

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, October 22, 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

Andrea Fleener, Senior Assistant 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 (attended via Zoom)

Councilmember Melissa McDonald

Mayor John Gates

4. Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers

Councilmember DeBoutez attended the gBETA event, a new program from the Department of Economic Development, aimed at nurturing early-stage startups with 34 applications for the program.

Councilmember McDonald attended the Citizens Fire Academy hazmat presentation, featuring a laser that helps the fire department determine what kind of chemicals are involved in a spill. She encouraged council members and citizens to sign up next year. She also attended the Weld Project Connect, an event that delivers free health and human services to Weld County residents in need.

Mayor Gates thanked Councilmember Olson for being the Chair of the Weld Project Connect this year.

Councilmember Olson reported that Weld Project Connect attendance had increased with a total of 980 participants and 385 volunteers.

5. Culture, Parks, and Recreation Master Plan Update

Cultural Parks and Recreation Director (CPRD), Diana Frick and Berry Dunn Manager Nikki Ginger presented this item at 6:06 p.m.

The presentation included information on how the internal strategic planning helped the department collaborate, and identify 20 short, 18 mid, and 6 long-term initiatives. A timeline showed the beginning of the planning process in fall of 2023 and a final draft plan projection to be presented to Council in the winter of 2025.

Mayor Gates asked for clarification on the survey, if it was meant to be general, or if there was more detailed information. Ms. Ginger explained it was general, as they were looking more for themes in priorities citizens on how money should be spent.

Councilmember DeBoutez stated that more natural areas are needed in Ward II. She hoped partnering with Berry Dunn would help.

Councilmember Olson noted that there was not a clear understanding of which parks were city or community parks, and who has access to them. Ms. Ginger responded that they were considering a facilities assessment. She said they would look at service providers and partnerships in the community and inform Council on gaps.

Councilmember Butler noted the importance of CPRD, but how funding was not always a priority. He would like to see some funding strategies for trails. Ms. Frick explained they are looking at that in the master plan.

Councilmember McDonald said she was doing a park tour with CPRD next week and invited other councilmembers to participate.

Mayor Gates thanked Ms. Frick and Ms. Ginger for the update.

6. Natural Area Property Status Update

Cultural Parks and Recreation Director, Diana Frick, Deputy Director Jill Krantz, and Natural Areas Trails Division Manager Justin Scharton, presented this item at 6:31 p.m.

Ms. Frick provide background information on the acquisition of the property, including funding sources. The 978 acres, used mostly for sheep grazing, wheat and hay production, some oil and gas production, was the largest open space east of I-25. It was set to become a regional outdoor recreation hub with future planned connections to the Poudre Trail. The site provides critical winter refuge for wildlife and serves as a unique spot to over 170 wildlife species.

A grant was received to help with developing a site plan. Over a year was spent with a campaign to help find a suitable name for the area and the approved recommendation was identified as “Arroyos del Sol”. Ms. Frick said they will be submitting a resolution for Council approval soon.

Councilmember DeBoutez asked City Manager Raymond Lee if there was any potential of expanding natural areas in West Greeley. Mr. Lee said they are looking at how open space can be incorporated into the new developments and this existing open space.

Councilmember DeBoutez proposed that a possible 4th Street expansion would interfere with the natural area. Mr. Lee explained that a possible land swap is being evaluated to accomplish this.

Mayor Gates asked what wildlife was confirmed to be in the area. Mr. Scharton said they have done multiple years of biological surveys with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, which confirmed over 170 species, including a globally rare species of fern and bumble bees.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked for clarification regarding how the acreage was split by Highway 257. Mr. Scharton said there was roughly 600 acres on the east side of 257 and 400 acres on the west.

Mayor Gates thanked Ms. Frick and staff for the presentation.

7. 2025- 2027 Strategic Plan Update

Kelli Johnson, Assistant City Manager presented this item at 6:43 p.m.

Ms. Johnson began with an overview of the leadership roadmap and the strategic plan evolution in the February 2024 Council Retreat. The work plan was aligned with the budget, and a draft plan shared with leadership and the Council for further feedback. A dashboard was created to track progress and performance and a separate operational plan will be available soon.

Councilmember DeBoutez suggested that tidbits of the strategic plan could be weaved into the “What’s Great About Greeley?” presentations.

Councilmember McDonald noted that the plan was well done, concise, measurable, and easy-to-read.

Mayor Gates told Ms. Johnson he appreciated the plan and thanked her for sending it early for their review.

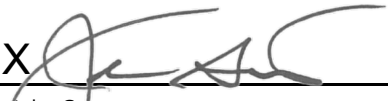
8. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

None.

9. Adjournment

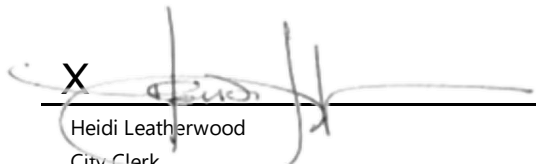
With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Approved

X 

John Gates
Mayor

Attest

X 

Heidi Leatherwood
City Clerk