

STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
Virtual Meeting
October 5, 2020

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

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

Also present: City Attorney Jerry Dahl; City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; City Treasurer, Chris Miller; City Manager Patrick Goff; Community Development Director, Ken Johnstone; Director of Administration Allison Scheck; Director of Parks and Recreation, Karen O'Donnell; Judge Christopher Randall, Municipal Court; Director Facilities and Public Works Greg Knudson; Assistant to the City Manager, Marianne Schilling; guests and interested citizens.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items –

Kelsey Robb, 3460 Quay St. came to speak for LocalWorks (She is the chair of the LocalWorks Board.) When Wheat Ridge 2020 was adopted, with the idea that LocalWorks would become self-sustaining by 2020, Wheat Ridge was a very different place those 15 years ago. Working toward that goal of self-sustainability is still part of the strategic plan for LocalWorks as Council knows from the documents submitted with our budget request, and our presentation to Council recently. We hope the City will continue to support our LocalWorks network of programs.

Mayor asked if there was anyone who had not spoken regardless of their last name. No one else came forth.

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).

No comments appeared in Wheat Ridge Speaks for this session of Council.

1. 2021 Proposed Budget

Discussion began at 6:33 pm, approximately 0:03 minutes into the recording of the session.

Staff report

Mr. Goff brought this item forward and gave an extensive report on the 2021 budget issues, some of those items include but were not limited to:

- A General Fund budget in the amount of \$37,608,550
- An unrestricted fund balance of \$9,383,958 or 25% of expenditures
- A General Fund transfer of \$1,300,000 to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- A 11.5% decrease in the General Fund budget compared to the adjusted 2020 Budget
- Proposed CIP Fund in the amount of \$13,872,662
- Proposed 2E Fund in the total amount of \$3,497,600
- Special Revenue Funds in the amount of \$4,531,986
- Proposed budget (all funds) in the amount of \$59,510,798

With an overall summary that the total 2021 Proposed Budget, including the General Fund, the CIP Fund, seven special revenue funds, and the 2E Investing 4 the Future Bond Fund, is \$59,510,798. The Budget is based on projected revenues of \$56,681,062. The beginning fund balance for 2021 is projected at \$25,860,836 which brings the total available funds to \$82,541,898. This will provide for a projected ending fund balance of \$23,031,100.

A lengthy and detailed presentation followed, during which Mr. Goff and the executive management team presented the details of our budget proposal for 2021.

He thanked the staff for their frugal yet effective performance during the pandemic public health emergency. He also reported that Wheat Ridge received a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the professional organization of municipal finance managers and treasurers.

Councilmembers had questions and comments:

How will the revenues lost during the pandemic rebound? For example, specifically, how quickly will the recreation fees return to their previous levels?

Mr. Goff explained that the budget projects the same level of revenue as now through at least the first half of fiscal/calendar 2021.

There were other, similar and specific questions about other items in the proposed budget, both revenue and expenditures.

Councilmembers thanked all of those who have worked on the budget issues up to now, and in the future. They expressed appreciation for the conservative budget proposed for 2021 given the uncertainties the City faces due to the pandemic, global economic environment and political turmoil.

Councilmember Urban asked for a consensus for council to instruct staff to move forward with the 2021 budget as proposed.

Consensus attained.

2. Staff Report(s)
Nothing further.

3. Elected Officials' Report(s)

Councilmembers Stites and Weaver will hold a District III meeting Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 AM at Louise Turner Park.

Councilmembers again thanked staff for their hard work, not only on the budget but also during this trying year.

Councilmember Hultin thanked staff for the Boards and Commission recognition event held Tuesday, September 29.

ADJOURNMENT

The Study Session adjourned at 9: pm.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON October 12, 2020.



Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk



Janeece Hoppe, Mayor Pro Tem