overview of a request for authorization to acquire the Gill property and explained how the property relates to the planned Woodmen Road improvement project.

There were no questions or comments from Council regarding this proposal.

- 8.B.** [15-00165](#) A resolution of the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado approving the issuance of limited tax general obligation bonds and public improvements fee revenue bonds by the First and Main No. 2 Business Improvement District.
(Legislative Matter)

Carl Shueler, Planning Manger-Comprehensive Planning, introduced a request for Council to approve the issuance of Bonds to fund improvements in the First and Main Business Improvement District.

Councilmember Knight asked if there are existing bonds on this BID, what percentage of the approved bond rate this proposal will include, and what the bond rate will be. Mr. Shueler stated there are currently bonds on the property and this additional bond issue will increase the amount above the approved percentage but represents typical debt amounts, the bond rate will be determined in the near future and included in the Council packet prior to the approval vote.

Councilmember Collins asked how many BID's are in the City, Mr. Shueler stated there are ten.

Council President King asked what sources will be used for bond repayment. Mr. Shueler stated there is a TIF, an extra 7.5% charge on purchases in the shopping center, and property and ownership taxes. Mr. Shueler reminded Council that general obligation bonds do not obligate the City for repayment.

8.C. [15-00188](#) A resolution in support of Colorado Springs' Council of Neighbors and Organizations and Neighbor Up! Week in Colorado Springs

Councilmember Gaebler, presented this resolution to designate April 12, 2015 as Neighbor Up! Week and pay \$12,000 from Council funds to support the Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO).

Councilmember Gaebler also requested her name be taken out of the resolution and that the language be changed to include a representative from City Council.

Dave Munger, President of CONO, provided an overview of the planned events of Neighbor Up! Week. Councilmember Gaebler and Mr. Munger commented on the vision and goals for CONO in our community.

Councilmember Collins asked how much money from homeowners associations (HOA's) supports CONO. Mr. Munger stated it is difficult to say because CONO does not differentiate between HOA and neighborhood association funds, but estimated about 33% of the budget comes from the HOA's, adding CONO currently has about \$10,000 in the bank.

Council President King asked what CONO plans to do with the money provided by Council. Mr. Munger stated the funds will go toward administrative costs to coordinate clean-up grants and other neighborhood improvement projects.

Ms. Gonzalez explained the Council budget overestimated the amount necessary for dues and memberships, and these excess funds will be used for this purpose. Councilmember Knight stated he supports Neighbor Up! Week and Council financially supporting CONO but requested performance metrics be established for the funds. Mr. Munger stated CONO would welcome the required funding metrics.

Councilmember Gaebler stated there is not enough time to create metrics and goals for this year, but they are requesting early support to help CONO get started this year and then require a budget plan for future donations, adding the plan is to approve this in the March 24, 2015 meeting.

Councilmember Pico stated he would also like to see a plan for the money.

Mr. Munger stated CONO's ideal is to help neighborhoods help themselves and ensure the public is involved in projects.

Councilmember Gaebler stated involving neighborhoods throughout the process, increases the success of infill redevelopment. Mr. Munger stated he will work with Councilmember Gaebler to prepare for the next meeting.

9. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Bennett requested permission from Council to display a City flag in Council Chambers. Consensus of Council agreed.

Council President King suggested Council have an informal open house to allow mayor and council candidates talk to Council and to begin an open and collaborative relationship with the future elected leaders. Council discussion on this topic concluded the best approach is to have an informal meeting following the election to welcome the new Mayor and Councilmembers.

Councilmember Knight asked if the meeting between Councilmember Bennett, Council President King and the Mayor mentioned in the

Executive Session involved discussion about more issues than addressed in the Executive Session. Council President King stated the discussion mainly focused on the items discussed in the Executive Session.

Councilmember Bennett mentioned Council President King will celebrate a birthday this coming Thursday. Everyone wished him a Happy Birthday.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council adjourned.

Sarah Johnson, City Clerk