

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS
August 27, 2024

1. Call to Order

Mayor 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

Heid Leatherwood, City Clerk called the roll.

The following were present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler

Councilmember Deb DeBoutez

Mayor Pro Tem Dale Hall

Councilmember Brett Payton

Councilmember Johnny Olson

Councilmember Melissa McDonald

Mayor John Gates

4. Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers

Councilmember McDonald and Mayor Gates thanked staff for the diligent work and success of the Employee Barbeque.

5. 2024 City of Greeley Community Survey

Communications & Engagement Director Winna MacLaren introduced the item. Public Engagement Manager Nelvis Alvarez was available for questions. ETC Institute Senior Project Manager Robert Heacock presented a slide show at 6:02 p.m.

The 2024 Greeley Community Survey, conducted every two years, gathers feedback from residents about their satisfaction with various city departments and services. The survey aims to identify opportunities to improve city services and to compare Greeley's results with those of other communities.

The survey showed that residents generally have a positive perception of Greeley, with 70% satisfied with the city as a place to live and 60% satisfied with it as a place to raise children. The highest satisfaction ratings were for fire services, parks & recreation programs/facilities, and police services. When compared to other communities, Greeley excelled in many areas, particularly when measured against Mountain regional and National averages. The city's satisfaction ratings were higher than the Mountain regional

average in 38 of the 58 areas assessed, significantly higher in 29 of these, and higher than the National average in 25 areas.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked for additional details on how the surveys were delivered to respondents, specifically if phone surveys were conducted. She also inquired if previous studies are available to measure improvement. Mr. Heacock explained that caller ID renders phone surveys ineffective. Ms. MacLaren recapped the strategy to establish baselines, looking specifically at council and departmental focus areas to inform the survey. Furthermore, Councilmember DeBoutez asked for an explanation of the responses indicating dissatisfaction with elected officials. Mr. Heacock explained that there many reasons for responses, and he added that if a focus on leadership is important to council, he suggested expanding questions around that in the next survey.

Councilmember Olson summarized his observations from the survey results noting that it is indiscernible who the survey is referring to as decision-makers. He added that code compliance is important to residents and can drive improvements, especially in transportation related concerns.

Mayor Gates stated that traffic is a byproduct of growth and shared that he is pleased with the survey results. He appreciated the participation from residents.

Councilmember Butler discussed the survey results for Greeley as a great place to live. He stressed the importance of questions relating to homelessness, noting this was a concern for citizens and the survey did not have enough questions to address it.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall stated there were too many questions and asked about saturation. Ms. MacLaren explained that the recommended number of questions was maximized as the goal was to ensure that department needs were met and that benchmarks could be developed. The survey could be refined next year. Mr. Heacock added that city staff did a good job of casting a wide net with this first survey which provided some benchmark data.

Councilmember McDonald asked how many surveys were sent out and how it was determined for each ward. Mr. Heacock estimated that there were about 6000 surveys sent out and explained survey strategies for determining how the survey was implemented.

Councilmember McDonald stated that she would like to see a map and demographic information on the next survey.

Council thanked Mr. Heacock and staff for their work on this item.

6. Poudre River Restoration Initiative Master Plan

Public Works Director Paul Trombino and Senior Urban Transportation Planner Victoria McKenna presented this item at 6:39 p.m. Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA) Principle and Project Designer Scott Streeb were available for questions.

Staff presented an overview of the Poudre River Restoration Initiative (PRRI) Project. As background, Public Works applied and received City of Greeley ARPA funding for the project in 2023. The PRRI Project was a partnership project for internal departments including Culture, Parks & Recreation Department and the Water and Sewer Department. The PRRI initiative will complement and expand the various studies and master plans by focusing on the river within the City limits as an opportunity to make the river healthy and develop the river as an economic driver.

Councilmember DeBoutez inquired about the repair and mitigation plan and recreational opportunities. Mr. Streeb provided examples of successful identification of infrastructure issues, as opposed to sectional river improvements, for making better city fabric.

Councilmember Butler asked how the plan would work with the county. Mr. Streeb explained that with the river in the center of the city as depicted in the long-term growth area, it important to consider the need for it to work for both. A stakeholder group was being formed with the anticipation that many of the landowners will be part of the stakeholder group.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked about the river flattening out and if the plan was to put the river back into a natural state. Mr. Trombino explained the effects of the expansion and contraction of the river, noting that there are a lot of opportunities for the City to address those issues.

7. Stormwater Project Prioritization and Basin Studies

Public Works Director Paul Trombino presented this item at 6:51 p.m.

Initiative 07-2024 was a request for an overview of the Stormwater Project Prioritization & Basin Studies. The core purpose of the Stormwater Program is to maintain compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. The MS4s are systems of storm sewers, gutters, storm drain inlets, and similar features that are owned by cities, counties, and other government entities. They collect and discharge stormwater to local waterbodies. The permit regulates the discharge sources of pollution from pipes and drains that flow directly from qualifying municipalities to state waters.

Staff presented an overview of the drainage basins, stormwater system condition assessment, priority Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), and the annual maintenance

plan. The purpose of the agenda item was to share information with City Council in support of the proposed stormwater fee increase and the CIP project priority list.

Councilmember Butler asked for clarification on the red dots on the Stormwater Condition Assessment slide. Mr. Trombino explained the red dots indicate pipes and detention and provided additional details for the repair/replacement priorities.

Mayor Gates shared that a citizen had been told by staff that the area would be repaired over a 15-year period. address major flooding issues downtown. Mr. Trombino provided a review of the anticipated work estimated to be completed by 2037, with the initial results evident in the next five to seven years.

Councilmember Olson asked if the City had any illicit discharge fines in the last few years. Mr. Trombino confirmed the City has not been fined, noting the importance of emphasizing the requirements for every project. He explained that all cities are subject to statewide regulations.

Councilmember Olson asked for a clear explanation of the difference between detention and retention. Mr. Trombino explained that with detention, water is being released over a period of time. Retention indicates a hold over a longer period and was much larger.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked Mr. Trombino about interjecting green spaces and other places for water to go. Mr. Trombino replied that there were many opportunities to add pavement and concrete. From a future-focused perspective, it was important to think about rates and shifting from a categorized model. Councilmember DeBoutez asked if this is included in the current development code. Mr. Trombino explained the new standards and adopt best practices for the future as a complete system. Mr. Lee added that many cities that were once rural and are becoming more urban, are facing challenges of making fees more equitable as it relates to charges and rates.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked if water could be released into the Number 3 ditch to provide some relief to downtown during flooding. Mr. Trombino shared that in the last rain event staff shifted water to reduce the impact on citizens.

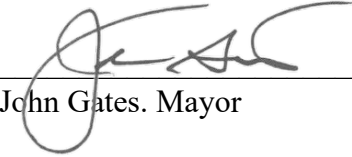
8. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

None

9. Adjournment

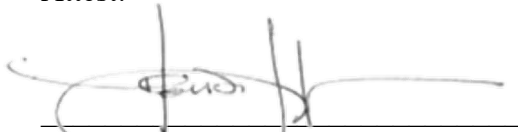
Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Approved:



John Gates, Mayor

Attest:



Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk