

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
June 11, 2024

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1001 11th Ave, Greeley, Colorado, with hybrid participation available via the City's Zoom platform.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

City Clerk Heidi Leatherwood called the roll.

The following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler

Councilmember Deb DeBoutez

Mayor Pro Tem Dale Hall

Councilmember Payton

Councilmember Johnny Olson

Councilmember Melissa McDonald

Mayor John Gates

4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members

Councilmember McDonald attended the Water & Sewer Tour to learn about water rights and the Greeley's water history. She thanked staff.

Mayor Gates and Councilmember McDonald thanked Randy Gustafson for his knowledge and expertise in guiding the Mountain Reservoir Tour.

Councilmember Butler mentioned the new progress of Chimney Hallow.

5. Water and Sewer Board Interviews

Mayor Gates introduced the item at 6:03 p.m.

The Water & Sewer Board has two seats available with terms that expired on June 1, 2024. Applications for this position were accepted through May 31, 2024.

Fred Otis and Matthew Anderson were invited to join Council at the presentation table. The Mayor and Councilmembers conducted both interviews at the same time with question being asked in a round-robin style.

Appointments to the Water and Sewer Board will be made at the June 18, 2024, City Council Meeting.

6. Greeley Fire Department Organizational Assessment Overview

Fire Chief Brian Kuznik introduced the item at 6:19 p.m.

In September 2023, the City of Greeley hired AP Triton, a third-party consulting firm, for the purposes of conducting an organizational assessment of the Greeley Fire Department (GFD). The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate GFD as it exists today and to assist in developing strategies and recommendations for the future.

This presentation provided an overview of the department and the results of the organizational assessment.

Mayor Gates thanked Fire Staff and Emergency Medical Staff (EMS) Responders and read a quote from AP Triton which expressed “these recommendations provide enhancements to an already exemplary program.”

Councilmember Olson echoed gratitude for the Greeley Fire Department. He asked how much money is required, and what is the implementation priority. Chief Kuznik replied that the most important priority, was to increase staff, and then to build a fire station and training center.

Councilmember Olson asked to discuss staffing needs and how it would relate to the 2025 and 2026 budgets. EMS Training is important, however perhaps not as important as the other priorities. Chief Kuznik added that EMS oversight is critical and currently lacking.

Mayor Gates asked if the number of candidates applying for positions has decreased. Chief Kuznik confirmed candidate applications have decreased significantly, however, a high level of quality has been maintained. Recruitment has become a challenge in fire service.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked more could be done to lessen the load on calls, perhaps by increasing community education. Chief Kuznik agreed that prevention education for the community helps reduce risk, and that additional staff would assist with community education as well as business inspections.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked about the training facility that was opened in 2015. Chief Kuznick explained that the building is inadequate to meet training needs. It does not have the technology needed for a classroom setting and is too small. What is needed is updated technology within a classroom facility and office space for training staff.

Councilmember DeBoutez requested additional information on Station 6 in the Promontory area and planning for the 15,000 houses. Chief Kuznick responded that a new fire station needs to be built to meet the increased demand.

Mayor Gates asked if there were any statistics on the benefit of Squad One taking calls. Chief Kuznick noted that the initial mission of Squad One was to help alleviate the call load. What has happened, is that Squad One is essentially servicing both the 911 side and proactive, preventative casework. It is too much work to operate in both systems.

Councilmember Butler asked for a timeframe on Firehouse 8 and clarification on the Battalion Chief. Chief Kuznick indicated that the Firehouse 8 Project will need to start as quickly as possible once imminent growth projects are confirmed. The ask is for Battalion Chiefs to be part of the relief package.

7. Administrative and Maintenance Facilities Update

Public Works Director Paul Trombino introduced the item at 7:06 p.m. and Deputy Public Works Director Will Jones was available for questions.

At the City Council Work Session on March 14, 2024, staff provided an update on the challenges with city facilities. Mr. Trombino provided information on new issues and impacts of the May 28-29 rainstorm and its effect on the buildings.

Councilmember Butler requested clarity on what the plans were to move staff. Mr. Trombino provided a summary of the placement for staff.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked about the flooding plan for all downtown City facilities. Mr. Trombino provided a brief overview of the City's investment in facilities throughout the years. It would require significant underground work to address the surfaces.

Councilmember Hall asked if the issues are the same for City Center North. Mr. Trombino explained that City Center North was not built with a tall enough foundation so this will be a long-term issue the city faces.

Councilmember McDonald asked for information on the 2016 assessment. Mr. Trombino and Mr. Jones provided a brief summary of the history of the downtown facilities. The building plans are developed with growth projections and department expansion expectations.

Councilmember McDonald added that we need to be proactive to ensure city staff remain safe.

Councilmember Payton asked about emergency plans for unexpected events, such as this recent storm. Mr. Trombino summarized the cleanup efforts that were conducted. Mr. Jones provided an overview of the Public Works Emergency Response Playbook. It covers emergency procedures for responding to anything from flooding to traffic events so that the City can preplan for situations such as the recent weather event. Staff receive alerts and use a specialized weather forecasting system for Greeley that is monitored daily to stay ahead of events. In this situation, as this was an unplanned event, the real-time execution of the emergency response began at 9:53 p.m. and immediately began working to dispatch the crew and respond to the event.

Mayor Gates added that he would like the best plan possible for the employees and expressed concern regarding the condition of City Hall.

Councilmember Butler asked about the plan in the case that City Hall becomes a historic building. There are many problems with the building, and he would like to see additional details for the repair costs. He asked for an estimate of how long it would take to move people. Mr. Trombino referred to the slide presentation and highlighted the potential schedule, noting that City Hall has exceeded the building's life expectancy.

Councilmember Butler asked for clarification on the plans for the 8th Street maintenance facility. Mr. Trombino committed to bringing plans and schedules back to Council.

Council consensus was to support the plan that Mr. Trombino presented and proceed in acquiring appropriate leases.

8. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

None.

9. A motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice related to, and determining positions, developing strategy, and instructing negotiators all related to the 2024 Greeley Police Officers' Association collective bargaining agreement negotiations

Recommended Motion:

A motion to go into an Executive Session to discuss the following matter as provided under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), Greeley Municipal Code Sections 2-151(a)(2) and 2-151(a)(5):

To receive legal advice related to GPOA collective bargaining agreement negotiations and determine positions, develop strategy, and instruct negotiations regarding collective bargaining with GPOA.

Councilmember McDonald moved to approve the motion. Councilmember Payton seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 at 8:16 p.m.

The mayor added that Council will not return to the meeting after the adjournment of the Executive Session.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

9. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining related to 2024 Greeley Police Officers' Association.

The Executive Session was called to order at 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of receiving legal advice related to, and determining positions, developing strategy, and instructing negotiators all related to the 2024 Greeley Police Officers' Association collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

All members of Council were present to participate in the executive session, which was convened in person and on zoom platform, in the Colorado Room of City Center South.

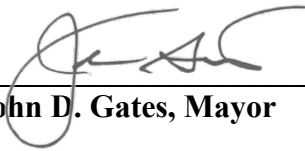
In addition, the following staff members attended:

Raymond Lee
Stacey Aurzada
Ned Chapin
Kimberly Southern-Weber
Caleb Weitz
Adam Turk
Mike Zeller

Mayor Gates cautioned each participant to confine the discussion to the stated purpose and provided a reminder that no formal action may occur in the Executive Session. If at any point any participant believed that the discussion was going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, participants were advised to interrupt the discussion and raise an objection.

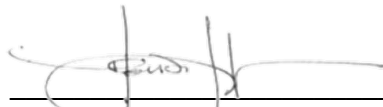
The meeting concluded at 9:09 p.m.

The recording of this executive session will be retained as provided in the City's records retention policy and in conformity with the Colorado Open Meetings Law for a period of 90 days.



John D. Gates, Mayor

Attest:



Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk