

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
June 08, 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 Ed Clark

Council Member Kristin Zasada

4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members

There were no Reports offered from Council Members.

5. November 2021 Ballot Initiatives – Request for Additional Polling

Paul Fetherston, Deputy City Manager, along with Alex Dunn, Consultant, reported that staff had done additional research on the timing, cost and other pertinent information about polling to gauge support for an open space/natural trails and areas tax. They reminded Council that polling was done in this regard in May 2020, and noted that the staff recommendation would be to not conduct this polling in 2021 and that staff would proceed however Council directs.

Mayor Gates stated that this tax probably needs additional polling.

Council Members reached consensus to conduct additional polling on this tax and potentially refine the question and consider placing it on the ballot in 2022.

6. Water & Sewer Board Interviews

The Mayor and Council Members conducted interviews with Cheri Witt-Brown and Stacey Kjeldgaard for one vacant position on the Water & Sewer Board. The candidates were thanked for their time, and it was noted that an appointment will be made at the June 15th Council Meeting.

7. Quiet Zone Project Update

Lyndsay Kuntz, Real Estate Manager, was present and provided an update on the Quiet Zone Project. She shared that this project goal was to establish a quiet zone along the Union Pacific Rail Road line running adjacent to the Highway 85 corridor.

She went on to review the quiet zone steps and milestones.

Council Members expressed appreciation for the work and the quality update on this project by staff and provided consensus for the staff to spend \$3 million toward the effort of establishing this Quiet Zone given that it is worthwhile and progress is clearly being made.

8. We Are One Strategic Priority Update – Engagement

Kelli Johnson, Communication and Engagement Director, provided an update on the We Are One Strategic Priority – Engagement. She reviewed the materials provided in Council's packet and introduced Sean Jimmy, Consultant, who reviewed the survey conducted in an effort to meet program objectives.

Director Johnson shared that staff will continue to dive into the data the survey provided and develop ways to use it to communicate and engage with the community and its diverse residents.

9. Enhanced Sales Tax Incentive Program Overview

Ben Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, reviewed the reasons the City provides incentives for business and housing development. He went on to share key components of an enhanced sales tax incentive program and next steps.

Council Members reached consensus to move forward with the enhanced sales tax incentive program as outlined.

10. Broadband Incentive Proposal

Director Snow reported on the value and importance of good broadband and pursuing this critical infrastructure. He spoke of the City's Broadband Team and the applicability and eligibility for this program.

Discussion ensued about the wisdom of targeting money toward this program, and it was confirmed that this program will be instrumental in supporting the entire community as it relates to broadband service.

Worksession Report of June 8, 2021 – Approved

Consensus was reached amongst the Council to redirect \$1 million of budgeted funds to execute this program.

11. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

No additional meetings or events were scheduled.

12. Consideration of an Executive Session to determine positions, develop strategy, and instruct negotiators regarding collective bargaining with the Greeley Police Union

Council Member Butler moved, seconded by Council Member Clark to move into Executive Session for the purpose of developing strategies, determining positions, and instructing negotiators regarding collective bargaining with the Greeley Police Union as provided under C.R.S. 24-6-4-2(4)(e)(I) and Greeley Municipal Code 2.04.020(5).

The motion carried: 7-0

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:08 p.m., and the Council moved into Executive Session, which adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

John Gates, Mayor

Cheryl Aragon, Deputy City Clerk