

City of Greeley, Colorado
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
 September 1, 2020

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the remote meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. via Zoom Meetings.

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, Brett Payton and Kristin Zasada.

4. Recognitions and Proclamations

Councilmember Zasada presented the What's Great About Greeley Report.

5. Citizen Input

No citizen input was received.

6. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved upon noting replacement documentation for Item Nos. 16 & 17.

7. Reports from Mayor and Councilmembers

Mayor Gates appointed Councilmember Butler to serve on an interview team to fill vacancies on the High Plains Library District Board.

8. Initiatives from Mayor and Councilmembers

Councilmember Butler asked staff to create a proclamation thanking Greeley's firefighters for their work to combat Colorado's wildfires this year as well as hurricane relief in the gulf in which Council reached consensus on this initiative.

*** * * * Consent Agenda * * * ***

9. Approval of the Special City Council Proceedings of August 11, 2020

The Council action recommended was to approve the Proceedings.

10. Acceptance of the Report of the August 11, 2020, City Council Worksession

The Council action recommended was to accept the Report.

11. Approval of the City Council Proceedings of August 18, 2020

The Council action recommended was to approve the Proceedings.

12. Introduction and first reading of an ordinance appropriating additional sums to defray the expenses and liabilities of the City of Greeley for the balance of the fiscal year of 2020 and for funds held in reserve for encumbrances at December 31, 2019

The Council action recommended was to introduce the ordinance and schedule the public hearing and final reading for September 15, 2020.

13. Introduction and first reading of an ordinance adopting amendments to the Greeley Municipal Code, Appendix 18-B, Table 18.42-1, Section 18.30.070, Section 18.46.050, Section 18.46.220, and Section 18.52.036, in order to establish allowances and regulations regarding short-term rentals

The Council action recommended was to introduce the ordinance and schedule the public hearing and final reading for September 15, 2020.

14. Introduction and first reading of an ordinance ratifying and adopting the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Greeley Firefighters Union and the City of Greeley, Colorado, which agreement by its terms is for a period commencing January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

The Council action recommended was to introduce the ordinance and schedule the public hearing and final reading for September 15, 2020.

***** End of Consent Agenda *****

Councilmember Payton moved, seconded by Councilmember Zasada to approve the items on the Consent Agenda and their recommended actions. The motion carried: 7-0

15. Pulled consent agenda items

No items were pulled off of the Consent Agenda.

16. Public Hearing and Final Reading of an ordinance submitting to the registered electors of the City of Greeley, at the coordinated election to be held November 3, 2020, the question of authorizing the City Council to extend the current sales tax on food from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026, for capital projects

Paul Fetherston, Assistant City Manager, explained that Item Nos. 16 and 17 would be presented together. He continued by describing how the taxes are used to maintain infrastructure; describing both proposed tax extensions and how they relate to funding public infrastructure; and highlighting a general overview of each of the proposed tax extension. Mr. Fetherston noted that both of these taxes already exist and the

voters are just being asked that they be continued, not increased. He also highlighted specific information regarding Greeley's Food Tax.

Joel Hemesath, Public Works Director, described past food tax revenue investments; showed examples of projects funded by the food tax; and described that there are 80 projects at stake if the food tax is not continued. He continued by highlighting the Keep Greeley Moving sales tax; discussed recent accomplishments/projects funded by the Keep Greeley Moving sales tax; described some projects that were funded by the Keep Greeley Moving sales tax; and discussed what is at stake if the tax is not continued, specifically road maintenance.

Mr. Fetherston discussed community comparisons for total sales taxes if both taxes are renewed as well as costs of not renewing both taxes. He continued by explaining how the City remains accountable as it relates to both taxes and also discussed the Citizen Budget Advisory Committee recommendations.

Councilmember Clark inquired about what would happen if the Keep Greeley Moving tax is extended but not the Food Tax. Mr. Fetherston explained that there would be one more shot to approve the Food tax as it expires at the end of 2021. He added that the Keep Greeley Moving tax expires at the end of 2022.

Mayor Gates opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

Tom Norton, Greeley resident, spoke on his involvement with these two taxes in the past. He noted that a few people would be willing to run campaigns for the extension of these taxes. He continued by explaining that both of these taxes are extremely important to the future of the community; expressed concerns that it might be a tight turn around to put together a good campaign for each of these taxes; and expressed concern that if they are both put on ballot the Food Tax could fail which would be an issue for budgeting next year given that it expires at the end of next year if not extended by the voters.

The public hearing was closed at 6:41 p.m.

Roy Otto, City Manager, thanked staff for their hard work on both of these taxes. He expressed concern that passage of the food tax is within the margin of error in the polling and that there are a more issues if the Food tax were not extended this year. He recommend that Council just move ahead with the extension of the Food Tax and wait to put the extension of the Keep Greeley Moving sales tax on the ballot in 2021.

Councilmember Clark expressed that it would be difficult if we lost food tax, so he noted his agreement that the extension of the Food Tax be taken to the voters by itself.

Councilmember Butler expressed concerned with just taking the extension of the Food Tax to the voters this year because of all of the uncertainties. He explained this desire to take both tax extensions to the voters this year to the City could take as many swings as possible at passage of both tax extensions.

Councilmember Hall moved, seconded by Councilmember Butler to adopt the ordinance and publish with reference to title only. The motion carried: 7-0 (**Ordinance No. 18, 2020**)

- 17. Public Hearing and Final reading of an ordinance submitting to the registered electors of the City of Greeley, at the coordinated election to be held November 3, 2020, the question of authorizing the City Council to extend the .65% component of retail sales and use tax**

currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2029, for to fund capital projects for street-related infrastructure improvements and repairs

No presentation was given on this item as it was presented with Item No. 16.

Mayor Gates opened the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.

Tom Norton, Greeley resident, said that he was available to answer any questions; none were offered.

The public hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.

Councilmember Hall inquired about whether there were any other options than to deny the proposed ordinance like postponing it.

Doug Marek, City Attorney, explained that the only options are to adopt, amend, or deny the ordinance.

Mayor Gates commented that it says a lot about the Greeley community that polls were done during COVID and they still came out positively for these two taxes. He added that it also shows a lot about the work of City staff and previous Councils. He concluded by explaining that he is not in favor of taking this tax forward to the voters this year because he is concerned that doing so would put passage of the Food Tax extension in jeopardy.

Councilmember Clark moved, seconded by Councilmember Payton to deny the ordinance. The motion carried: 6-1 (Councilmember Butler dissenting)

18. Scheduling of meetings, other events

There were no additional meetings or events scheduled.

19. Consideration of 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 at any previous meetings, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all such resolutions, agreements, and ordinances

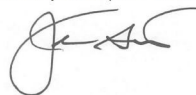
Councilmember Clark moved, seconded by Councilmember Payton to approve the above authorizations, and the motion carried: 7-0

20. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.



Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk



John Gates, Mayor