

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 17, 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

City Clerk Heid Leatherwood called the roll.

The following were present:

Councilmember Tommy Butler
Councilmember Deb DeBoutez
Mayor Pro Tem Dale Hall via Zoom
Councilmember Johnny Olson
Councilmember Melissa McDonald
Mayor John Gates

Councilmember Brett Payton- Absent (Excused)

4. Approval of the Agenda

No changes were requested.

5. Recognitions and Proclamation

Councilmember Butler presented the What's Great about Greeley? report at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Gates introduced the Director of Strategy John Herge at 6:04 p.m.

6. Citizen Input

1. Mike Dickerson spoke about the annexation from a previous council meeting and the proposed sports complex in West Greeley. He commented on council compensation and the Average Median Income model. Mayor Gates informed him that Council did not approve the recommended increases.

7. Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers

Councilmember DeBoutez spoke about serving meals at the cold weather shelter and thanked United Way for an organized and clean facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall read the proclamation for Wreaths Across America at Sunset Memorial Gardens. He honored his war-veteran father with a wreath on his grave.

Councilmember McDonald offered to accept the challenge to serve at the shelter if Councilmember DeBoutez would do a ride along with Greeley Police or Greeley Fire Department. She attended a Housing for All tour in Denver, Wreaths Across America with Mayor Gates at Linn Grove Cemetery, and commended City employee Tony Arguello for playing “Taps” at the ceremony. Councilmember McDonald attended the Employee Holiday Luncheon and thanked the committee for planning it. She also thanked first responders working through the holidays.

Councilmember Butler thanked the Employee Holiday Luncheon Committee. He attended the Northern Colorado Water Literate Leaders Class, which provided municipal updates on water departments. He was proud that Greeley was a regional leader and thanked Water and Sewer Director Sean Chambers for an excellent presentation.

Mayor Gates participated in the Wreaths Across America proclamation at Linn Grove and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Hall for doing the same at Sunset. He explained that over 4800 ceremonies nationwide were held at the same time, correlating to Arlington Cemetery at noon. His father was also buried at Sunset, and he was able to visit and find a wreath on the grave. Mayor Gates thanked the Employee Holiday Luncheon Committee and Ben Fusco for the great food.

8. Initiatives from Mayor and Councilmembers

None.

Consent Agenda

- 9. A motion to approve the City Council meeting proceedings of November 19 and December 3, 2024; and the City Council Special Work Session proceedings of November 20, 2024**
- 10. Motion to set a special meeting for December 30, 2024, for the purpose of considering an ordinance relating to Natural Medicine Businesses**
- 11. Introduction and first reading of an ordinance ratifying and adopting the First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Greeley Police Officers' Association (GPOA) and the City of Greeley, Colorado, all related to the passage of Ballot Measure 2N to include police sergeants in the 2025 Greeley Police Officers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, which agreement by its terms is for a period commencing January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027**

12. Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Title 24 of the Greeley Municipal Code relating to regulation of Natural Medicine Businesses

End of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Butler moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 9-12.
Councilmember DeBoutez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with
Councilmember Payton absent at 6:18 p.m.

13. Pulled Consent Agenda Items

None.

14. 2024 Third Quarter Financial Information Update

Director of Finance, Tyra Litzau introduced the item with a presentation at 6:19 p.m. Division Treasurer Robert Miller, Budget & Policy Director Caleb Weitz, and Grant & Special Revenue Manager Stacey Swanson were available for questions.

Ms. Litzau presented the overall economic conditions in 2024, reporting that slower growth was expected statewide, but no decline or recession. There were positive impacts to resources, with higher cash investment balances, revenues from interest, higher water revenues due to warm, drier weather, and reimbursements from grant expenditures incurred from 2021 to 2023. Adverse impacts were felt from lower than budgeted sales tax revenue, which were consistent with the economic conditions statewide.

Additionally, Ms. Litzau explained oil and gas prices were expected to remain low, which would be most noticeable in the City's capital improvement funds and could result in reprioritization of capital projects.

Total expenditures, primarily consisting of wages, benefits, and capital projects, were anticipated below budget for the end of 2024. Ms. Litzau concluded that the City's final operating expenditures would be close to the 2024 adopted budget and capital equipment and capital project expenditures that remained unspent, would be carried over to 2025 for reappropriation.

Councilmember Butler asked for clarification on the capital expenditures. Ms. Litzau said they budgeted \$300 million, but have only spent a little over \$100 million, so \$200 million would be carried over.

Ms. Litzau noted the outlook for 2025 which included growth in the sales tax trend and shared that grants received were \$47 million, with Public Works receiving the largest amount. She also spoke about an audit scheduled for 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked about building revenues on slide 8 and how numbers were projected in 2025. Mr. Weitz explained that what was budgeted for 2024 was historically high and largely based on development impact fees, so they took a more middle of the road approach for the 2025 budget.

Mayor Gates asked if several of the projects in queue would be permitted in 2025. Mr. Weitz said it depended on the economic forecast, including interest rates and other economic factors.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked for an explanation on permits and impact fees. Mr. Weitz said the largest factor was the interest rate environment which curtailed a lot of development activity. Mr. Weitz studied current revenue trends and expected the outlook for 2025 would be stable.

Councilmember McDonald asked about low predictions for oil and gas revenues. Mr. Weitz stated these were dependent commodities and Greeley budgets conservatively.

Mayor Gates thanked staff for the information.

15. Greeley Sidewalk Update; Council Initiative 6-2024 Informational Presentation

Public Works Director Paul Trombino introduced the item at 6:50 p.m. Deputy Chief Engineer Steven Younkin shared the presentation.

Mr. Younkin explained the importance of sidewalks including data showing a network of over 400 miles of sidewalks. The highest sidewalk usage was near the University of Northern Colorado campus, Centerplace area, and downtown. Mr. Younkin reviewed how the department prioritized sidewalk repairs based on environmental justice areas, priority investment zones, schools, parks, and transit sectors. Mr. Younkin said that there was a federal obligation to complete sidewalks in connection with overlay streets per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Mr. Younkin continued the presentation with how sidewalk performance was measured based on the Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress (PLTS), determining ease, access and stress of sidewalk users based on given criteria. Mr. Younkin said their target was for a low stress experience and much work will be required to achieve the desired state. There were currently 62 miles of missing sidewalk with 9 miles listed as a priority.

Mr. Younkin noted they were receiving new data from the micromobility program. In addition, there would be a robust assessment in 2025, with work being completed in newer developments.

Councilmember McDonald asked if there were updates regarding Bella Romero and partnering with Weld County. Mr. Younkin responded that a survey was completed, and they were currently assessing a conceptual cost estimate to be shared with the County. Mr. Trombino said they have yet to speak with the County about the cost or other possibilities.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked about 23rd Avenue and if they would be creating a sidewalk on the east side. Mr. Younkin responded that they were assessing both sides and hope to have at least one side accessible.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked how predictions were compiled for sidewalks and wondered if it was related to community complaints, particularly on 10th Street west of 14th Avenue. Mr. Younkin said citizen complaints were collected but it was not the only factor considered, which was why they relied on prioritization measures. He noted there was a plan for 10th St between 47th and 71st and were pursuing funding options. Mr. Younkin said they were in the process of doing a whole asset inventory to help determine further needs for impending growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall clarified that he was concerned with 9th and 10th Street going west. Mr. Younkin said they are looking at completely rebuilding and widening the sidewalks in that area. Mr. Trombino added it was in the design stage, and they have also done some repairs. He explained that anybody could report an area needing repair by making a call or texting a picture. Crews typically arrive within 24 to 48 hours to assess.

Councilmember Butler asked about the \$10 million they plan to spend in 2025 and if that was the total capacity of work managed each year. Mr. Younkin said this work was limited to the overlay and confirmed they could handle this annually.

Councilmember Butler asked about the assessment for sidewalk quality, when it would be completed, and the communication plan. Mr. Younkin said he hoped it would be completed by the end of next year and the web map would be periodically updated with new information.

Councilmember Butler asked if people would have the ability to file complaints more easily with the new 311 system next year. Mr. Trombino said they would be working on that in the first quarter of 2025 where 311 complaints would route from a work order directly to infrastructural services.

Councilmember McDonald asked about the lane merge from 47th to 71st. She noted the sidewalks were nice, but people use the merge lane as a passing lane with high speeds. Mr. Younkin said that area was currently listed as a high stress area and staff would work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to develop alternative safety measures. Councilmember DeBoutez asked if that meant improvements would be made before CDOT would allow the speed limit to be lowered. Mr. Younkin said that was correct, and CDOT has been responsive.

Mayor Gates thanked staff for the information.

16. Appointments to Boards and Commissions - Citizen Budget Advisory Committee, Citizen Transportation Advisory Board, Construction Trades Advisory and Appeals Board, Golf Course Advisory Board, Housing for All Advisory Board, Judicial Review Board and Youth Commission

City Clerk Heidi Leatherwood announced the following appointments:

- Citizen Budget Advisory Committee -Anthony J McCune – 3-year term

- Citizen Transportation Advisory Board – Thomas D Donkle – 3-year term
- Construction Trades Advisory and Appeals Board – Timothy H Swanson – 3-year term
- Golf Course Advisory Board -Michael G Sage and Patrick M McMillen – 1 and 2-year terms
- Housing for All Advisory Board- Tyler Elick – 1-year term
- Youth Commission - Jordan M Miller – 2-year term

- 17. A motion authorizing the City Attorney to prepare any required resolutions, agreements, and ordinances to reflect action taken by the City Council at this meeting and any previous meetings, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all such resolutions, agreements, and ordinances**

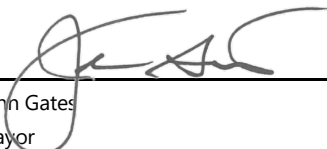
Mayor Pro Tem Hall moved to approve the motion. Councilmember Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote 6-0 with Councilmember Payton absent at 7:18 p.m.

18. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

19. Adjournment

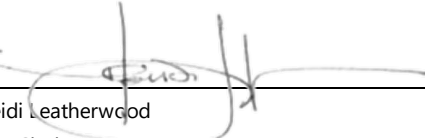
With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Approved:

X 

John Gates
Mayor

Attest

X 

Heidi Leatherwood
City Clerk