

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
 November 10, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Gates via the City's Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, and Kristin Zasada.

Councilmember Brett Payton was excused.

4. REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

There were no reports from the Mayor or Councilmembers.

5. COVID – 19 UPDATE

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, reported the increase in cases and deaths in Greeley and Weld County. He also highlighted the data provided in the situation report including positivity rates, fatalities, hospitalizations, and hospital capacities. Mr. Frazen explained that the Governor extended the mask mandate order for an additional 30 days and requested that employers encourage their employees to work from home. Mr. Frazen also discussed where the City is in terms of risks and explained that the City is now in a high risk range. Given that, he has recommended that the City organization/facilities go to higher restrictions.

Councilmember Zasada inquired regarding the increased restrictions and their impacts on recreation leagues or playgrounds. Roy Otto, City Manager, explained that the restrictions are just limiting capacities and not shutting down City facilities or decreasing services.

In response to questions from Councilmember Butler, Mr. Frazen explained that the City looks at both the Weld County and State data to craft the situation reports and recommendations.

Andy McRoberts, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director, responded to a question from Councilmember Clark by explaining that the FunPlex and Recreation Center will be limiting capacity to 25 people per 90 minute session by appointment only. He also added that those facilities have been averaging approximately 25 people at a time.

Council requested that Mr. Frazen email them situation reports once a week, either on Thursday or Friday, and continue to have weekly updates at Tuesday Council meetings and Worksessions.

6. UPDATED ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR CITY COUNCIL APPOINTED EMPLOYEES PROPOSED BY PERFORMANCE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Maria Gonzalez Estevez, Human Resources Director, provided information regarding the Council Subcommittee meetings regarding performance reviews of the employees who report directly to Council; highlighted the proposed updated performance process based on the recommendations of the Council Subcommittee; described the 360 Feedback performance assessment component of the review; and concluded with a discussion of the next steps for this process.

Mayor Gates and Councilmember Clark expressed that they like the proposed process and appreciated the work staff did to create it.

In response to a question from Councilmember Butler, Ms. Gonzalez Estevez explained that the proposed mid-year check-ins would be informal conversations that take place during an executive session.

There was consensus from Council for staff to move forward with the new procedures as presented.

7. REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLBOX

Benjamin Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, explained why communities offer incentives related to economic development; described the summary of Greeley's current "menu" of incentives focusing on business development incentives and housing development incentives; highlighted specific geographic zones and incentive zones within Greeley including federally designated opportunity zones, enterprise zones, redevelopment districts, and metropolitan districts; discussed the development of a strategic employment centers plan; and described some tools that the City could add to its toolbox.

Councilmember Hall explained that he would be interested in seeing what sort of retail incentive package could be offered, and inquired as to whether the City is looking at ways to establish plans for an inventory list for potential companies to use our industrial sites on the west side of town. Mr. Snow provided some ideas and perspective regarding these two questions.

Councilmember Clark expressed his hope that the City is looking for retailers for the openings at the Greeley Mall, the former HP buildings, and the State Farm buildings. Mr. Snow explained that the City is looking into options there but that the City is missing opportunities by not having shopping, food, and other services out by Promontory. He added that he believes, if one business develops in that area, others will begin moving in.

In response to a question from Councilmember Fitzsimmons, Mr. Snow explained that there are potential businesses for openings Downtown.

8. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

No meetings or other events were scheduled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk