

**STUDY SESSION NOTES**  
**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**  
**City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**March 19, 2018**

Mayor Starker called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council members present: George Pond, Janeece Hoppe, Kristi Davis, Monica Duran, Tim Fitzgerald, Zachary Urban, Larry Mathews, Leah Dozeman

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Manager, Patrick Goff; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl (arrived at 7:03pm); Parks and Recreation Director, Joyce Manwaring; Community Development Director, Ken Johnstone; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; Police Chief, Daniel Brennan; other staff and interested citizens.

**CITIZEN COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**Vivian Vos** (WR) pointed out a number of places in the Council Rules where she felt the wording is confusing, or contains what seem to be errors, duplications, or inconsistencies. She made note of the rule that citizen comments are not to be censored and noted that sometimes people are stopped in the middle of speaking.

**1.** Staff Report(s)

Chief Brennan announced that tomorrow night the superintendent is having a school safety panel for law enforcement at Lakewood High School from 6:00-8:30pm. There will be a panel on school safety, followed by information from each of the agencies and the schools; then there will be sub-groups for each articulation area. The public is invited.

Mr. Goff reminded everyone of the neighborhood meeting with the developer for Clear Creek Crossing this Thursday at 7pm at the Rec Center.

**2.** Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Goff began with a review of how the 2035 Vision was created last year. The strategic plan process included hiring a facilitator, study sessions, and input from CIRSA. The City Council retreat included small groups (with the assistance of staff and the facilitator) and a brainstorming process.

Mr. Goff read the vision statement Council produced, noting there weren't major changes from the previous vision statement. The 8 Vision Topics help define the goals.

- 1) Attractive and inviting city
- 2) A community for families
- 3) Great neighborhoods
- 4) Choice of economically viable commercial areas

- 5) Diverse transportation
- 6) Commitment to environmental stewardship
- 7) Residents are proud of their home town
- 8) Residents enjoy an active healthy lifestyle

He read through the goals for each Vision Topic and noted there are 28 separate goals, which include 55 separate strategies. Due to time constraints at the retreat staff categorized the strategies and prioritized them. Some strategies didn't fit with a goal.

Councilmember Mathews suggested he'd like to see a place on the website where citizens could find all the main City documents – such as Charter, Code, Comp Plan, NRS, etc. Having them all in one handy place would be more user/citizen-friendly. Mr. Goff said all the documents are on the website, but staff probably has more familiarity with them. Ms. Geyer said she appreciated the feedback and they will look into what can be done.

There was discussion about how to proceed. Mr. Goff recommended that tonight is not meant to go over the whole document. He would like some direction about top priorities and clarification about what Council's intentions are with certain strategies.

Following discussion there was consensus to focus on items that need clarification and/or more direction tonight (the items in the gold boxes), and to prioritize next time. Councilmembers will email Mr. Goff their top ten priorities.

Council went through each vision topic and addressed only the strategies that need clarification (gold boxes). The City Manager and Department heads contributed to the discussion. As each strategy was discussed, consensus votes were taken.

#### Vision Topic 1: Attractive and inviting city

##### *Goal 3 Underground utility lines in commercial corridors*

Strategy 3.2 Create a ballot question to expedite undergrounding of utilities  
Consensus to remove this strategy and put it on a list for future discussion.

##### *Goal 4: Expand proactive code enforcement*

Strategy 4.1 Stricter, more proactive code enforcement:  
Chief Brennan gave background on current code enforcement activity – TLC, etc.  
Consensus to keep this on the list.

Strategy 4.2 Establish a rental inspection program:  
Consensus to remove from the list altogether.

Strategy not goal-specific Investigate and develop an incentive program for homeowner investment:  
Consensus to move this to a list for future consideration.

#### Vision Topic 2: A community for families

##### *Goal 4.1 Create a baseline for "live, work and play" metrics:*

Mr. Goff indicated this would require outside help. There was discussion about how to even get baseline assessments and what to do with the information.  
Consensus to move this to a list for the future -- to revisit after the survey.

Vision Topic 3: Great neighborhoods*Goal 2: Facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor relations*

Strategy 2.1 Identify historical neighborhoods:

Mr. Johnstone advised it would be necessary to hire a consultant for this. Is it architectural design characteristics? What is the goal when they are identified? Goal is to identify with signage and do marketing.

Consensus to keep it on the list, but remove the word "historical"; and to move it to a list for future consideration.

Strategy 2.2 Identify neighborhood captains and provide support for them.

Suggestion to eliminate this strategy.

Strategy 2.4 Create and support neighborhood internet sharepoint programs

Consensus to move Strategies 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4 to the list for future discussion.

*Goal 3: Create a Complete Streets Program and assessment*

Mr. Brink explained the Complete Streets Program concept that appeared 15 years ago. We routinely do all these things now as a matter of course.

Consensus to remove Goal 3 from list.

Vision Topic 4: Economically viable commercial areas*Goal 2: Provide support to existing commercial areas*

Strategy 2.1: Finalize design of 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue streetscape

Street is due for resurfacing and restriping this year; it will be coming up.

Consensus to retain the strategy.

Strategy 2.2: Funding for business area marketing and organized support

Explanation. Continue the same things we're doing now and provide update.

Strategy 2.3 Incentivize priority business clusters

Originally intended for TOD site. Have a marketing budget in economic dev.

Consensus to keep this on the list as it may include other areas.

Strategy 2.4 Maintain and expand commercial grant/loan program

WRBD does this. 3 large façade grants coming this year.

Consensus to update this strategy.

*Goal 3: Identify emerging redevelopment areas*

Strategy 3.2 Initiate proactive rezoning

Mr. Johnstone said the Mixed Use zoning has covered this. He gave examples of various areas. Really no areas where we can or need to do this. The process is working pretty well. Discussion. What about ADU's? Suggestion to have citizen zoning committees. Mr. Goff said NRS plan will be coming soon; it will address ADU's. Suggestion to ask large property owners (public and private) what their long term goals are.

Consensus to amend Strategy 3.1 to include "Identify large property owners", and eliminate Strategy 3.2

*Goal 4: Become a leader in technological infrastructure*

This goal has no strategies. Possible to put on a ballot issue if legislature does not act. Consensus to bring this up again in June when the legislature is finished.

Councilmember Urban was asked to craft a strategy that included the issues of high speed internet, fiber optic availability, and City use of technology.

A break was taken at 8:06p.m. The study session resumed at 8:13p.m.

Vision Topic 5: Diverse transportation*Goal 1: Improve and identify areas of need for public transportation*

Strategy 1.2 Support rideshare programs like Uber and Lyft

The idea was to **not** put roadblocks in place that hinder the use.

Consensus to remove Strategy 1.2.

Strategy 1.3 Investigate feasibility of a bike share program

Include the Sustainability Committee? Cyclers don't think it's viable now.

Consensus to keep it on a list for future discussion.

*Goal 5: Increase multi-modal access to G Line stations*

Strategy 5.1 Identify and prioritize connectivity options to the G Line.

Ongoing. Doing well. Doesn't need to be "gold". List as "Ongoing". Leave as is.

Strategy 5.2 Implement circulator bus service between the G line, commercial centers and the Seniors Resource Center. Discussion. Leave it on the list.

Strategies not associated with a specific goal:

- Maintain bike lanes. Remove this. It's in the bike ped master plan
- Support transportation maintenance companies. This dealt with keeping bus shelters clean. Consensus to delete this strategy.
- Discuss how to finance the DIRT Task Force Projects  
This is part of 2E. Only need to update the financing.

Vision Topic 6: Commitment to environmental stewardship No discussion needed.

Vision Topic 7: Residents are proud of their hometown*Goal 2: Create five additional opportunities for meaningful citizen engagement*

Keep doing what we're doing. Change to "update".

*Goal 3: Increase public participation by 20% in all city-wide meetings*

Strategy 3.2 Assess current level of public participation and needs of residents

This will be updated from the survey.

*Items not associated with a specific goal*

- Identify choice destination metrics to inform future work plans. Agree to delete.

- Create a charter commission to update the City Charter to increase pride in Wheat Ridge government.  
Suggest this should be done by the citizens -- not top down. This is on a future agenda. Agreed to keep it on the list.
- Fund a loan program thru the Housing Authority. Already have some programs thru Localworks and WRBD. Don't need to include the HA. Localworks has not been doing this. Mr. Johnstone asked what the role of the HA is without cash.

### 3. Review of City Council Rules of Order and Procedure

Council Rules of Order and Procedure were last amended on July 11, 2016.

City Council went through the rules -- section by section. City Attorney Dahl took notes and will provide a rewrite incorporating the agreed-upon changes.

#### Section II. Citizen's Rights

- Consensus to have Mr. Dahl rewrite all of II.A
- 9. Clarify councilmembers
- 8. Must be read in three minutes
- 10 Don't need the rule. Consensus to delete it.

#### Section III

- Add a reference to chair swearing in speakers at public hearings.
- There is no reference to quasi-judicial hearings. Mr. Dahl will add that.
- Consensus to keep Special Study Session public comments at the beginning of the regular meeting.
- Soften the language about when the council rules should be amended
- III B Clarify wording in the nomination process. Dispense with paper nomination.
- F.5 Correct the formatting issue
- Clarify wording about Mayor's ability to meet with two councilors at one time, and that it requires no public notice or openness to the public.

#### Section IV. Meetings and Meeting Procedures

- IV.D. Executive Session Suggested to add a #4 that says all state sunshine laws will be followed. Discussion. There was no objection to including a reference to state statutes or that open meetings laws will be followed.
- These was discussion about what can and cannot be done in Executive Sessions. Consensus to continue to do what we've been doing.

Section V.C.8 Fiscal Notes. Why is this in the Council Rules? Mr. Goff recalled this was added in the past to make sure all council actions included the fiscal impact.

Section III.B.4. Consensus that the mayor pro tem's responsibility to arrange for orientation for new elected officials will include orientation about the Council Rules.

#### Section V.F(p. 11) Ordinances on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading


Councilmember Pond asked to have the final phrase of the second paragraph removed.

4. Elected Officials' Report(s)


George Pond thanked everyone who came to the District 3 meeting.

Mayor Starker reported he and Mr. Goff attended the National League of Cities in Washington DC. They met with our Colorado congressman and senators. A report will follow.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Study Session adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

  
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Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON April 9, 2018

  
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Tim Fitzgerald, Mayor pro tem