

**STUDY SESSION NOTES**  
**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**  
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**November 18, 2013**

Mayor Jay called the Study Session to order at 8:26 p.m. Council members present: Jerry DiTullio, Bud Starker, Zachary Urban, Kristi Davis, Tim Fitzgerald, Genevieve Wooden, and Tracy Langworthy.

Absent: George Pond

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Police Chief Daniel Brennan; Mark Westberg; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

Guests: County Commissioners Faye Griffin and Casey Tighe; County Manager, Ralph Schell; Kathryn Otten, Director of Jefferson County Justice Services

Councilmember DiTullio excused himself and left the Chambers.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**      none

1.      Staff Report(s)

Chief Brennan gave Council a report on the incident that occurred at Aspen School several weeks ago. A thorough investigation was done, which included interviews with the responding officers, the students who were detained, school staff and parents. The Chief reported that much was done correctly by the responding officers, but some things were not.

To learn from this incident and provide better service the Chief announced that following this investigation there will be:

- a review of policies and procedures for service for in-progress crimes,
- a review of our tactics, including a debrief of all employees involved,
- a review of our training protocols and in-service training, and
- some corrective action happening as a personnel matter.

If individual councilmembers have further questions or want more information he can meet with them privately.

The Chief will be meeting with the staff, parents and students tomorrow night at the school to give them a report on the investigation and findings.

2.      Community Corrections – Jefferson County Commissioners Casey Tighe and Faye Griffin; Ralph Schell, County Administrator; Lynn Johnson, Director of

Human Services for the County; Kathryn Otten, Director of Jefferson County Justice Services;

Kathryn Otten had a power point which explained that Community Corrections programs promote public safety in the community; decrease the costly financial burden of incarceration on taxpayers; increase the opportunities for successful transition from prison to community or avoid costly prison sentences by diverting and placing offenders into community corrections; and increase the offender's financial contributions to the community through viable employment, paying taxes, child support and restitution, and spending earnings locally.

The cost savings:

- In 2012: \$1,945,000
- Client income earned: \$2,710,000
- Child support: \$125,000
- Restitution: \$324,000
- Taxes paid by residents fed 889,000 people

Public safety is key:

Offenders are monitored, held accountable and intensely supervised.

Our county vendor, Intervention Community Corrections Services (ICCS), is audited by the State. They are one of the top two vendors in the state.

Commissioner Tighe continued with the challenges of the New York Building. It was built in the early 1900's and has a lot of deferred maintenance. The Commissioners would rather move to a new facility than put money into the old building. Lakewood wants to create an arts district there and they'd like to have the property have a higher and better use. ~ An attempt to relocate to property on Wide Acre Road was not successful. The Commissioners have met with Arvada, Golden and Lakewood Councils as they are looking for a good location for a 50-58,000 square foot building.

Council questions and discussion followed.

### 3. Proposed Flood Plain Ordinance Amendment ~ Mark Westberg

Staff is proposing several revisions to the existing floodplain ordinance for the City. These changes involve adopting new state regulations and new floodplain maps and updating the language to match current industry standards.

Staff was aware of the need to adopt the new state regulations but waited for FEMA to adopt the new floodplain maps so a single, comprehensive update on floodplain issues could be completed. It was expected the new maps would be adopted as early as June 2011, but that was delayed by FEMA's conversion of the mapping to a digital format.

It is staff's understanding that failure to adopt floodplain regulations consistent with the Rules, as well as any updates necessary to bring local regulations into compliance with

minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria, could lead to severe sanctions. The City is currently in compliance with the NFIP criteria.

The new maps show 55% of our current floodplain is open space. 82 properties were removed from the floodplain and 267 were added. Note, this is parcels of property, not necessarily houses.

Staff continues to work on the Community Rating System (CRS) which affects rates for flood insurance. City regulations and activities can result in discounts for property owners. Wheat Ridge is currently a Class 6, which provides a 20% discount. This is a pretty big deal as only 8 other communities in Colorado have a Class 6 or above rating. Staff hopes to reach Class 5 in 2014 which would mean a discount of 25% for folks.

#### Scheduling

Since the process requires a series of legislative stages, staff is proposing the following schedule for making revisions to the floodplain ordinance to meet the compliance date:

- November 18, 2013 – CC Study Session – Present draft ordinance
- November 21, 2013 – Planning Commission – Present ordinance for recommendation for approval
- December 9, 2013 – CC Meeting – 1st reading
- January 13, 2014 – CC Meeting – 2nd reading
- January 14, 2014 – Deadline to adopt state law
- February 5, 2014 – New floodplain maps become effective

The Study Session adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

  
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Janelle Shaver, City Clerk