

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
 March 23, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the remote meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. via the City's Zoom platform.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Roll Call

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk, called the roll.

PRESENT

Mayor John Gates
 Council Member Tommy Butler
 Council Member Brett Payton
 Council Member Dale Hall
 Council Member Michael Fitzsimmons
 Council Member Kristin Zasada

EXCUSED

Council Member Ed Clark

4. Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers

Mayor Gates expressed condolences to the Boulder, Colorado community and the Boulder Police Department on their recent losses following an active shooter incident.

Council Member Hall shared that as the City's representative on the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Executive Board, he welcomes feedback about pending bills this legislative session. Roy Otto, City Manager, added that he would forward the CML Statehouse Report, which summarizes all bills and offers a status of each, as they are published and encouraged the Council to sign up for those updates via CML's website. He also spoke of pending legislation about SB 62 regarding the numbers of prisoners in jail and the risk of COVID because of those numbers. He noted that CML is opposed to this bill.

Mark Jones, Police Chief, stated that as this bill proceeds, he can offer commentary on it. The Chiefs Association is coming out against it and it is taking on various iterations at this point. There are some potential downfalls to the Bill as it is currently written, so he'll continue to watch it as it moves forward.

5. COVID-19 Update

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, reported that the COVID variants seem to double every ten days, while hospital numbers locally are doing very well and staying low. State Dial 3.0 is

due out soon, so staff is watching for that and analyzing what that means statewide and locally.

In response to a question from Council Member Hall about what is expected with the dial change, and Manager Frazen noted that the draft shows yellow which is what the City's Five Star approved businesses are at now. The City as an entity is still in red level.

Manager Otto stated that he had made the call to keep the City operations in red level and that he is erring on the side of keeping staff working from home since customer service is not being impacted. He noted that he is working with key staff to continue analyzing that and working to try and get employees back to City facilities once staff has begun to be vaccinated so that they can begin to reconnect and collaborate in person again.

Council Members generally expressed a desire to see City staff back in person at City facilities wherever possible, and as soon as they are vaccinated.

6. Clerk to the City Council Process Opportunities and Updates

Anissa Hollingshead, City Clerk, reported that an area of focus for the City Clerk's Office in 2021 is a round of improvements that can be expected to be made including making it easier to find Council information on line, improving access to the work of Boards & Commissions, introducing the new portal to access information in MuniCode Meetings, and recommendations for adjustments to Council Policies & Protocols.

She noted that within the Clerk to Council Program, the City Clerk's Office operates with the goal of supporting, informing, and recoding the work of the City Council and making information about that work accessible to the public, which ties directly to the Council's identified strategic outcomes of *Good Governance* and *Accessible & Connected Community*.

She proceeded to share a view of the new Portal in MuniCode Meetings and what the public and Council can expect to find there.

City Clerk Hollingshead moved on to review some recommended changes to Council's Policies & Protocol to better align with practice and Council preferences. Council Members generally shared support for allowing remote participation for some Council Members going forward once Council is meeting in person again, as well as for hybrid meeting options; updating to the more current version of Robert's Rules of Order, based on what changes have occurred; re-ordering the agenda items to list Executive Sessions at the end of the meeting order; allowing only staff and Council to pull Consent Agenda items and let members of the public to lobby a Council Member to pull something; to add some language that provides for opportunity for staff to address applicant rebuttal during public hearings; and confirming some Council discretion as it relates to appointment of board & commission members to more than one board or commission and as it relates to residency of appointees.

City Clerk Hollingshead noted that based on Council's preferences and guidance, a more formal document will come back for adoption by Council.

7. 2020 End of Year Financial Report

John Karner, Finance Director, reported that the 2020 end of year financial report provides a summary of the revenue and expenditure information for each major fund including many of the trends and other highlights that have been discussed throughout the year and during the 2021 budget process.

Director Karner went on to review the highlights of each major fund and made note that like many other municipalities across the Country, the City of Greeley has and continues to experience financial impacts of the COVID pandemic. He stated that revenues declined significantly from 2019, requiring the City to reduce General Fund expenditures by more than 20 percent from what was originally budgeted in 2020. He shared that these expenditure reductions, supplemented by one-time revenues including CARES Act funding, enabled the City to successfully balance the budget by year end. Overall, fund balances are now at or above anticipated levels, resulting in funding levels that meet or exceed City reserve requirements.

Mayor Gates noted that staff pivoted appropriately in early 2020 when COVID struck and that this report bears that out.

8. Consideration of an Executive Session to determine positions, develop strategy and instruct negotiators regarding collective bargaining with the Greeley Fire Fighters Union Local 888

Council Member Fitzsimmons moved, seconded by Council Member Zasada, to move into an Executive Session immediately following this meeting to determine positions, develop strategy and instruct negotiators regarding collective bargaining with the Greeley Fire Fighters Union Local 888, as provided for under 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), C.R.S., and 2.04.020(5) of the Greeley Municipal Code.

The motion carried 6-0

Excused: Council Member Clark

9. Consideration of an Executive Session for the purpose of providing legal advice on the Petitions to amend the City Charter sections 17-9 and 17-10 and the Referendum Petition to repeal Ordinance No. 10, 2021

Council Member Fitzsimmons moved, seconded by Council Member Payton, to move into an Executive Session immediately following this meeting to confer with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on the Petitions to amend the City Charter sections 17-9 and 17-10 and the Referendum Petition to repeal Ordinance No. 10, 2021, as provided for under 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., and 2.04.020(a)(2) of the Greeley Municipal Code.

The motion carried 6-0

Excused: Council Member Clark

10. Scheduling of Meetings and Other Events

City Manager Otto noted that there were no additional meetings or events to schedule.

11. Adjournment

Worksession Report of March 23, 2021 - Approved

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m., and the Council moved into Executive Sessions as noted above. The Executive Sessions adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

John Gates, Mayor

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk