

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
July 28, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:00 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

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, Brett Payton and Kristin Zasada.

4. REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Clark inquired about the status of his Council Initiatives regarding some Colorado Open Records Act training and the role of the City Attorney advising Council in certain matters.

Roy Otto, City Manager, stated that he would talk with staff about getting a response scheduled on these Council Initiatives.

Councilmember Butler reported that he recently attended a virtual Youth Commission Meeting, which included some newly appointment Youth Commissioners and noted the he is excited to hear some new perspectives on this board.

5. COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

Mr. Otto introduced the City's Emergency Manager Dan Frazen who provided a COVID-19 update by reviewing cases in the State and Weld County, including hospital cases. He referenced the Safer at Home and Vast Great Outdoors Order the State is currently under. The Bonell personal isolation facility and The Ranch locations are available as needed. He noted that the testing facility at Aims is at about 5 percent, while Wal-Mart numbers are coming in a bit lower than that, and County-wide about 7 percent.

With regard to variances to the Safer at Home order, Mr. Frazen indicated that low case counts are key and reviewed what that means. He also reviewed some of the variances that have been approved in Larimer County and Adams County. He also reported that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Variance Committee will be working through a variance solution for the City when Greeley is ready. This would legally allow for larger events and less restrictions on local businesses as we move forward.

He went on to review the 8 Protect Our Neighbors Criteria, which local hospitals are doing fairly well with.

Mr. Frazen indicated that a formal request was made to Weld County about County Testing and Positivity Data, information on Contact Tracing capabilities, copies of outbreak response and other plans and the letter from Weld County with assurances of continued collaboration and communication in the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. He noted that communications about these requests will continue.

Councilmember Butler inquired about why the County is not handling some of these things and leaving it to the City, and Mr. Frazen indicated that it is his understanding that the County does not recognize those State Orders.

Ben Snow, Economic Development Director, reported on the Greeley Area Recovery Fund by stating that the total number of applications to date is 183 and noted that the Committee is considering a potential next round.

He referenced the County Relief Fund being developed. He referenced some communication between the Chamber, the City and the County about the City's pro-rata funds from the funding and turned the conversation over to the City Manager for additional details.

Mr. Otto stated that the County turned down the City's suggestions for how to run the Weld Relief Fund. He refuted that the City agreed to how the County will run this fund. He stated that how the County is running this fund is not as agreed to. He suggested continuing to work with the Chamber. He noted that the City will not lose any of its allocation by not participating with the County Fund.

6. OVERVIEW OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, reported that as a component of the City Council visioning and work plan retreat completed in February 2020, the City Council identified a theme of "Connected Community" and recognizing a "We are One" vision by 2040 that included celebrating cultural differences by continuing to support and celebrate diversity in the community.

She added that the City Manager had a goal about this same time, as part of his Work Program, of the City of Greeley becoming an Employer of Choice.

She referenced the community going from a pandemic to protests and cited recent deaths in the Country followed by protests and calls for social reform across the nation and internationally, and then local requests to focus on injustice in the community.

Ms. Safarik spoke of the Human Relations Commission's desire, in response to these occurrences, to place a focus on race and ultimately hosted a webinar surrounding this issue. It was well attended and there seems to be a desire to continue these conversations.

In response to a Council Initiative for leadership training for the City Council and members of the City's Executive Team, Ms. Safarik stated that she reached out to a trainer at the University of Virginia, an association of Tyler St. Clair who facilitated Council's February Retreat to facilitate a two-day, in-person training that would be a deeper look at race and resilience.

She reviewed the five-step process proposed for this training, noting the major theme areas that the facilitator has proposed.

She confirmed that the proposal includes two, two-day sessions, one for the Council and one for the Executive Team.

Ms. Safarik advised that a timeline before school starts seems appropriate and suggested some days between August 10th and August 22nd. Again, she noted that this would be in-person in a place that would allow for social distancing.

Councilmember Zasada inquired about funding for this, and Ms. Safarik indicated that it would be \$26,000 which would be funded from the Human Resources training budget.

Councilmember Clark expressed that he would like to have more of a get together to talk about what the Council thinks it needs in terms of this type of training. He shared that he's got some ideas for trainers, and expressed a desire to have some input into what type of training they are getting and from whom. He also wants some time to think about what is taught before developing policy around it.

Councilmember Payton agreed, and asked to look at other options. He noted that two days is a lot of time and is a big impact to the staff and the budget as well.

Mr. Otto noted that Council's priorities are the Staff's priorities. He noted that this is something that was planned at some point anyway. He stated that this is something that Council should take pride in and reminded them that they wanted to do this in February anyway, but agreed that timing is a challenge.

Mayor Gates shared that the trainer's training schedule is aggressive at this time, and wondered about sometime in the next couple of months.

Ms. Safarik indicated that some other dates could be looked at with the trainer in response to Council's timeline concerns.

Councilmember Butler shared that this is just what he was hoping for and noted that he would like to do it sooner rather than later.

Councilmember Zasada wondered if it wouldn't be more constructive to meet with local leaders and try to be more intentional about these social conversations and leadership discussions related to Greeley. She emphasized that \$26,000 is a lot of money to spend right now and she does not want to just check a box to say they did it.

Councilmember Fitzsimmons expressed agreement that he would like to work more locally on this issue and training.

Councilmember Butler suggested facilitators from the University of Northern Colorado.

Mayor Gates asked that Ms. Safarik bring back three options, including the one presented at this meeting, so that Council can make a decision on this Initiative.

7. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS

No additional meetings or events were scheduled.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Aragon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk