



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Tuesday, September 8, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Present 9 - Councilmember Larry Bagley, President Merv Bennett, Councilmember Helen Collins, President Pro Tem Jill Gaebler, Councilmember Keith King, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Bill Murray, Councilmember Andy Pico, and Councilmember Tom Strand

2. Changes to Agenda

There were no Changes to the Agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

There were no Regular Meeting Comments.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.A. [15-00564](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes August 24, 2015

The Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Executive Session

A) Open

A)A. [15-00549](#) Alexis Marie Acker v. City of Colorado Springs, et al., Case No. 15-cv-01582-RPM

Consensus of Council agreed with the recommendation of the Civil Action Investigation Committee to authorize the City to represent the City and named officers as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Peace Officers Liability Act.

Councilmember Knight requested clarification that the City will represent both Officer Walker and Police Chief Carey. Council President Bennett stated Officer Walker will be required to sign an agreement with the City regarding his legal representation.

B) Closed

There was not a Closed Executive Session.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [15-00489](#) Agenda Planner Review

Eileen Gonzalez, City Council Administrator stated the agenda planner is in the Councilmember packets and stated four of the seven Utilities Items on the September 22, 2015 agenda will be combined.

7. Presentations for General Information

7.A. [15-00560](#) Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Event Announcement

Stephen Ducoff, AOPA Volunteer, stated the AOPA will host a fly-in with over 400 aircraft September 26, 2015 at the Colorado Springs Airport. Mr. Ducoff provided additional information about how Colorado Springs was selected for this event which was advertised in the AOPA magazine.

Councilmember Strand asked how many of these events take place annually. Mr. Ducoff stated there are five annual events similar to this one which are funded through airplane owners, pilots and industrial sponsors.

Councilmember Knight asked how Council could support this event. Mr. Ducoff stated attending the reception dinner Friday evening or volunteering at the event Saturday would be helpful.

7.B. [15-00510](#) SpringsTV and Colorado Springs Fire Department presentation to Council regarding PEG Channel Overview and Comcast Cable Franchise needs

Kim Melchor, Lead Communications Specialist, provided an overview of the City's Public, Education and Government (PEG) television channels. Ms. Melchor highlighted the need for the City to purchase equipment to upgrade to HD production and to have the ability to caption the PEG channels to better serve the hearing impaired in our community.

Steve Schopper, Audio/Video Specialist, CSFD, spoke about the private access channels used by the fire department for training purposes and the need to upgrade to HD quality and hire a second person to assist

him.

The Departments would like to purchase equipment to upgrade the PEG channels to HD, (included in the current contract with Comcast) and the Fire Department broadcasting studio to HD, acquire the ability to provide captioning services and fund additional staff needed to support these services. A potential franchise fee increase could be used to fund these requests.

7.C. [15-00369](#) 2016 Budget Outlook

Kara Skinner, CFO, presented an overview of the proposed 2016 City budget which will be presented to Council in October.

Councilmember Pico requested fully staffing Fire Station 22 have priority in the budget, rather than splitting the staff from other stations.

Councilmember Knight suggested allowing a new fire station building remain empty for a year, if necessary, rather than splitting the staff.

Councilmember Pico asked about the conversion of contract IT staff to regular staff. Ms. Skinner stated individual departments will respond to Council questions about specific items such as this in the October meeting. Councilmember Pico stated he would like to see contractors/outsourcing used in the IT department.

Council President Bennett requested removal of some dead trees, posing a safety hazard along Nevada Avenue, be included in the budget.

Councilmember Knight asked if the proposed conversion of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services position currently funded by the Friends of the Garden of the Gods has to come out of the general fund or if it can come out of another fund, such as the TOPS budget.

Councilmember Knight asked if expanding the police evidence room was included in the budget. Ms. Skinner stated, although this item was not included in the presentation today, it is still a priority for the police department.

Councilmember King asked if the projected revenue increase is net or gross. Ms. Skinner stated this is net. Councilmember King asked when employee health insurance benefits were last reviewed. Ms. Skinner

stated City employee benefits are reviewed annually.

Councilmember Collins stated the general fund has gone up to \$267.5 million but the total City budget is over \$450 million and requested, for transparency, that Council be provided with the total City budget during the next presentation.

8. Items for Introduction

- 8.A.** [15-00482](#) A resolution authorizing the partial abandonment of the North Nevada Corridor - Fillmore to Austin Bluffs project in the amount of \$264,677 and transferring \$100,000 to the Cascade Bridge over Cheyenne Creek Bridge Replacement Project and \$164,677 to the Verde Drive over Spring Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Mike Chaves, Engineering Manager, provided an overview of this proposal.

- 8.B.** [15-00484](#) A resolution confirming recommended expenditures from the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) special fund for inclusion in the 2016 budget

Fred Veitch, Chairman, LART Advisory Committee, provided an overview of the request to fund events through the LART budget.

Jack Damioli, Co-Chair, LART Advisory Committee, spoke about the Senior Open coming to the Broadmoor in 2018, the Broadmoor Centennial celebration and the successful reopening of the Seven Falls area.

Council President Pro Tem Gaebler encouraged the LART Advisory Committee to develop a strategic plan to use funds to focus more on increasing tourism. Mr. Veitch stated they are working on a strategic plan that will include a post event evaluation in the RFP process. This request will be included in a plan that will be presented to Council in a future meeting.

Councilmember Knight expressed appreciation for the scrutiny of the events supported by the LART and asked if the USA Pro Cycling Challenge will be returning to Colorado Springs. Mr. Veitch stated the allowance for the Pro Cycling Challenge is included in the budget should the organization decide to return to Colorado Springs, if they do not, the funds will be returned to the contingency funds and used for other events.

Councilmember Knight asked if the funds for airport advertising going to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is appropriate. Mr. Damioli stated the airport is not able to accept the funds, so the advertising and marketing funds for the airport go to the CVB.

- 8.C.** [15-00538](#) An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 14-101 (2015 Appropriation Ordinance) for the purchase of replacement fire apparatus.

Christopher Riley, Fire Chief, presented this request to use an insurance settlement and budgeted funds to replace a ladder truck totaled in a weather related accident.

9. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Knight thanked Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager for saving the pigs at Rockledge Ranch.

Councilmember Murray thanked the Gold Hills Police Department for the opportunity to spend an evening with them in the downtown area over the weekend.

11. Adjourn