

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
February 25, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Gates, in the Council's Chamber at the City Center South Campus, 1001 11th Avenue.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, and Kristin Zasada.

Councilmember Brett Payton was excused from the meeting.

Mayor Gates explained the change to the set-up for Worksessions to make them less formal and the time change for all meeting and Worksessions to 6:00 p.m. Approval of the time change will occur by resolution at the March 3rd City Council meeting.

4. EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

Shiloh Hatcher, Forestry Manager, provided an overview of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in the United States, the quarantine and potential impacts in Greeley, and the mitigation/management plan the City will utilize.

In response to a question from Councilmember Clark, Mr. Hatcher reiterated that there were no confirmed cases in Greeley yet. He continued by explaining that there are symptoms and tests that can be done. He also acknowledged that the Ash trees in Greeley are not in good shape right now, but it is not from Emerald Ash Borers.

Councilmember Zasada had questions about disposal of affected trees, and Mr. Hatcher explained that there are no quarantines or issues with disposal of affected trees. Mr. Hatcher continued by explaining that nurseries no longer sell Ash trees and the City no longer plants them (as of 2005).

In response to a question from Mayor Gates, Mr. Hatcher confirmed that treatments cannot eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer but it can help keep the tree from completely dying. He added that treatment is required for as long as you want to keep your ash tree, and that the cost for treatment is based on the size of the tree at \$10 per inch in diameter.

Andy McRoberts, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that residents are required to pay for the treatment of their own trees.

Mr. Hatcher also added that Greeley is likely to lose two-thirds of all ash trees City-wide.

5. PETITION REPORT: CONTRACTOR LICENSING & TEMPORARY AUTO REPAIR USES

Brad Mueller, Community Development Director, provided a history/origin of the issues related to requiring contractors to be licensed and for special regulations for temporary use permits relating to auto repair. He also provided pros and cons of requiring contractor licensing and making changes to the regulation of temporary use permits.

Councilmembers Hall and Clark voiced their opposition to requiring a license for general contractors citing government overreach.

Tim Swanson, Chief Building Official, added that some of the issues in the past with contractors are being taken care of now with the new business licensing requirements.

Mayor Gates explained that what he wants is unattainable so he is in favor of not making any changes to the current contractor licensing requirements.

Consensus was reached by Council for staff to discontinue any further work related to requiring contractor licensing.

In response to a question from Councilmember Butler related to pop-up auto repair businesses utilizing temporary use permits, Mr. Mueller explained that the best way to regulate issues related to temporary use permits is enforcement.

Councilmember Zasada expressed concern regarding impacts to local businesses if any changes were made to the regulation around temporary use permits.

Councilmember Hall noted that he is happy with what the City is already doing relative to the regulation of temporary use permits.

Consensus was reached by Council to not add any additional regulations to temporary use permits.

6. 35TH AVENUE ROAD WIDENING UPDATE

Joel Hemesath, Public Works Director, provided an update on the widening project for 35th Avenue. In doing so, he discussed accident history in that area, future roundabouts, current traffic congestions issues, and the proposed updates for each section of the road.

In response a questions from Councilmember Hall, Mr. Hemesath explained that the railroad crossing in this construction area will not be turned into a quiet zone.

In response to a question from Councilmember Fitzsimmons, Mr. Hemesath confirmed that there will not be any sidewalks installed on the north end of this project, but there is a possibility of them being added in the future.

Mr. Hemesath concluded by providing a timeline for the project noting that the design phase is currently happening and will continue through the rest of this year with construction in 2021.

7. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS

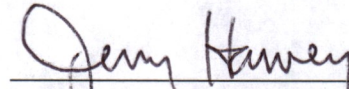
There were no additional meetings or events scheduled.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Councilmember Hall moved, seconded by Councilmember Clark to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel who report to Council as provided under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) and Greeley Municipal Code Section 2.04.020 (6) (a). The motion carried: 6-0 (Councilmember Payton excused)

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting and went into executive session at 6:17 p.m. The executive session concluded at 6:59 p.m.



Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk