

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

January 28, 2013

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at p.m. Council members present: Davis Reinhart, Bud Starker, Joyce Jay, Kristi Davis, Mike Stites, Joseph DeMott, George Pond, and Tracy Langworthy.

Absent:

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; Treasurer, Larry Schulz; City Attorney, Jerry Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Police Chief, Daniel Brennan; Commander Joe Cassa; Public Works director Tim Paranto; guests and interested citizens.

Public Comment – none

Mr. Stites asked for, but did not receive, a consensus to remove Item 5 from the agenda.

1. Clean water requirement discussion –

Ed Tauer was present to make a presentation from the Colorado Clean Water Coalition concerning new storm water rules set by the Environmental Protection Agency. He noted one of the major concerns is the impact on jobs.

He explained how the EPA is pushing to implement new rules that will dramatically impact new development and jobs. The ideas driving this are:

- Take a one-size-fits all approach to the entire country
- Expand the area impacted by the rules (i.e. expand what they control)
- Create new obligations for on-site retention
- Have stricter rules and require the retrofitting of existing properties to meet new standards

Examples of this are:

- Adding a requirement for "living roofs" (grass) all across the country. (Not practical in drought-prone Colorado)
- Require planting trees over and above what we already require
- Affects not only new development and redeveloping property, but also existing properties that aren't even slated for redevelopment
- Requiring us to retrofit some of our roads

Mr. Tauer reported that

- None of this is based on studies showing there is a nationwide problems
- None of this is based on studies showing we have a problem in Colorado
- There is no study showing existing efforts aren't working
- Their rules for on-sight retention violate Colorado state water laws;

- One-size-fits-all approach is not geographically or ecologically realistic and doesn't make good sense;
- The extreme cost of all this will destroy many projects.

The Clean Water Coalition stands firm that clean water is not negotiable, but they would like Colorado communities to join forces to push back against these unreasonable federal mandates. Several communities have come on board and Mr. Tauer invites Wheat Ridge to join the growing number of Colorado cities and counties that are becoming involved.

A majority of Council was glad to join the effort. Councilmember Pond said he'd like to look at other aspects of it, but doesn't object if the majority of Council wants to join in. There was no opposition to joining this effort and having the Council and the Mayor send letters that support local control. Mr. Tauer can provide a template as a starting place.

Mr. DiTullio left at 8:23 pm because he wasn't feeling well.

2. EMS review and contract with Rural/Metro Pridemark – Commander Joe Cassa

Commander Joe Cassa explained the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that the City has with Pridemark Paramedic Services and the WR Fire Protection District. The yearly review showed that response times for emergency and non-emergency calls have both been above the requirements. Pridemark has changed their unit hours and posting plans to better serve our citizens. The criteria of the IGA have been in compliance. Some very minor communication issues have been corrected. The committee is allowed to, and did, approve the 1.8% increase requested by Pridemark since it is well within the regional medical CPI that the IGA allows.

The review committee recommends the extension of the IGA for the year 2013, and that the City of Edgewater be included in the defined response area.

Mr. DeMott received a consensus to extend the IGA and include Edgewater.

3. Forensic Crime Lab IGA – Chief Brennan

The Police Department has been working with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and the cities of Lakewood, Arvada and Golden to create a regional Jefferson County Combined Crime Laboratory for processing things like DNA analysis, serology, firearms and tool marks.

Law enforcement agencies in Jefferson County want to have their own lab to better and more quickly serve our communities. Denver has its own lab. There are 3 CBI regional labs statewide that serve the law enforcement entities of 135 cities and 64 counties. Due to the large volume of cases the CBI has prioritized their work – taking crimes against persons over crimes against property. The

turn-around time is very long. We have actually had evidence come back to us just prior to the time the statute of limitations run out. This is not good service for our citizens. Larimer and Weld Counties are looking at having their own joint lab as well.

The plan for a regional Jeffco lab:

- The existing crime labs for the Sheriff, Arvada and Lakewood have agreed to combine their resources for the lab. The purchase of some new equipment will be necessary.
- The County Commissioners have approved construction funding to expand the Sheriff's crime lab to become the regional lab.
- Construction to begin March 2013. Set to become operational mid-2014.
- Each jurisdiction will fund their own personnel, but a 5-year funding formula has been created for additional member agency assessments. Our city's assessment would be \$31,800 for 2014 and for 2015, with \$35,200 for 2016.

The question is does Wheat Ridge want to be part of it. From a police perspective Chief Brennan believes the quicker turn-around time, the solving of crime (better justice for victims), and holding offenders accountable in a more timely and efficient manner are the three main reasons to look at this.

This is the first law enforcement regionalization that will cost more money, but the Chief feels the more timely service will be worth it in the long run. Another consideration is this: Currently we pay nothing for services from CBI, however last year the Governor requested that CBI look at ways to charge jurisdictions for services. This didn't happen, but it's not inconceivable that eventually cities and counties will have to start paying the CBI for some of this high-end forensic crime scene processing.

Chief Brennan confirmed that pursuing the intent to become a member agency does not mean committing funds until the 2014 budget is addressed.

Mr. Starker asked for consensus to direct the Chief and City staff to go ahead with preparing an IGA and bring it back for Council approval.

Councilmember Langworthy left the meeting.

4. 38th Avenue Main Street Design -- Tim Paranto & Ken Johnstone
Tim began with Power Point showing possibilities for immediate improvements on 38th, including:

- Replacing 7 planters (Upham to Pierce) with larger permanent landscape islands, while redistributing the modular ones to the east to combine with and enhance existing planters,
- Adding a planter on the west corner of Teller for symmetry
- Adding a larger permanent planter in front of the house at 7030 W. 38th

- Cost of the 7 islands estimated at \$150,000, with no permanent irrigation, and \$10,000 yearly for watering and mulch replacement.

Phasing of additional construction segments is possible. At each stage new curb construction would be placed where the permanent curb would ultimately be.

- Phase 1 could be building the landscaping on the south side of 38th, with bike lanes eliminated, and curb lines at the final, permanent location.
- Phase 2 would be to build the permanent planters on the north side, eliminate the bike lanes and restripe the street.
- Phase 3 would be to permanently rebuild the sidewalks, move the curbs and change the drainage.

Tim showed photo options for a variety of raised islands and increased green space (including drainage) and 2 monument entry signs at Upham.

Council has lots of options with curbed islands, raised islands, detached islands, monument signs, etc. Estimated costs:

- 6 inch curbed islands, green spaces with irrigation, restriping, 2 small monument signs at Upham=\$650,000 (Orphan to High Court)
- Something a little more elaborate with irrigated, curbed islands and some plazas and cafe patios = \$1.45 million
- Having raised, irrigated islands Upham to Pierce = raises to \$2.2 million
- Entire Main Street Plan (Upham to Pierce) with all the amenities = between \$4.5 - \$5 million.

Ken reviewed the Corridor Plan for Council as to what the short, mid and long term plans are - including branding and ultimate reconstruction of the street. Staff is thrilled about all the MU-N zoning Council has approved and that the marketing plan is in place. What you see now is a short term quick-win, with the pilot project to be re-evaluated after 18-24 months. We are starting to have some data and results to examine.

The mid-term recommendation (5-10 years) is to reconstruct Upham to Pierce.. This would need a separate public process. Since the community wanted walkability , the emphasis should be on sidewalks, amenities zones and street trees – not bike lanes and parking. A branding campaign was wanted to tie it all together. Consolidating driveways is also essential for optimum walkability. This is an expensive project and requires serious financial commitment.

The \$300,000 budget for the pilot project last year was limited and the visual impact is still lacking. Future funding options might include bonds, general taxes and improvement districts. A short-term approach (spending only \$150,000 this year) may not be optimum for a public perception of a quality project, and might be perceived as another temporary gesture.

There had been an understanding that as we moved forward towards a permanent redesign there would be public input, but if we want to get something

done in 2013 there probably isn't time for that. Other issues to consider are the bike lanes, back-in parking and tree location (trees could be lost):

Tim addressed money. This year \$100,000 is budgeted for the corridor. \$70-80,000 will go for 2 sets of banner poles (with electricity) for holiday lighting – one at Upham and one east of Pierce. Striping maintenance in the corridor could run \$20-30,000. If Council wants anything else, like landscape island design, money will have to be appropriated for that. If Council wants to proceed with the banner poles this summer staff would appreciate some direction.

As part of the Council discussion staff members noted:

- The banner poles would be like the ones near 38th and Tennyson.
- The primary reason for the pilot project was to test out the road diet. If that works we can proceed with the rest of the plan.
- The cost of watering the landscaping is covered through summer 2013; after that it would be \$10,000/year until irrigation is installed.
- Bike lanes were not part of the original plan.
- For 6-8 ft sidewalks, some easement would be necessary in some locations.
- We are still working with Xcel to see if we can put banners on light poles without buying them. It's looking hopeful. We are paying an inspection cost for this.
- The Leadership Committee feels the banner poles are essential for the marketing and branding strategy. Their ultimate recommendation will be for three locations -- one at Upham, one at Pierce, and one at Sheridan.

There were varying sentiments on Council ranging from "wait until the road diet has been evaluated" to "proceed aggressively", and somewhere in between. Staff will put together some options that vary in scope and cost for Council to consider.

5. Council Rules Discussion

Mr. Reinhart suggested Item 5 be rescheduled due to the latest of the hour. No one objected.

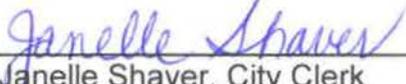
6. District/Town Hall Meetings

For the 5th Mondays in 2013 it was agreed to have the same schedule as last year: a District 1 and 2 meeting on April 29, a District 3 and 4 meeting on July 29, and a Town Hall Meeting on September 30.

7. Elected Officials' Report(s) – none

Ms. Davis noted that on Council Rules it is protocol number 5 that needs to be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk