



City of Colorado Springs

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

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Tuesday, November 12, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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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 9:00 AM.

- 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

2. Changes to Agenda

There were no Changes to Agenda.

3. Regular Meeting Comments

President Helms stated upon conclusion of today's Work Session, City Council will take a short recess then start the regular City Council meeting and will take item 7. Citizen Discussion at 1:00 PM or later.

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.A. [24-637](#) City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes October 21, 2024

Presenter:
Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [10-21-24 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes Final](#)

The minutes of the October 21, 2024 Work Session were approved by Consensus of City Council.

5. Executive Session

5A. Open

There was no Open Executive Session.

5B. Closed

5B.A. [24-614](#)

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 issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney and discussing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding four sales and use tax rebate-related economic development and incentive agreements.

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: [24-614 Closed Session Council Notice for 11.12.24 \(Projects All Natural Phoenix Thunder and Diamond\) 2](#)

Ben Bolinger, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated that 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 issue to be discussed involves consultation with the City Attorney and discussing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding four sales and use tax rebate-related economic development and incentive agreements.

President Helms polled City Council regarding the desire to proceed with an electronic Closed Executive Session. At least two-thirds of City Council agreed to proceed in a Closed Executive Session.

6. Presentations for General Information

6.A. [24-589](#) UCHealth and Children's Hospital Colorado Annual Update

Presenter:

Lonnie Cramer, President & CEO, UCHealth Southern Colorado Region

Greg Raymond, Southern Region President, Children's Hospital Colorado

Attachments: [Children's Hospital 2024 Colorado Springs City Council Presentation](#)
[City Council \(UCHealth annual update\) 11.12.24 FINAL](#)

Lonnie Cramer, President and Chief Executive Officer, UCHealth Southern Colorado Region, presented an annual update on the UCHealth Southern Colorado Region. He provided an overview of their mission, Medicaid redetermination, risks/ongoing challenges, commitment to the community, investment in community health benefits, Colorado Springs Health Foundation, and commitment to medical education/training. He identified the Colorado Springs hospitals, ranking by U.S. News, DocLine growth, workforce, Whole Blood initiative, expanded access to care, virtual care, commitment to behavioral health, veteran/armed forces support, Forensic Center of Excellence (FCOE) program, Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit (MSTU), and Southern Colorado providers.

Councilmember Henjum asked what is being done at the state level to address the decline in Medicaid recipients. Mr. Cramer stated they have been working with Healthcare Policy and Finance (HCPF) both from Colorado hospital associations and locally to continue to help make a fast track and improve people's eligibility and signing up it's very complicated right now and they're seeing people that just aren't going through the process. He stated locally, they have partnered with Peak Vista so that they can help patients after they have been treated to potentially get them enrolled in Medicaid.

Councilmember Henjum asked why Colorado is having such a hard time enrolling people for Medicaid in comparison to other states. Mr. Cramer stated it is due the complication and the amount of logistics required to sign up and be eligible.

Councilmember Donelson asked how Colorado's total enrollment in Medicaid compares to other states. Mr. Cramer stated he will provide that information.

Councilmember Henjum asked what the future of Next Chapter is. Damien McCabe, Director, Next Chapter Program, UCHealth, stated Next Chapter is a collaborative in the community which is made up of a number of community nonprofit agencies that many of you are familiar with focusing on upstream mental health concerns with the ultimate goal of reducing the suicide rate and it is currently approximately six months out from the end of its pilot phase, but the annual reports to the state has suggested that the program is both innovative, effective, and should be continued or expanded up and down the Front Range as resources and funds are necessary. He stated right now the program relies on state funding through a grant program as well as insurance carriers, but they are working on a long-term funding plan.

Councilmember Leinweber asked where UCHealth stands regarding the use of psychedelic drugs. Mr. Cramer stated they do not have a stance on it, but they do have researchers looking into the use of those types of drugs.

Greg Raymond, Southern Region President, Children's Hospital Colorado, provided an update on Children's Hospital Colorado. He identified their mission, Honor Roll ranking by U.S. News, 2023 statistics, hospital payor mix, children's mental health at Telstar statistics, community health improvement, Medical Career Collaborative (MC2), and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) flight nurse.

Councilmember Henjum asked if the children who live in the southern part of the City has access to the same mental health options as the residents who live in the northern part of the City. Mr. Raymond stated access is generally through referral from a primary care provider or the emergency room.

Councilmember Avila asked if there are support groups for children who have been burned. Mr. Raymond confirmed they offer multiple burn camps for children during the summer.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the Children's Hospital still has children on hormonal and puberty blockers for transgender reasons. Mr. Raymond stated Children's Hospital Colorado treats the mental and the medical aspects of all kids regardless of what services they approach them for, so it is very individualized to each patient, and they do have a clinic that provides services for those types of children at our Anschutz Medical Center and there is a modest presence in Colorado Springs.

Councilmember Donelson asked how many of these types of patients Children's Hospital currently has. Mr. Raymond stated he does not have that information.

Councilmember Donelson asked if Children's Hospital was familiar with the United Kingdom and European countries who are pulling back from offering these services. Mr. Raymond stated as an academic medical center, Children's Hospital is following the research nationally and they take a very individualized approach in partnership with parents and with caregivers for the mental, behavioral health, and physical needs of these patients and so as it relates to the way that these kids are treated, we follow the research.

Councilmember Donelson asked if Children's Hospital performs gender reassignment surgery for children. Mr. Raymond stated they do not.

Councilmember Donelson requested that Children's Hospital stop providing hormonal and puberty blockers for transgender reasons here in Colorado Springs and that they follow the science/medicine regarding it and not the politics.

7. Staff and Appointee Reports

7.A. [24-636](#) Agenda Planner Review

Presenter:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [Agenda Planner Review 11-12-24](#)

There were no comments on this item.

8. Items for Introduction

8.A. [24-625](#) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado rescinding Resolution No. 136-19 and establishing fees and charges associated with the building permit applications for the Development Review Enterprise. (Legislative)

Presenter:

Dan Sexton, Development Review Enterprise Manager, Planning Department

Kevin Walker, Planning Director, Planning Department

Attachments: [Proposed DRE Fee Schedule 962024](#)

[Signed Resolution 136-19](#)

[Res. 24-625 DRE Fee Schedule 1162024](#)

[CC Presentation Staff DRE and LUR Fee Schedules_draft](#)

[Exhibit A DRE Fee Schedule 2024](#)

Kevin Walker, Planning Director, Planning Department, presented the Resolutions establishing fees and charges associated with the building permit applications for the DRE and land development applications. He provided an overview of the proposed fees and charges which have been adjusted based on cost of service, capacity analysis, and level of service programming for the respective divisions of the Planning Department, DRE fee schedule, Land Development fee schedule, and the fee/charges establishment.

Councilmember Henjum asked what costs these fee increases will offset. Mr. Walker stated the DRE fee increase is to provide a one hundred percent balance between revenue and expenditures and the Land Use Review fee is a result of a review of the costs and how much time it takes to review the applications, and they will be sharing this information with industry partners over the next year.

- 8.B.** [24-626](#) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado rescinding Resolution No. 77-23 and establishing fees and charges for land development applications administered by the Planning Department. (Legislative)

Presenter:

Kevin Walker, Planning Director, Planning Department

Attachments: [Proposed LUR Fee Schedule 962024](#)
[Signed Resolution No. 77-23](#)
[Res. 24-XXX Land Development Fee Schedule 1162024](#)
[Exhibit A Land Development Fee Schedule 2024](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 8.A.

- 8.C.** [24-652](#) An Ordinance amending sections of Part 2 (allowed use and tables) and Part 3 (Use-Specific standards) of Article 3 (Use and Regulations) and Section 1003 (parking space requirement by use) of Part 10 (Parking and Loading) of Article 4 (Development Standards and Incentives) and Part 3 (Definitions) of Article 6 (Definitions and rules of construction) of Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, pertaining to Natural Medicine.

Presenter:

Kevin Walker, Planning Director

Attachments: [UDC-NaturalMedicineORD MEO CPC Version Clean](#)
[Natural Medicine 1Mile_v3](#)
[Initiative-58- Natural Medicine Act](#)
[City Council Natural Medicine 11-12-24 presentation final](#)

Kevin Walker, Planning Director, Planning Department, presented the Ordinance amending City Code pertaining to Natural Medicine. He stated the approval of Proposition 122 allows certain land uses in the state related to psilocybin use effective January 1, 2025, this Ordinance will identify the zones and requirements for those land uses, adopt regulations that allow the uses in City limits by additions to the Unified Development Code. Mr. Walker provided an overview of the issues for drafting a local regulation, highlights of the proposed Ordinance,

Councilmember Donelson asked what the four categories of state licensing are. Mr. Walker stated cultivation, manufacture, testing, and clinical use.

Councilmember Henjum asked if the state statute's one-thousand-foot distance requirement applies to any size practice including micro or individual practitioners. Sarah Brewen, Attorney, City Attorney's Office, confirmed that it applies to all facilities.

Councilmember Henjum requested the stakeholders which assisted in getting the Proposition approved by voters be present to speak at the November 26, 2024 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Donelson asked if Oregon was the only other state except for Colorado to approve psilocybin use. Mr. Walker confirmed it was. Councilmember Donelson asked how long it has been approved in Oregon. Mr. Walker stated it was passed in 2020, and the first healing center was opened in 2023. Councilmember Donelson asked if Oregon has experienced negative outcomes due to the legalization. Mr. Walker stated they have not found any related studies regarding positive or negative impacts, but they will continue to research the information.

Councilmember Donelson asked if there was any science behind the one-mile buffer distance. Mr. Walker stated a majority of City Council supported that distance.

Councilmember Donelson asked if the citizens of El Paso County voted in favor of Proposition 122. Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, stated the measure failed in El Paso County by a vote of 54 percent to 45 percent.

President Helms asked how the timeframe required for clients to wait once the drug has been administered was determined. Mr. Walker stated he believes it is a judgement call on the part of the clinician and he will provide the regulations at the November 26, 2024 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Leinweber asked what the position of El Paso County Health is regarding the public safety component. Mr. Walker stated they will

look into that.

Councilmember Henjum requested the next presentation also include the potential benefits of these healing centers.

Councilmember Donelson stated the El Paso County Board of Health has not taken a position on this, but he received a letter from a previous medical director of the United States Air Force Academy medical clinic which used this drug for treatment.

8.D. [24-632](#) The April 1, 2025 General Municipal Election Mail Ballot plan

Presenter:

Sarah B Johnson, City Clerk

Attachments: [2025 Mail Ballot Election Plan and Calendar \(Final 2024-11-04\).pdf](#)

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk, presented the Mail Ballot Plan for the April 1, 2025 General Municipal Election which, per City Code, requires approval by City Council. She stated the Mail Ballot Calendar is also included in the Mail Ballot Plan which identifies all the key dates such as campaign finance filing dates, when candidate filing packets will be available, and other important dates. Ms. Johnson stated the Mail Ballot Plan lists the twenty-eight 24/7 ballot boxes within City limits.

Councilmember Leinweber asked when the redistricting map will be finalized. Ms. Johnson stated there was a public hearing for the preliminary map on October 30, 2024, there will another public hearing held on November 13, 2024, and after consideration of the comments received, the final map is expected to be finalized by Friday, November 15, 2024 or next week. She stated once the map is finalized, they will publicly notice it, it will be posted via social media, and there will be a mailing notification sent to the affected households. Ms. Johnson stated even though the residents of the affected precincts will vote for the new district boundaries/representatives for the April 1, 2025 election, the district Councilmembers will continue to serve their currently represented districts until after the election.

9. Items Under Study

There were no Items Under Study.

10. Councilmember Reports and Open Discussion

Councilmember Risley stated he and Mayor Yemi participated in an interview with the Pacific Research Institute, Free City Center Subgroup, regarding the City's designation as being business-friendly in regarding its approach to homelessness, crime, attainable/affordable housing,

unnecessary government oversight and he attended the Pikes Peak Education and Business Alliance Summit regarding aligning workforce development in the region with the needs of local employers.

Councilmember Henjum stated her church, First Congregational Church, celebrated its 150th anniversary and she attended the Solid Rock annual dinner where Councilmember Avila was acknowledged with the Distinguished Service Award, and she also attended the Mayor's Young Leader Award ceremony. She stated she and several other Councilmembers participated in the Veterans Day Parade and on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at the Cornerstone Art Center at Colorado College the City's nationally recognized Youth Documentary Academy will be presenting some of their films.

Councilmember Avila stated she attended the Solid Rock annual dinner, Veterans Day Parade, Southeast Neighborhood Plan café roundtable at Stompin' Groundz coffee shop, and the grand opening of the Kamayan Hideaway by Lumpia Lheas which offers Filipino cuisine in the Satellite Hotel.

Councilmember Donelson stated he and his wife, Holly, visited the Grand Canyon which reminded him that the government does have a role in preservation unique physical landmarks such as the Rockrimmon Library branch of the Pikes Peak Library District which excluded City Council from their decision to close that branch.

Councilmember Talarico congratulated Councilmember Avila for her Distinguished Service Award.

Councilmember Leinweber stated he and Councilmember Talarico participated in interviews for the Community Development Advisory Committee and Woodman Valley Chapel has purchased the First Christian Church at Cascade Avenue/Platte Avenue, they are renovating it, and they are hoping to open it by April 1, 2025.

President Helms stated he participated in the Veterans Day Parade and expressed appreciation for the community members, businesses, and Bob McLaughlin, Mt. Carmel Veterans Center, which stepped forward to raise funding to ensure the parade took place and Marvin, a 92-year-old Korean War Marine Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, rode in the City Council parade vehicle.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, President Helms adjourned the meeting at 11:50 PM.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk