

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REPORT
February 28, 2023

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

Councilmember Dale Hall

Councilmember Ed Clark

Councilmember Johnny Olson

Mayor John Gates

Mayor Pro Tem Brett Payton – Excused absence

4. Reports from Mayor and Council Members

Councilmember Olson shared information on the Colorado Department of Transportation's 4P Process for public engagement with the county, urging participation in county meetings from the public and elected parties.

Councilmember Butler will be speaking at UNC this Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at the town hall on housing for individuals with disabilities.

Councilmember Hall reviewed the Chamber of Commerce presentation "Visit Greeley" assessment. The outside consultant's preliminary review identified inconsistent branding as an issue; there are many different logos, used by different entities, the consultant will work on a suggestion for consistent messaging.

5. Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Audit Update

Finance Director John Karner, and Deputy Finance Director Tammy Hitchens provided a status of the 2021 Audit at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Karner spoke on the timeline and efforts to get back on track in future years.

2021 Timeline - Targets submission of final audited statements to State and other stakeholders. Any State grant funding or property tax revenue held in suspense will be released immediately upon receipt of final audit statements.

2022 Timeline – Additional Resources and staffing efforts have commenced to catch up with the additional effort required to recover from the 2021 fiscal year. The extension in 2022 will be utilized to get back on track with standard timelines in 2023 and forward.

Councilmember Clark asked for assurance that the City will receive all of the funding that has been held. In response, Mr. Karner said the holds are temporary and all funds will be released.

6. Regional Water Initiatives Update

Water and Sewer Director Sean Chambers provided an update on regional water initiatives at 6:10 p.m.

Water & Sewer staff are engaged in several ongoing regional water-related groups that help to advance our strategic and operational goals. The focus of the regional space was on resiliency and opportunities to engage more partners in existing regional work such as water quality sampling, wildfire recovery, water-wise landscape resources, and drought response messaging.

Councilmember Olson asked about collaborative water acquisition efforts and competing interests. He also asked about the Colorado River shortage issue. In response, Mr. Chambers noted that while there are acquisition efforts, these groups can also serve as an opportunity to partner as neighbors. Mr. Chambers responded to the impact of the Colorado River shortage issue by providing a summary of the water portfolio that touches the Colorado River.

Mayor Gates asked if dry states, which didn't effectively manage their water, had access to this water. In response, Mr. Chambers answered that Colorado has a strong system for managing water and is protected by water laws.

Councilmember DeBoutez inquired about the regional group pipelines transferring water from this area southwards. She also asked about the water acquisition budget line item. In response, City Manager Raymond Lee expressed that there is a balance between the sale of water rights and purchasing that is constantly being reviewed. Mr. Chambers reminded Council that we are working on an integrated water resource master plan to assist with strategic planning.

7. 2045 Transportation Master Plan–Greeley on the Go - Final Plan Review

Public Works Director Paul Trombino, presented the 2045 Transportation Mater Plan – Final Review at 6:41 p.m.

The City of Greeley initiated the Greeley on the Go Transportation Master Plan process in 2021 to update the 2035 Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The key differences between the current and proposed transportation plan begins with the establishment of plan goals – safety, multimodal network, equity & health, economic vitality, environment & technology, and funding & strategic investments.

Councilmember DeBoutez commented on partnerships with Weld County especially in EV charging requirements for residential homes and appreciated the health and equity component of this plan.

Councilmember Butler inquired about funding and regional plans for transport to Denver, DIA, Children’s Hospital, and the V.A. In response, Mr. Trombino summarized the long-term financial strategy and planning efforts for 10 and 15-year plan. The plan includes some young dialogue for transportation connections.

Councilmember Olson added that the Colorado Department of Transportation has some responsibility regarding taxpayers’ dollars with local transportation modes already in place.

Mayor Gates was surprised the City did not receive the grant for federal funds. He recognized the work from staff and commended the great job that was done applying for the funds. In response, Mr. Trombino added that it is common to not be selected on the first try and that staff will keep trying.

8. Scheduling of Meetings, Other Events

None.

9. Consideration of a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of completing the annual performance review of the City Manager and Municipal Judge

Councilmember Olson moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Clark. The motion carried 6-0 at 7:12 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

The Executive Session was called to order at 7:18 p.m. for the purpose of completing the annual performance review of the City Manager and Municipal Judge.

Present for participation in the Executive Session were all members of City Council except for Mayor Pro Tem Payton, who was excused. Noel Mink, Human Resources Director was present.

A motion to go into an Executive Session to discuss the following matter as provided under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) and Greeley Municipal Code Section 2-151(6)(a): To discuss personnel reporting to the City Council.

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

The meeting concluded at 8:31 p.m.


The recording 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.

Approved:



John D. Gates, Mayor

Attest:



Heidi Leatherwood, City Clerk