



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. In accordance with the ADA, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid to participate in this meeting should make the request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Monday, July 24, 2017

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Present 9 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Merv Bennett, President Pro Tem Jill Gaebler, Councilmember David Geislinger, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Bill Murray, Councilmember Andy Pico, President Richard Skorman, and Councilmember Tom Strand

2. Changes to Agenda

Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator, stated additional materials were added to Item 7.B. after original publication of the agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator, stated that she received notification from staff that the applicant for the Dale Street, Item 12.A. for the July 25, 2017 City Council meeting may request the item to be withdrawn.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.A. [17-1160](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes July 10, 2017

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [7-10-2017 Work Session Final](#)

The minutes of the July 10, 2017 Work Session meeting were approved by Consensus of Council.

5. Executive Session

5A. Open

There was no Open Executive Session.

5B. Closed

There was no Closed Executive Session.

6. Staff and Appointee Reports

6.A. [17-1114](#) Financial Report - Memorial Health System Enterprise

Presenter:

Nancy McCauley, Acting Finance Director

Attachments: [06-June 2017 MHS Memo](#)

There were no comments on this item.

6.B. [16-694](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:

Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator

Attachments: [072417 Agenda Planner Review MEMO](#)

There were no comments on this item.

6.C. [17-948](#) Strategic Plan Report

Presenter:

Nina Vetter, Strategic Plan & Business Process Administrator,
Finance

Attachments: [2017 Q2 report](#)

Nina Vetter, Strategic Plan & Business Process Administrator, Finance, presented the second quarter Strategic Plan Progress Report for 2017 which reflected a new dashboard type of format for the City. Ms. Vetter stated that the report now highlights City Administration initiatives and measurements and also includes City Council's Strategic Plan initiatives.

Councilmember Pico asked for the source of the data reflecting the six hundred jobs created and the average salary range for those jobs. Ms. Vetter said the measurement came from the Economic Development Office Rapid Response Program and will provide the salary information.

President Pro Tem Gaebler asked what the City is doing to address the increase in auto-pedestrian collisions. Ms. Vetter responded that the lack of proactive traffic enforcement due to the Police Department's staffing levels is a factor. Kathleen Krager, Traffic Engineering Division Manager, said that the quarterly reports do not always reflect the actual auto-pedestrian statistics because it is such a small point-in-time

number and that they are continually making improvements for public safety at intersections and bike lanes.

Councilmember Knight asked if the six hundred Rapid Response jobs had been hired yet. Bob Cope, Economic Development Manager, said the companies are providing their projected job openings, but the projections could be over a five year period. Mr. Cope said they can provide Council the unadjusted employment and salary figures on a quarterly basis.

Councilmember Murray asked for clarification regarding the Colorado Springs Police Department's response time of eight minutes, ninety percent of the time. Ms. Vetter stated that is the goal, but the Police Department is only meeting the response time goals forty seven percent of the time.

Councilmember Geislinger asked for additional data regarding the Police Department response time results. Ms. Vetter agreed to provide that information.

Mr. Cope clarified that the City has been producing approximately 8,000 jobs per year for the past two years and expects to exceed the 5,000 job minimum requirement. Councilmember Murray and Councilmember Pico requested specific information on these jobs and the source of the data. Mr. Cope said the 8,000 jobs are the official state Department of Labor numbers and the direct, indirect, labor or temporary jobs are forecast from the Economic Impact Analysis. He stated that specific details can be provided by Tatiana Bailey, Director, UCCS Economic Forum, in her quarterly economic dashboard report. Mr. Greene said that the Mayor's Office, the City, Colorado Springs Utilities, and El Paso County work to create an environment that fosters reinvestment in our community, job growth, and workforce development.

7. Presentations for General Information

7.A. [17-1066](#) Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region Update

Presenter:

Jan McHugh-Smith, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: [072417 HSPPR ALE 7.2017](#)

Joe Stafford, Director of Animal Law Enforcement, gave an update on

Colorado Springs animal law enforcement which included 23,131 calls for service of animal control, humane law enforcement or animal emergency services. Mr. Stafford stated there were 2,458 cruelty investigations within the City. Jan McHugh-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, said the lost and found expansion has assisted with 2,273 reunited pets with families in 2016 which was an increase from the previous year. Mr. Stafford and Ms. McHugh-Smith also reviewed animal licensing, reported dog to human bites, community animal emergency response team services, the veterinary clinic, trap-neuter-return community cats program, volunteer program, communications system, and educational community outreach programs.

Councilmember Strand asked about the City licensing code requirement. Mr. Stafford stated the cost for a one year license for a spayed or neutered cat or dog is \$15 and is \$30 for a non-spayed or non-neutered animal.

Councilmember Pico asked about their website redirecting users to El Paso County's registering requirements for indoor or outdoor cats. Ms. McHugh-Smith said she would look into it. Mr. Stafford said City Code requires licensing for every cat and dog regardless if it is an indoor pet.

7.B. [17-1146](#) Southwest Downtown Redevelopment Update

Presenter:

Bob Cope, Economic Development Manager
Ryan Tefertiller, Planning Manager
Kathleen Krager, Traffic Engineering Division Manager
Jariah Walker, Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority
Susan Edmondson, Downtown Partnership
Hannah Parsons, Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC
Christopher Takas, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM)

Attachments: [COS - SWD Update - 11](#)

Ryan Tefertiller, Planning Manager, provided the Southwest Downtown Update detailing the accomplishments of the Pikes Peak Center, America the Beautiful Park, the US24/I-25 interchange, and the planning that has occurred since 1971. Sarah Humbargar, Downtown Partnership, explained the Experience Downtown goals and identification as a catalytic development site.

Christopher Takas of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), spoke about the Master Plan vision of Southwest Downtown which includes the U.S.

Olympic Museum, a new urban neighborhood focused on live, work, stay, and play, functional public spaces, connecting America the Beautiful Park to downtown, and providing an economic-stimulating environment. He stated the 80 acre zone Achievable Development Plan for the next 20 years includes 5.2 million square feet of mixed-use urban development which is an estimated \$1.8 billion in development cost. Mr. Takas also presented the Vermijo Avenue street design.

B.J. Hybl, Board Director, U.S. Olympic Museum, gave an update on the design and construction of the U.S. Olympic Museum and stated that they expect opening to be in the second quarter of 2019. Greg Warnke, Parking Administrator, stated the Parking Solutions Study was completed in 2016 and they are currently in Phase 1 which is thirty percent of the design and the cost estimate. Kathleen Krager, Traffic Engineering, presented the design plan of the pedestrian bridge to America the Beautiful Park which will reduce the travel distance from downtown and explained the construction element over the rail yard. She explained the proposed Vermijo Avenue/Sierra Madre Street improvements, funding sources and the uses of the funding.

Jariah Walker, Executive Director, Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority, discussed the urban renewal plan, existing conditions, mechanics of urban renewal, and the proposed area boundary. Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager, spoke regarding the two proposed metropolitan districts and business improvement district which will be introduced to Council August 21, 2017. He stated these will be vertically-separated special districts.

Bob Cope, Economic Development Manager, provided an overview of the economic impact of the Southwest Downtown redevelopment plan. He estimates the investment will be approximately \$2 billion over twenty years and the job creation will be approximately 6,500 jobs which will have an economic impact of \$7.1 billion for the community.

Dirk Draper, President and CEO, Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC, identified that businesses are looking for landscapes with a vital urban core. He spoke about the new downtown residential units and stated that the Chamber and EDC is currently in process of updating their strategies for economic development. Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff, spoke regarding the City's strategic plan, the number of jobs that would be created in the community from the redevelopment of Southwest

Downtown, the aging infrastructure of the city, the importance of excelling in City services, and support of Council.

Councilmember Pico asked what the building height limit of downtown was. Mr. Tefertiller said the central sector which includes Southwest Downtown does not have a building upper height limit.

Councilmember Murray commented that the only public access to America the Beautiful Park would be by the pedestrian bridge and that there was only \$1.5 million left to build the infrastructure. He stated that this redevelopment will physically move the downtown center to Vermijo Avenue and Sierra Madre Street. He said that the underground parking garage will be a cost to the City. He stated that the illustrations do not reflect actual locations in the area such as the Nor'wood Condominiums and the Drake Power Plant. President Skorman said the details will be brought forward as the plan progresses. Mr. Cope responded that the presentation was meant to be an overview of the vision and a full analysis and details will be provided as they have future action items. Councilmember Strand said America the Beautiful Park is accessible from the west and views the presentation as visionary.

Councilmember Knight asked if the Vermijo land excess will be sold or vacated. Ms. Krager said the vast majority of that land will continue to be City public right of way. Councilmember Knight asked if a business opens a sidewalk café on that property, what would be the City's economic benefit from it. Ms. Krager responded that there will be a line of demarcation where the City will make improvements and the rest would be considered frontage improvement that the developer would make.

Councilmember Knight said the ideal solution presented a year ago for the parking garage would be that the developer would build it and the City would lease three hundred parking spaces and now the project will have a thousand-space underground parking garage. He asked what the City's legal liability would be if one of the columns were to break. Mr. Warnke said he did not recall that solution and they are only designing the parking structure, not the columns. He said the study for parking solutions revealed that underground parking would be the best solution and would be built for an area need. He stated that the number of spaces required would be part of the funding plan.

Councilmember Knight said that he would like Council and citizens to be involved prior to anything being executed. Mr. Cope responded that it is their intent to engage Council in the process and they are in the design phase of the project. He stated that the pedestrian bridge was part of the original America the Beautiful Park design to serve that area.

Councilmember Geislinger agreed that Council needs to be kept informed and recognizes the redevelopment plan as a vision. President Pro Tem Gaebler said that Council needs more lead time and expressed concern regarding parking at American the Beautiful Park. She also stated that the information needs to be presented to the community earlier.

Councilmember Bennett said the Urban Renewal Board will be reviewing the design and that he thinks it is a great concept.

Councilmember Knight and Councilmember Pico said they saw the press release from the executive branch at the same time Council was being briefed.

President Skorman said that he supports what this redevelopment would do for the community and the future of Colorado Springs.

8. Items for Introduction

There were no items for introduction.

9. Items Under Study

There were no items under study.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Bennett stated that he, Mayor Suthers, Councilmember Knight, Councilmember Pico, and President Skorman met with the delegates from Australia. He said that students from Kagoshima, Japan will be visiting August 2, 2017 at 11:00am and are interested in developing a sister city program similar to the one in Colorado Springs.

Councilmember Strand said that he attended the El Paso County Fair on July 15, 2017 and the Urban Peak Off the Street Breakfast on July 20, 2017 which had approximately 800 people in attendance. On July 22, 2017, on behalf of President Skorman, he read a proclamation to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and the 21st Anniversary of the dedication of the Korean War Monument. He

said there were approximately 150 attendees at the event.

Councilmember Knight said that he spoke with Frank McGee, Area Wildlife Manager, Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife, and requested permission from Council for staff to investigate solutions for wildlife game management and potential urban deer hunting to resolve the problem. Councilmember Pico and Councilmember Bennett stated they support the idea of further research and Councilmember Geislinger commented that the area wildlife also poses a safety issue. Consensus of Council agreed to Councilmember Knight's request.

Councilmember Murray stated that a neighborhood association suggested giving volunteer citizens, working with the Police Department, radar guns to identify speeders. He also addressed the media, asking them to improve getting information correct, and said that he has been approached with having recreational marijuana on the ballot in November 2017.

President Pro Tem Gaebler and Councilmember Bennett expressed appreciation for the two PlanCOS events that were held last week.

Councilmember Murray stated that US Ignite will be holding an open house on July 25, 2017 at the Catalyst Campus for bringing 5G technology to Colorado Springs.

Councilmember Avila said she, Councilmember Pico and Councilmember Bennett attended The Latino Community Luncheon where they honored the Buffalo Soldiers and that she attended the PlanCOS Southeast which had 120 people in attendance. Councilmember Avila said sixty-two percent of people are supportive of redevelopment.

11. Adjourn

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

Emily S. Evans, Deputy City Clerk