

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL WORKSESSION REPORT
September 08, 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

There were no reports offered.

5. COVID – 19 UPDATE

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, reported that the report Council received is based on Friday data from the week before. He noted that the positivity rate is seeing a slight uptick.

Councilmember Clark asked about the percentages and hospital data.

Mr. Frazen noted that there are a total of 15 at both hospitals and with regard to positivity percentages, he advised that the County is at 4.15 percent and Greeley/Evans is at 4.46 percent, which is a 14-day average.

He also shared that there is not a testing site in Greeley, but one is expected soon in West Greeley.

Councilmember Zasada asked about thoughts about the virus and if it is less deadly right now and what the severity is looking like, and Mr. Frazen indicated that the emergency management professionals he is in contact with seem to think that it's essentially the same, no change.

6. TALENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ben Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, reported that talent/workforce is an important component of our overall economic development strategy and that developing people involves many entities within our community and it is so important for the City to maintain strong relationships with our many partners.

He went on to state that the City's ACE (Achieving Community Excellence) initiative has entered a new phase, which we call ACE 2.0, following a board retreat held last winter. The ACE Board recognizes its role in being a catalyst in the community for excellence, particularly towards achieving our potential in the

three areas the board will be focused on the next few years: Talent Development, Entrepreneurship and NextGen Leadership Development.

Since the onset of COVID-19, Mr. Snow noted that he has also seen a dramatic impact on our labor force, resulting from mass business closures, layoffs and unemployment claims. Some sectors of the economy were harder hit than others, and it's important to understand that distinction as we continue working toward recovery.

He went on to review labor market metrics and to state that looking into our future, there are some exciting things happening with talent development, particularly with our young people who are taking advantage of local internships, apprenticeships, and scholarships. While we still have a lot of work to do, he stated that what has been established here in Greeley and Weld County is fast becoming the envy of so many other communities we compete with for talent.

Councilmember Clark asked about Larimer County and Weld County labor market metrics, and Mr. Snow noted that it's all about scale since Larimer is so much bigger.

7. 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Robert Miller, Interim Finance Director, reported that the Fiscal Year 2021 budget presentations will focus on the differences from 2020 to 2021 and will identify the funding gap, areas of strategic investment, reductions, and excellence in operational re-alignment. He reviewed the budget transmittal letter that was included in Council's packet which provides an overview of the factors driving and highlights of the Fiscal Year 2021 proposed budget.

He then went on to speak about the flexible budget that is being submitted and again noted that the presentation of the budget will be condensed to focus on variances from the 2020 budget.

Mr. Miller reviewed the budget by fund type; categories of what drives the City's budget; expenditure assumptions such as inflation and salaries which is not proposing raises for general employees, postage, etc.; and a high level view of all departments. He stated that the things staff focused on when preparing this budget included the development of options, creation of an initial 2021 budget, and an ability to modify it after adoption.

Councilmember Hall inquired about budget styles used, such as spend budgeted funds or lose it, and Mr. Miller advised that the City does within capital funds. Dollars are set aside in order to complete the project.

Roy Otto, City Manager, reported that within the City Manager's budget, some Police investments have been considered. He noted that this includes liability insurance to cover cost for liability to police officers created by State Senate Bill 217; a dedicated police attorney for the Police Department; and negotiated increases for police officers per the Union contract.

He went on to discuss assessments and studies and what budget proposals came out of those including project design and identified positions investments in Public Works and Human Resources.

Andy McRoberts, Culture, Parks & Recreation Director, reported on budget reductions by Division and timelines for the resumption of various services and operations with the Department.

Dale Lyman, Fire Chief, reported on Fire Investments proposed for 2021 including Lexipol Public Safety Policy Review and Training software to limit risk and liability to the City, and an Assistant Emergency Manager within the Office of Emergency Management. He noted that the position will help to be more proactive and work more closely with departments on a more robust emergency management plan for the City.

Scott Magerfleish, IT Director, reported on IT investments for 2021 which include Microsoft Office 365, Oracle software, and work from home enhancements.

Councilmember Hall expressed his preference for City employees to be working in offices versus working from home when that is safe and feasible.

Mr. Miller stated that Water & Sewer will be reviewing their operating budget at the next Worksession.

Councilmember Clark asked about CARES Act money that could help, and Mr. Miller noted that there is a good possibility that there will be carryover funding due to CARES Act funding which will mean that the City may not need to dip into reserves, and allows the Council to adopt a balanced budget without it.

8. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

No additional meetings or events were scheduled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.



Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk