

City of Greeley, Colorado  
**COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT**  
 May 12, 2020

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Gates opened the Worksession at 4:00 p.m. via a remote Zoom Meeting between City Staff and the City Council. It was live-streamed on the City of Greeley's YouTube Channel.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**3. ROLL CALL**

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk, called the roll. Those remotely 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**

There were no Reports offered by the Mayor and Councilmembers.

**5. COVID-19 Update**

*COVID-19 Response*

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, provided Council with an update that included cases in Colorado and Weld County and shared numbers of those hospitalize, as well as casualties. He noted that Weld County cases increased as did fatalities from the previous day.

He shared that the personal isolation facility at Bonell opened and that cleaning and security were getting set up. The Salvation Army is providing food service, and ServePro is cleaning. University High School donated toilet paper for this facility.

He went on to advise that there will be a drive-up testing facility on the University of Northern Colorado Campus for three consecutive weekends.

He stated that the Governor is reviewing another 14 days of COVID-19 data to figure out next steps for Colorado, with new announcements coming on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Daily trends were reviewed, as were daily death reports, percent increases, hospital positive cases still hospitalized, cumulative data and the number of first responders in quarantine.

In response to a question from Councilmember Zasada, Mr. Frazen advised that first responders are going into quarantine when they have a legitimate exposure or if they test positive.

### Return to Work Plan

Roy Otto, City Manager, reviewed the triggers for reopening some City facilities and how those triggers impact service delivery. He stated that all of this is still in process and in review and that a plan to re-open will be reviewed along with service levels in June with the Council.

Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, reported that the intent is to share every Friday the key trends and thresholds about the most prudent way to return City employees to the work setting. She stated that staff is keeping track of state rules and regulations as it is important to be intentional and thoughtful about returning to work without risk to City staff.

Readiness standards looked at the percentage of quarantined first responders; number of Greeley residents testing positive as a percentage of the state total, local hospital capacity to treat patients, County COVID-19 death rate, and personal protective equipment supply.

Ms. Safarik stated that the City wants to re-open to the public with confidence and noted that all thresholds are measured with State markers of red, yellow, and green, with all green meaning City operations can be fully open to the public.

Paul Fetherston, Assistant City Manager, reported that a team has been working on a return-to-work plan and reviewed the four-phased approach being used.

Councilmember Payton stated that the data being received does not account for recoveries, so it is concerning that we are approaching a return to work in a very rigid way based on that data. He stated that because of that, he will be pushing for more explanation as to justifications for not providing services. That is the City's responsibility so Greeley needs to do what works in Greeley.

Ms. Safarik stated that staff has been focusing on the rate of change rather than the cumulative numbers, and Mr. Otto added that these are being used as guidance and adding in best judgement.

Councilmember Clark asked about opening basketball courts and skate parks, and Ms. Safarik advised that this is being looked at and that there would likely be a ten-person limit.

Councilmember Zasada inquired about the regularity with which Council will be getting Greeley numbers that meet the parameters outlined, and Ms. Safarik advised that Council will receive that information every Friday.

Discussion ensued about obtaining data by zip code, and Ms. Safarik advised that this information is not available at the current time.

### Greeley Area Recovery Fund

Ben Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, reported that there are 15 new applications for a total of 141. He added that 67 applications have been denied while 15 are pending additional information or further action.

He went on to state that the Foundation continues to meet and review applications and that the Chamber has stepped up its marketing efforts.

In response to a question from Councilmember Zasada about the feedback about this program from businesses, Mr. Snow shared that companies that have been successful in receiving PPP dollars are grateful and that in terms of the local recovery, businesses feel like this local money may not save the world, but it is buying them some time to piece together all resources to help them see the light at the end of the tunnel. Most businesses also feel grateful that the City of Greeley has followed all State Guidelines and protocols.

Councilmembers expressed a desire to continue with COVID-19 Briefings on Fridays, as well as during Tuesday Council Meetings and Worksessions.

## **6. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS**

No additional meetings or events were scheduled.

Councilmember Clark moved, seconded by Councilmember Hall to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters as provided under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(I) and Greeley Municipal Code 2.04.020(5), to determine positions, develop strategy, and instruct negotiators, regarding collective bargaining with Greeley Police Officers Association and Greeley Firefighters Union Local 888. The motion carried: 7-0

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m. and moved into Executive Session for the purposes stated above. The Executive Session adjourned at p.m.




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Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk