

- Vehicle registration -- We already have among the highest registration fees in the nation, and this doesn't include tourists.
- General Fund – Kicks the can down the road. The General Fund goes for other priorities so those would be cut. Not reliable year after year. Education is very needy.
- Sales tax -- Most voters said they would like to do this. The small amount adds up over time and it includes tourists.

A 0.62% sales tax increase would raise \$767M the first year, and sunset in 20 years.

- 45% State Highway Fund CDOT (for large projects)
- 40% split evenly between cities and counties – 20% each
- 15% Multimodal Options Fund

State projects for Wheat Ridge would include the I-70 Kipling interchange (\$68M)

The first year Wheat Ridge would get \$1.184M. City would have complete control of how to spend the funds (street repaving, potholes, matching funds, new intersections, lane widening, shoulders, bridge work, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit projects).

The state's Multimodal Fund typically has \$10M per year. With the new funds it will be opened up so locals can have access to some of it for local multimodal projects.

This is similar to HB1242 in 2017 which did not pass the legislature.

This year's SB1 did dedicate one time funds of \$500M to transportation this year, \$150M next year, and \$50M a year after that – from the General Fund.

Discussion followed.

Councilmember Dozeman had questions about SB1. Sen. Zenzinger explained.

Councilmember Mathews asked if there have been any studies on CDOT's efficiency since 1991. Sen. Zenzinger stated CDOT efficiency has improved; its overhead has decreased. No, this is not based on "per lane mile".

- Not all new population are drivers; why is "spending per driver" used? Those numbers came from the state.
- Of the current gas tax and license registration, how much goes to roads vs other expenditures, such as RTD? RTD is not part of CDOT, but they can apply for grants. CDOT does give \$10M/yr to multimodal projects.

Councilmember Duran asked how the percentage for cities and counties is calculated.

- The formula is based on several things – lane miles, car registrations, figures by city, the same formula that has been used for 25 years.
- The 45% for CDOT, paired with existing funds, will fund much of the wish list.
- The 20%/20% split achieves better parity. Right now it's 18%/22%.
- The 15% Multimodal Fund is new.

Councilmember Pond asked if there would be bonding against the sales tax, and if the cities would benefit from that. Sen. Zenzinger said the state can't address its Tier 1

projects unless it uses the revenue for bonding. There will be \$6B worth of bonding capacity over 20 years. Cities can do bonding if they want to.

For the ballot a list of state priorities will be in the Blue Book for voters to see.

This is being done through the HUTF (Highway Users Tax Fund) so the funds will be dedicated to transportation only.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked about the figures for WR's yearly share.

Councilmember Urban asked how accountability and efficiency by the locals would be done. Mr. Martin said the coalition's main concern was local flexibility, as everyone's needs are different. He suggested accountability would be with the public. Sen. Zenzinger added that HUTF does have some rules and criteria. Also, federal funds will continue to be distributed through planning organizations; they do oversight.

Councilmember Dozeman asked if bicycle registration had been considered. No.

Sen. Zenzinger said the legislature and the coalition looked at ownership tax, but it's a local tax so CML and CCI were strongly against that; it wouldn't have provided enough money to be able to share with cities and counties; and it doesn't include tourists.

Councilmember Dozeman asked what was being asked of the Council. Mr. Martin said individual support and a resolution.

Mayor Starker lobbied in favor of this effort.

There was consensus to approve a resolution of support.

2. Discussion on Wheat Ridge 50th Anniversary celebration activities - Heather Geyer and Sara Spaulding

Sara Spaulding, Communications Manager, reported on planning efforts to date.

- She, Heather Geyer and some other staff members have started planning the year-long celebration for 2019. The list of ideas is in the Council packet.
- They are in the process of forming a citizen committee for input on how to incorporate the celebration with existing events around the city, and planning a gala at the Rec Center scheduled for March 2, 2019.
- They have started getting historic photos from residents.
- A Facebook page has been created -- "Celebrate WR50".

Commander Jim Lorentz reported on things the police department is doing.

• WRPD Commemorative Badge

He passed around a copy of the commemorative badge that has been approved. It is a replica of the very first department badge worn by the first Police Chief, Jack Bramble. Officers interested in wearing the badge during the year can purchase one. They will not be available to the public.

- Restoration of Unit 1

The first police car is a 1969 Ford Galaxy that Jack Bramble purchased right off the lot at Johnnie Harper Ford. The City still has it. It is being restored and should be ready for anniversary functions in 2019.

Ms. Spaulding reported they are researching the creation of large number "50" for photo ops.

50th Anniversary Seal and Logo

Ms. Spaulding referenced the draft drawings of a celebratory seal and a logo for the marketing brand. Council input is desired.

Discussion followed.

Councilmember Dozeman remarked there isn't much mention of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society. She encouraged reaching out to them because they have an entire library of articles and memorabilia. They are a rich resource.

Councilmember Duran suggested reaching out to the WR Fire Department. They have their original truck.

For Councilmember Mathews, the badges will cost \$72.50 to those officers who choose to wear them, and they can keep them. They will be authorized for daily wear during that year. They will not be available to the public. Unit #1 is being stored at the evidence building.

Councilmember Urban suggested something that looks ahead to the next 50 years – such as planting 50 oak trees, so that residents 50 years from now can see how we celebrated.

Councilmember Pond said he supports the efforts and the logos.

Consensus votes were taken for the logos:

For the seal (1st page) A=1 vote B=5 votes

For the marketing banner logo (2nd page) A=3 B=3 C=0 Mayor Starker voted for B.

If Council has any other ideas they are welcome. And let them know of anyone who would like to participate.

Councilmember Dozeman noted that the Grange's WR Fire Department museum is just about finished.

Commander Lorentz reported that PD will also be striking a new challenge coin for this.

3. 2017 Code Enforcement Strategies/TLC update – Chief Brennan, Jim Lorentz

Commander Lorentz referenced the information that had been provided in the staff report and said he didn't want to repeat it. He added:

- PD is happy with the way code enforcement is going since changing to the administrative citation model in 2008. Several cities in Colorado have borrowed our model and adapted it to their city.
- We have 10 neighborhoods and 7 corridors that qualify as TLC areas. We've had success using carrots rather than sticks to get people on board.
- We've added hotel/motel inspection, greenbelt assessments, and dumpster days as proactive programs.

Councilmember Urban asked how to better deal with problem properties that go on and on. Commander Lorentz explained that we have to give people due process – it's in the Constitution. We have steps of warning, citation, and ultimately doing the abatement and sending them the bill. He also noted that when a new problem arises on the same property, the due process has to start all over.

Mr. Goff added that the City Attorney is meeting with staff this Friday to look at how to add teeth to the code for problem properties.

Councilmember Urban asked about notifying neighbors of legal steps that are being taken even though the property may still look bad. Chief Brennan said the CSO always follows up with the reporting party – but not the whole neighborhood. The idea behind the TLC programs is to get neighbors together and that is one way to keep them informed.

Councilmember Mathews suggested maybe we should let the court system know that we would like some teeth back in the system. The Chief noted that care must be taken not to taint the court process.

Chief Brennan addressed the employment challenges for code enforcement over the last 2 ½ years.

- We are currently on our third hiring process. 3 of the 7 positions are vacant.
- It takes a certain personality of officer to be a CSO.
- Our CSO's have 3 functions: code enforcement, animal control and parks enforcement.
- It's also been hard getting seasonal park rangers. Other cities are having this problem too.
- Two of our CSO's have gone on to become officers.

Chief Brennan asked if Council was ok with the staff recommendation to look at native grasses and artificial turf that some people are installing instead of live grass. There was consensus to explore that issue to see if code changes are needed.

4. Crime Update - Daniel Brennan

Chief Brennan advised up front that crime is up nationally (particularly violent crimes) and in Colorado violent crime and property crimes are up. In WR we have seen

increases in violent crime, property crimes and assaults (aggravated, simple, and sexual).

The Chief went through a Power Point presentation. Major points included:

- Type 1 Crimes (Violent & Property Crimes) were up in 2017 for the 3rd year in a row. Almost half of those are theft.
- He noted that a change in the definitions of assault and crimes vs the elderly have resulted in an increase in numbers.
- Sex assaults are up. Most are by persons who know the victim; a good number are by residents, patients or staff at LMC or other facilities. Only 4 were by strangers.
- Motor vehicle theft is up (326 in 2017)
- The number of violent crimes in WR increased by 100 offenses from 2016.
- The top 5 locations for Type 1 Violent Crimes were LMC 69, American Motel 64, King Soopers 43, Kipling Village 37, Safeway 37.
- 67 cases of elder abuse in 2017 (over half were financial abuse – theft, etc.)
- Type II Crimes had been trending down, but were up last year. (Domestic Disturbance is when no crime can be proven.)
- The most prevalent Type II Crimes are Domestic Disturbance (387), Domestic Violence (332), 1st Deg. Criminal Trespass (318), Vandalism (313), and Drug-related Violations (284).
- Offenses involving Domestic Violence increased 26% in 2017.
- Arrests for Alcohol were up, while offenses related to Meth, Marijuana, Heroin and Rx Drugs were down.
- In 2017 there were 41,633 calls for service, 13,110 case reports, 4,018 traffic summons, 1,906 arrests 1,754 traffic accidents. All of these numbers are down from 2016.
- We weren't fully staffed last year. Traffic citations were down because we had to pull traffic staff on to criminal cases. By end of year should be full strength.
- Response times for all levels of priority are about the same (5 minutes for Priority 1).

Questions followed.

- The Chief reviewed the difference between Domestic Violence and Domestic Disturbance.
- Increased training for officers in dealing with mental health issues has been positive and has changed response approaches in some cases.
- Coverage at the hospital is contracted at \$40/hour. Lutheran reimburses the City.
- How to deal with the area of the American Motel is an ongoing challenge. The Chief elaborated on some efforts that have been tried.
- The Chief gave some tips for the public on ways to decrease crime.

Chief Brennan gave a Power Point presentation on marijuana in the community -- 2017.

In schools

- Arrests up 6%, but charges decreased by 3% (i.e. more arrests, but fewer charges per arrest). Drug and alcohol incidents are about the same as 2016.
- No alcohol related charges at the high school last year -- all were marijuana related. 81% were for possession of marijuana; 19% were for drug paraphernalia. No other charges for controlled substances. 3 more marijuana arrests (34) in our schools.
- The School Resource Officers taught 81 classes on drug awareness and marijuana. The SRO's also attended 52 hours of training related to drugs and mental health.
- Charges related to controlled substances were normal.

In the community

- 19 juveniles arrested for drugs and alcohol. Alcohol went from 7 to 13; Marijuana went from 12 to 6; 1 was for DUI/DUD.
- 308 adults arrested for drugs and alcohol.
 - Does not include arrests made by the West Metro Drug Task Force
 - Top charges were controlled substances (127; 72% methamphetamine, but cocaine is on the rise) and DUI/DUID/DWAI (103)
- There were a number of tips about home grows, but all came into compliance. No marijuana was seized and no arrests were made.
- 12 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana. This was 10% of the DUI's.

At marijuana facilities

- 68 calls for service at dispensaries, which is an increase of 10%.
- 33% calls were alarms; 31% suspicious activity. Both types are a very small percentage of all calls for service in those two categories.
- About 1/3 of the calls for service were to Best Colorado Meds.
- Overall: 5 were burglaries; 4 were thefts; 3 were disturbances; no robberies.

Heroin in the community

- Heroin-related arrests were down from 50 to 28. Getting people in treatment seems to be helping.
- There were 167 calls for service referencing heroin (down slightly).
- 10 known heroin overdoses and 1 known death due to heroin.

Methamphetamine in the community

- There were 494 calls for service referencing meth (about the same as 2016).
- There were 115 meth-related arrests (down slightly)
- There were 2 known meth overdoses and no known deaths due to meth.

Council comments and questions followed.

- Related to the greenbelt -- Chief Brennan stated that homeless camps are not a significant issue; it's remained about the same. Commander Lorentz noted that

sleeping there may be attractive, but it's not a good place to camp because there are no close resources (water, food, etc.) to accommodate living there.

- Per the Chief, a more frequent complaint is bicyclists who speed in the greenbelt and put walkers at risk.
- PD has been dealing with people parking campers/RVs at Prospect Park and others.
- Marijuana facilities are doing a better job at making their disposed marijuana unusable so that their trash bins are not a magnet.
- Meth labs in houses are down. Most street meth comes from Mexico because it is cheaper to make down there.

6. Exemption from SB 05-152 Broadband – Patrick Goff

In 2005, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 152, which prohibits local governments from providing services for cable TV, telecommunications, and high speed internet, either directly or indirectly, unless authorized by the electorate.

SB 152 has been interpreted by some as prohibiting local governments from providing a wide spectrum of services, including such things as:

- Internet service in city libraries, parks and community centers;
- Leveraging government infrastructure and partnering with private businesses to provide affordable and high speed internet services throughout the community; and
- Direct provision of broadband services by municipal government where needed.

A voter approved exemption from SB 152 would restore local independence and the ability for the City to evaluate all possibilities for next generation broadband services in the City of Wheat Ridge.

Since the passage of SB 152, voters in 92 towns and cities and at least 25 counties have overwhelmingly approved measures to allow their local government to decide whether to offer broadband services to their residents.

Mr. Goff addressed the issue. Councilmember Fitzgerald requested this discussion.

Tim Fitzgerald spoke in favor of doing this.

- He believes it's time to get rid of this law, but that's not in our power. We can opt out.
- It would give us leverage with the cable companies.
- The current law benefits the cable companies.
- Our neighboring cities have all passed this. It would provide us with the opportunity to partner with other cities in the future.

Discussion followed.

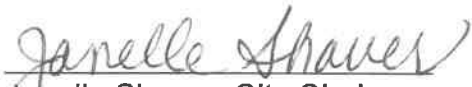
There was consensus to have the City Attorney prepare a ballot question for November.

7. Staff Report(s)

- 1) Mr. Goff reported that the group Together Colorado has requested that RTD create a Youth Pass (70% discount) for ages 13-19, an Under 12 Pass (free if accompanied by a paying rider) and a Low Income Pass. RTD is seeking letters of support. There was consensus to support this.
- 2) The School district wants to meet with us for dinner or coffee. Following discussion there was consensus to schedule a meeting that accommodates both schedules.

8. Elected Officials' Report(s) There were no reports

ADJOURNMENT: The Study Session adjourned at 9:02 p.m.


Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON August 13, 2018


Tim Fitzgerald, Mayor pro tem