

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

**April 22, 2013**

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Davis Reinhart, Bud Starker, Joyce Jay, Kristi Davis, Mike Stites, Joseph DeMott, and Tracy Langworthy.

Absent: George Pond

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; Treasurer, Larry Schulz; City Attorney, Jerry Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Parks Director, Joyce Manwaring; Police Chief Dan Brennan; Commander Joe Cassa; Court administrator, Kersten Armstrong; and interested citizens.

Public Comment – none

1) Parkland Acquisition – 4100 Gray St. (Joyce Manwaring)

This property is located in the block that includes Randall Park. The City has been approached by the owner for purchase as an addition to the park. Ms. Manwaring reported that this property is recommended for purchase in the Parks' Master Plan and it can be purchased with Open Space funds in a 50/50 match. The house would be torn down and be replaced with grass and landscaping.

Discussion issues included whether it was wise to buy and tear down a house when the City is encouraging home ownership; who would want to live on the grounds of a park – given the activity and noise; the parking lot that the City put in on the south side of the park get some, but minimal usage, so this extra land is not really needed for parking; and addressing the needs at the Anderson Building might be more pressing.

Mr. Stites asked for consensus to proceed with purchase of the property. There was insufficient support to proceed.

2) Model Traffic Code (MTC) Amendments (Chief Brennan)

a) Tiered Fine Schedule for MTC Violations

Commander Joe Cassa explained the operational challenges associated with implementing a tiered fine schedule. One challenge is that the tickets will have to be issued to the person – not the vehicle. Additionally it will be necessary to determine what level of the tier the person falls on – to determine the amount of the summons. It will be cumbersome and time consuming to determine if it is the second or third violation. Some handicapped parking fines are already higher than some of our criminal offenses.

Kirsten Armstrong had input from the Court perspective. She highlighted packet information noting that 25% of the handicapped parking citations are dismissed when the violator is able to produce a handicap placard. More tickets will also require more court staff time.

Jerry Dahl noted that there will be prosecutorial problems if a second citation is for the same vehicle, but not the same person.

Mr. Starker offered a consensus to remove the tiered system and set the fine at \$150, including the fines for major vehicles. There was adequate support.

b) Timed Parking Limitations

Chief Brennan spoke about the 2 hour parking spaces on 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are reports of abuse of the 2-hour time limit. We don't have a parking enforcement unit, but we have had complaints from some businesses. He reported that Arvada has recently started a timed parking program in Olde Town in anticipation of the Gold Line. The Chief recommended an amendment to the MTC to allow enforcement in certain timed areas.

Following discussion there was consensus to bring the amendment forward.

3) Staff Report(s)

a) Prescription Take-back Day

Chief Brennan noted that there is a Prescription Take-Back day this Saturday at Lutheran Hospital on the east side.

b) 2013 Citizen Forum and Council Retreat Discussion (Patrick Goff)

May 7<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the Citizen Forum. Mr. Goff provided a handout with objectives and areas of focus. It will be a facilitated event. He recommended that Council not attend so citizens will speak more freely. A light supper will be provided, hence the RSVP.

The Council retreat will be May 17 & 18, Friday evening at a restaurant and Saturday morning at a location to be determined. They will look at information from the focus groups. Other topics might be a review of strategic goals or Council Rules. Ideas for additions to the agenda are welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

  
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Janelle Shaver, City Clerk