

**SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**

August 22, 2011

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at 8:08 p.m. Council Members present: Tracy Langworthy, Joyce Jay, Wanda Sang, Davis Reinhart, Joseph DeMott, Karen Adams and Mike Stites. Also present: City Manager, Patrick Goff; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; City Treasurer, Larry Schulz; Parks & Recreation Director, Joyce Manwaring; Public Works Director, Tim Paranto; Chief of Police, Dan Brennan; City Clerk, Michael Snow; staff and interested citizens.

Council Member Berry was absent.

1. Staff Report(s)

Chief Brennan asked for Councils' support of activating the Public Warning System in participation of the national recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001. This will take place Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 11:00 am for one minute. Council unanimously supported this.

a) Wildlife Management Plan – Trapping Wildlife/Feral Cats

Chief Brennan and Mary McKenna, Code Enforcement Supervisor, were present to discuss issues pertaining to wildlife management within the City. The City of Wheat Ridge has a very active and engaged group of citizens who serve on the Animal Welfare and Control Commission. This advisory commission provides input to the Community Services Team on a variety of citizen concerns related to domestic animals and wildlife. In addition, the Community Services Team works closely with the Division of Wildlife and Jefferson County Department of Health on animal-related issues affecting citizens in Wheat Ridge. The City has the appropriate ordinances to address domestic animal and wildlife concerns, as well as a Wildlife Management Plan and appropriate procedures to guide Community Services Officers in their day-to-day encounters with animals.

The Police Department is considering an ordinance to amend code addressing the feeding of wildlife.

2. Public Art Ordinance

Mr. Goff and Mr. Dahl presented a proposed ordinance which codifies into one chapter of the City Code the various existing provisions relating to funding of public art. The ordinance also establishes a public art program for the Wadsworth Corridor Subarea.

Council unanimously supported amending the proposed ordinance to use the public art funding program for all Urban Renewal Areas, not just the Wadsworth Corridor.

Council also agreed to support the use of public funds raised in the Urban Renewal Areas for art within those Urban Renewal Areas as well as city-wide public art.

3. Redevelopment of Martensen Elementary School to a Neighborhood Park

Mrs. Manwaring presented that the Jefferson County School District closed Martensen Elementary School at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. This school closure has presented an opportunity for the City to explore acquiring the site for use as a neighborhood park. If acquired, the intention would be to substitute this site for the 44th and Kendall site which is owned by the City and designated for future development as a neighborhood park.

Mrs. Manwaring asked council whether or not they support moving forward with the process to assess pricing and cost considerations in purchasing the site and developing and managing it as a park. Council was unanimous in supporting staff to move forward.

4. Right-of-Way Acquisition

Mr. Goff discussed the widening and improvements of 44th Avenue and the extension of Vance Street require the City of Wheat Ridge to acquire a portion of right-of-way property along both streets that are owned by the owner of the Panda King Restaurant parcel. In order to construct these streets the City needs to acquire a parcel 14 feet in width extending along the northern boundary of the property adjacent to 44th Avenue. The City will also need to acquire a parcel 37.5 feet in width extending along the eastern boundary of the property for the extension of Vance Street.

This acquisition needs to be completed in order to complete the deal with the Wazee Company for the Urban Renewal project at 44th Avenue and Vance Street.

This will come to Council as a Resolution in September.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Michael Snow, City Clerk