

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue
September 28, 2020

Upon adjournment of the Regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Bud Starker called the Special Study Session to order at 7:18 p.m.

This meeting was conducted as a VIRTUAL MEETING.

No members of the Council or City staff were physically present at the Municipal building for this meeting; the public did not attend in person.

Mayor Starker welcomed the Council, other elected officials, staff and interested citizens.

The Mayor also explained the virtual meeting format, how citizens will have the opportunity to be heard, and the procedures and policies to be followed.

Council members present: Amanda Weaver, Judy Hutchinson, Zach Urban, Janeece Hoppe, Rachel Hultin, Korey Stites, Valerie Nosler Beck, and Leah Dozeman.

Also present: City Attorney Jerry Dahl; City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; City Manager Patrick Goff; Community Development Director, Ken Johnstone; Director of Administration Allison Scheck; Executive Director, Localworks, Kate Cooke, guests and interested citizens.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items –

No one came forward to speak.

Note about Wheat Ridge Speaks:

Citizens may visit the Wheat Ridge Speaks website and enter written comments of up to 1,000 words on any Council agenda item. The deadline for citizens to submit comments is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time on the day of a Council session so that Council members, other elected officials and City Staff have time to review the comments before the meeting on Monday evening.

The City Clerk's Office transcribes those Wheat Ridge Speaks comments into these minutes, placing each comment along with the record for that agenda item, including items that include a public hearing (verbatim, if the comments do not contain lascivious language or unlawful hate speech).

There were no citizen comments entered into Wheat Ridge Speaks related to this session.

1. Localworks Strategic Plan Update

Discussion began at 7:18 pm, approximately 0:28 minutes into the recording of the session.

Executive Director, Localworks, Kate Cooke gave a brief summary on key aspects of the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, which is now complete and formally adopted by the Board of Directors.

Those included in the overview were:

Principle One: Localworks is fiscally stable and healthy so as to deliver programs and weather all challenges.

Goal 1. We are fiscally nimble and are actively seeking to leverage our financial resources to create value for Localworks and the Wheat Ridge community.

Goal 2. We create partnerships that result in financial benefits for programs and the community.

Principle Two: Localworks is a resource for the community and the City by providing opportunities for engagement, volunteerism, connection and education.

Goal 1. We educate and empower our residents.

Goal 2. We invest in the community.

Goal 3. We connect and engage our residents.

Principle Three: Localworks is a resource for local businesses and the City through programs that provide opportunities for growth, promotion, positioning, and community connection.

Goal 1. We promote and support local businesses.

Goal 2. We invest in local businesses.

Goal 3. We celebrate and promote the unique identity of Wheat Ridge.

She concluded that to achieve the goals set forth in the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, Localworks will use funds from the investment account to create a community asset that creates value for Localworks and the Wheat Ridge community. We are just starting the work on this project and look forward to an exciting process as we undertake the next steps. We are looking at models across the state and the country that will allow for the development of a space where local businesses can grow. Localworks will also continue to use funds from the investment account to provide loans to local businesses to build up business in Wheat Ridge and provide loans to homeowners to enhance the existing housing stock.

We are excited to partner with the City of Wheat Ridge, our local businesses and the community to achieve this vision. Localworks has many passionate supporters in the community. Attached is a summary of the community support statements that were provided via the Wheat Ridge Speaks platform at the August 17th study session. These statements are indicative of the broad range of support that Localworks has established in the community through the effective delivery of programs that enhance, engage, and invest in Wheat Ridge.

As we move toward 2023, Localworks pledges to work in partnership with the community to leverage resources to create value in the community, utilize our financial assets to create fiscal stability, facilitate connections and collaboration, serve as a conduit of information and resources for all who live or work here, and unite and energize the community through effective engagement in order to advance Wheat Ridge as a vibrant and sustainable community.

Councilmembers had questions and comments:

Councilmembers asked for a financial statement showing income and expenditures for LocalWorks; Ms. Cooke agreed to send along the LocalWorks Form 990 recently filed with the IRS.

Councilmembers also had questions about the Midas Building at 38th and Wadsworth, recently acquired by the City as part of the ROW acquisitions for the Wadsworth widening and redesign.

Councilmember Hutchinson questioned how much budget support the organization should receive in light of our current financial situation, when neighborhood safety and other essential items are not in the budget.

Mr. Goff responded to her questions. He reported that the 2021 budget proposal includes finding for neighborhood safety.

Councilmembers had questions about the details of LocalWorks finances, including some real property the organization owned and has since sold and its pathway to self-sustainability for LocalWorks.

There were further, detailed questions and discussion of the total budget ask for 2021, the budget reduction LocalWorks proposes, and considerations in light of the local business climate. Councilmembers also discussed LocalWork's role and accomplishments, and the value it adds to Wheat Ridge businesses and their operations, especially during the past 6 months.

Councilmember Urban proposed a consensus to move forward with a study of the Midas property, its suitability for various future uses and costs to renovate for various artistic and office space purposes.

Consensus attained.

2. Staff Report(s)

Discussion began at 8:52 pm, approximately 18 minutes into the recording of the session

Nothing further at this time.

3. Elected Officials' Report(s)

Discussion of this item began at approximately 8:52 PM.

Councilmember Hoppe reported that local neighborhoods are beginning to engage in What's Up Wheat Ridge discussions. The first two neighborhoods involved are BelAir and Paramount Heights.


ADJOURNMENT

The Special Study Session adjourned at 8:54 pm.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON October 12, 2020.



Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk



Janeece Hoppe, Mayor Pro Tem