

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
 April 28, 2020

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gates called the Zoom Meeting to Order.

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, Brett Payton and Kristin Zasada.

4. REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Hall spoke of a meeting he attended virtually in which it was discussed that the State's budget has seen a big drop in revenues and concerns with federal funding and the intent of the recently implemented CARES Act as that money is not being seen at the local level. Councilmember Hall also spoke of another meeting he attended virtually with the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Board of Directors where it was discussed that there is an anticipated \$1 Billion states sales tax loss and associated concerns and effects on revenue.

Mayor Gates spoke of an event he attended for the Aims Community College groundbreaking for their new welcome center that was sparsely attended by design and he noted that all individuals who attended wore masks.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE

Pandemic Response Activities

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, provided an update on current cases and fatalities in Colorado and Weld County. He also spoke of those hospitalized and on ventilators in Greeley hospitals, North Colorado Medical Center and University of Colorado Health.

Mr. Frazen spoke of state testing efforts, compliance and enforcement. He noted that citizens could notify the local health department if they believe they see violations of the Safer-at-Home Order.

He provided Council with several graphs related to various metrics of COVID-19 cases.

Councilmember Hall expressed concern with the graphs, as he does not feel they do a lot of justice to whether or not the conditions in Greeley are getting better. He asked that staff look at trends in snippets

to better identify trends rather than just adding the numbers each week. He would like the graphs to be a better visual representation of what is going on.

Mr. Frazen spoke of benchmarks of opening up facilities for the City and there is a need to look at data differently than it has been to determine timing and phases for re-opening.

Councilmember Zasada requested that information be provided to Council related to the numbers of deaths by date and the age and gender breakdown.

Mayor Gates inquired about a one-day testing site that was held, and Mr. Frazen noted that the numbers of people that showed up to be tested was lower than expected.

Greeley Area Recovery Fund

Ben Snow, Economic Development Director, reported that it has been almost two weeks since the launch of the Greeley Area Recovery Fund and related highlights of various metrics related to the number of applicants, pledges, and award amounts.

Councilmember Payton spoke on behalf of the Board reviewing the applications and making recommendations for grants noting that a round of applications were just reviewed by the Board prior to the start of the Worksession.

6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S POLICIES AND PROTOCOL

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk, reviewed each section of the Council's Policies and Protocol document including its authority noting that this document is adopted by resolution and has been amended from time-to-time. Ms. Aragon highlighted some of the changes that were recently made to Council's Policies and Protocol changing the meeting time, location, and more recently to allow virtual meetings.

Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk, spoke of residency requirements, term limits, recruitment and application processes in which Councilmembers Hall and Clark expressed their desire for digital interviews for Boards and Commissions interviews in the future. Councilmember Zasada expressed concern with digital interviews, as this is one of the few times that Council gets face-to-face time with the applicants. She also expressed the desire to see more opportunities to interact with the Boards and their members.

Councilmember Butler stated that he has received positive feedback about the recent implementation and utilization of YouTube to stream the City's Council meetings and requested that the meetings continued to be live-streamed going forward.

Ms. Aragon went on to review the remaining sections of Council's Policies and Protocol and at the conclusion of her report, Council identified several amendments to the following sections of their Policies and Protocol including meeting types, notice of meetings and Citizen Boards and Commission. While identifying these amendments Council also came to consensus that there is a desire for increased interaction with various Council-appointed boards and commissions, digital board and commission interviews and the ability to continue to livestream Council meetings and Worksessions via the City's YouTube Channel.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Robert Miller, Budget & Compliance Manager provided Council with a Financial Update highlighting the General Fund summary, sales tax distribution, sales tax by major categories, building use tax, water funds, sewer funds, and lodging tax revenues.

Mr. Miller went on to provide a First Quarter 2020 Financial Summary highlighting current economic conditions, the uncertain future, scenario based timelines, projection analysis and resources for the national and local levels. He provided Council with three different scenarios noting the total revenue reductions for various tax categories, licenses and permits and Oil & Gas lease royalties. Mr. Miller went on to report on long term General Fund resources and short and long term strategic decisions that will need to be made going forward.

7. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS

No additional meetings or other events were scheduled.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.


 Jessica Diagona, Assistant City Clerk