

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
March 10, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Gates in the Council's Chambers 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

Jessica Diagana, 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 arrived at 5:18 p.m.

4. REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Clark inquired about the Police Pension Board and how often they meet. Staff indicated they would research and provide that information to him.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL TAX RENEWAL BALLOT ISSUES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Paul Fetherston, Assistant City Manager reviewed the 2019 – 2024 election timeline, purpose of the Food Tax and Keep Greeley moving Tax, and the 2020 – 2022 Tax renewal timeline.

Will Jones, Deputy Public Works Director, provided an overview of the Food Tax, 3% Food Tax authorization history, Food Tax purposes including park maintenance, traffic signal maintenance, street maintenance, 2014 – 2018 Food Tax highlights, Food Tax program 2020 – 2024, growing deficit for maintaining assets, Food Tax annual gap, and impacts upon renewal of the Food Tax.

Mr. Jones went on to review the overview and purpose of the Keep Greeley Moving Tax noting that, in three years, residents authorized \$41.1 million for concrete repairs, patching, crack seal, seal coat, and overlay and road expansions. He noted that the purpose for the tax is street maintenance and reviewed the Pavement Quality Index from 2016 – 2019 noting it has raised from 61 to 65. He also spoke of current deficiencies for roads and concrete work totaling \$74 million in addition to the growth deficit for maintaining assets, Keep Greeley Moving annual gap, and impacts upon renewal of the Keep Greeley Moving Tax.

Councilmember Zasada inquired as to why road maintenance costs keep rising, and Mr. Jones reported that this is the trend across the country as there is an increase in costs for labor and materials. Councilmember Fitzsimmons spoke of new subdivisions and inquired about who pays for roads associated with this type of development. Mr. Jones reported that the transportation impact fee that is applied to residential units takes care of arterial roads in these new neighborhoods.

Councilmember Clark expressed his support for a sunset for the extension of each tax measure as it can be helpful in determining what has been accomplished.

Mayor Gates also expressed his support of the sunset for the extension of each tax measure noting that the City Council vows transparency in terms of how the money is being spent and that the promises that were made to the public were kept.

Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Chair, Trent Howell, reviewed the CBAC timeline and review of the taxes and presented the decision matrix to the Council for consideration related to rate, term of the tax, ballot timing compared to sunset date, purpose and that the CBAC will provide oversight should these taxes be renewed.

There was consensus amongst Council to move forward with the steps to place the Food Tax and Keep Greeley Moving taxes on the 2020 ballot.

There was also consensus amongst Council that there will no longer be an automatic transfer related to the current Capital Plan for Keep Greeley Moving.

6. BROADBAND TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CITY OF GREELEY BROADBAND SERVICE OPTION

Brian Sullivan spoke of the City of Greeley's broadband initiative timeline, 2018 feasibility study, the road ahead and recommendations for Council.

Councilmember Hall expressed concerns as he is trying to understand what problem is trying to be solved with the implementation of a city-run broadband service.

Lori Sherwood, Vantage Point Solutions, spoke of the Broadband Task Force including the mission, timeline, models evaluated by the taskforce, market survey key findings, overview of models, municipal network options, operational and financial overview of the various options, comparison to other communities, and financing options.

Brett Naber, Broadband Task Force Chair, spoke of the taskforce's work and their ultimate recommendation to Council.

A lengthy discussion ensued in which Council expressed several concerns including: infrastructure, partnering with a third party, permits and staffing for a utility such as this, and market drivers. Council also expressed concerns that there were no firm monetary numbers presented to give them an idea of how much implementing and maintaining a broadband service would cost.

Councilmember Butler expressed his support to explore what a city-run broadband utility would cost and that he would like to see a request for proposal done to see what this would cost, in which there was no consensus from Council.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the option that was proposed to begin working with current broadband providers to create a better, more cost-effective broadband option.

It was also the consensus of Council to have the Broadband Task Force shift to an advisory committee to Council to aid in providing community insight.

7. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS

Roy Otto, City Manager, spoke of the upcoming lunch with Governor Polis that Council will be attending.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.


Jessica Diagana, Assistant City Clerk