

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL BRIEFING
April 10, 2020

The Council Briefing began at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, via a remote Zoom Meeting between City Staff and the City Council. It was live-streamed on the City of Greeley's YouTube Channel.

5. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gates called the Zoom Meeting to Order.

6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

7. ROLL CALL

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk, called the Roll. Those virtually present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, Brett Payton, and Kristin Zasada.

8. COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC UPDATE

Roy Otto, City Manager, reported that staff has been collaborating with the Greeley Chamber of Commerce on a program known as the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Program that will provide grant dollars to Greeley businesses. He noted that the City's contribution would be \$250,000 coming from the City's Downtown Incentive Fund and then the Chamber would be working to match those dollars from private donations from individuals and businesses. He stated that if Council is supportive of this effort, a Special Meeting would be requested for Tuesday, April 14th for formal action.

Jaime Henning, Chamber of Commerce President, and Scott Warner and Bryce Jacobson, Chamber Foundation Members, were also in attendance at the remote meeting.

Ms. Henning noted that there is a definite need for this in the community and expressed appreciation for the public/private partnership at play here. She added that national funds and rapid response funds are also being sought.

Scott Warner, echoed what has been said and stated that he appreciates the work being done in this regard and the collaborative efforts. He stated that there are a lot of people who want to do the right thing for the community, and a strategic group of individuals who know this business community are coming together to help.

Mr. Warner added that there are about 370 businesses in need, and this will be a good start to assisting these businesses. He stated that since this is investor driven, a drastically reduced membership will be offered.

Mr. Otto advised that an agreement would be drawn up that would guide how this program moves forward.

Councilmember Clark stated that this is a great idea to help get these businesses over this hump, and that he likes the initial idea of \$250,000 and then revisit things as needed.

In response to a question from Councilmember Fitzsimmons, Mr. Otto noted that the task force overseeing disbursements will be created by the Chamber Foundation, and the City will have a seat at the table.

He also stated that currently, the City is proposing a \$250,000 contribution, and that the Chamber has raised \$30,000 so far for this effort.

Mr. Warner advised that this would be open to all businesses in Greeley.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the disbursement would occur fairly quickly once funds arrive and that they are proposing a 48-hour application process.

Councilmember Zasada inquired about any required proof of application for a Federal relief program and the status of such applications as a requirement, and Mr. Warner advised that any prudent business should be looking at leveraging all available dollars, federally or statewide.

Councilmember Payton recused himself to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Discussion ensued about qualifying a Greeley business, and Mr. Otto noted that he would work with the City's Finance Department to provide a list of Greeley licensed businesses to help with verification.

Dan Frazen, Greeley's Emergency Manager, provided a COVID-19 Update to Council that included number of cases in the State and in Weld County, as well as deaths and numbers of patients hospitalized.

He reported that all City employees are now required to wear cloth masks and that the City has provided one to everyone for now with additional masks ordered.

With regard to the Homeless Shelter, he reported that the County staff that works at the Exhibition Building are wanting to return to their work sites but don't want to while the Homeless Shelter is under the same roof citing safety concerns. As such, he stated that the Event Center next door is being considered.

Mr. Frazen went on to discuss the personal isolation facility that City staff and the County are looking into at Bonell that would house COVID-19 patients who are released from the hospital and need an isolation space.

In response to a question about the potential cost to the City for that, Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, advised that a budget is being developed and that the County has agreed to lease the facility. She added that some repairs are needed and what the management would look like for this facility is being developed. Some dollars may be available that could be tapped into through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other emergency funds.

Mr. Otto stated that the tension will be the use of any General Fund dollars given that this is not a municipal operation. He added that the City has also been the major funder of the homeless shelter which the County has not helped with. He stressed that the County has not stepped up and that Greeley residents are also Weld County residents.

Ms. Safarik confirmed that this effort has morphed into more of a City function than initially anticipated.

In response to a question from Councilmember Clark, Mr. Frazen advised that it would be a good idea to maintain the cold weather shelter because that population is still transient and the fear of spread as they hung out at parks and public places is very real.

Councilmember Zasada inquired about COVID-19 testing and noted that this will be critical moving forward.

Mr. Frazen agreed that it will be critical and noted that the antibody testing takes about 5-10 minutes and that other testing is for inpatient only or those with very severe symptoms.

Councilmember Clark expressed his frustration with the lack of action by the County for Greeley residents, and Ms. Safarik advised that a lot of discussions have occurred, and that if this proposal comes back to the County through an Intergovernmental Agreement the City would have an opportunity to discuss this further with the County.

Mr. Otto provided a brief summary on operational items of note.

The Council Briefing adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Aragon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Aragon".

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk