

STUDY SESSION NOTES

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO

Council Chambers
7500 W. 29th Ave.

May 16, 2011

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present: Davis Reinhart, Karen Adams, Tracy Langworthy, Karen Berry, Wanda Sang, Mike Stites, Joseph DeMott, and Joyce Jay. Also present: Deputy City Clerk, Bruce Roome; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Police Chief, Dan Brennan; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; City Treasurer, Larry Schulz; Economic Development Manager, Steve Art; Staff and interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Staff Report(s)

No staff reports provided

2. Impact of Wheat Ridge Business District

John Marriott with the Wheat Ridge Business District (WRBD)

The WRBD has received \$40,000 annually from the City of Wheat Ridge as part of a dollar for dollar matching program for façade improvements. Early on in the program WRBD was not dispersing too often and the balance grew. However, in 2010 the surplus was completely spent. During 2010 the City was able to grant an additional \$30,000 in funding. Due to several projects including a larger one which he explained below, the current fund balance is around \$12,000. Mr. Marriott is asking for additional funding from the City of Wheat Ridge in order to continue the grant program through 2011.

Mr. Marriott discussed a new program called the large grant program. The first grant was for Modmood and Retro Consignments at 7700 W. 44th Avenue. This project was completed through the WRBD with help from Wheat Ridge 2020 and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through Jefferson County. The applicant applied through the WRBD and they got the project approved through CDBG and the company was granted \$60,000 and dramatic changes were made. The company is having success since the changes.

Mr. Marriott stated that the WRBD wants to focus on more of these grant programs. The way the grant program works is they apply for the CDBG and the WRBD to obtain approval for the grant. Once this occurs the WRBD provides the capital funding either by reimbursing the applicant or setting up a draw account and the WRBD gets reimbursed by Jefferson County through the CDBG. Without the additional funding by the City they might not be able to fund this type of program. The WRBD has to wait upwards of 4 months for reimbursement from CDBG and that is why this additional funding is crucial

to help continue the program this year. Mr. Marriott is seeking an additional \$100,000 in funding from the City of Wheat Ridge.

Britta Fisher, Executive Director of Wheat Ridge 2020, stated that due to a good working relationship with Jefferson County she foresees future chances of larger grants as well.

Patrick Gooch, with Modmood and Retro Consignments discussed how much this program has positively impacted his business. Business has doubled since the construction was completed which has therefore doubled their sales tax revenues.

Consensus was to proceed by first having a discussion at the weekend retreat and then bring a specific amount to the June 13th meeting for possible approval.

3. Debt Policy and Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy

Christine Harwell and Sara Hunsche, from Clifton Gunderson presented their reports that were completed at Council's request. Clifton Gunderson partnered with CML in August to identify the City of Wheat Ridge's policies.

Ms. Harwell and Ms. Hunsche discussed the debt management Policy report in depth (Attachment #1 in packet.)

Consensus was to proceed with an adoption plan for the City of Wheat Ridge Debt Management Policy.

Ms. Harwell and Ms. Hunsche also discussed Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy report (Attachment #2 in packet.)

Mr. Goff stated that there is a typo on page 2 of attachment #2, paragraph 2 (Excess Funds.) It should read 35%, not 40%.

Consensus was to proceed with an adoption plan for the City of Wheat Ridge Unrestricted Fund Balance Policy removing the sentence requiring super majority vote.

4. Citywide Emergency Medical Services

Representatives for various agencies were in attendance as follows:

Mike Donner, Consultant, Rural Metro Ambulance

David Patterson, Division General Manager, Pridemark/Rural Metro Ambulance

Dave Mitchell, Director of Operations, Pridemark Paramedics

Joel Hager, Interim Chief, Fairmount Fire Department

Steven Gillespie, Fire Chief, Wheat Ridge Fire Department

Mike Murphy, Operations Chief, West Metro Fire Department

Chief Brennan presented the findings in the memo. (attached to packet.) The memo offered three alternatives for Council's considerations as follows: