

CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

REGULAR MEETING NO. 2008-14

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008

MINUTES

Mr. Loui Antonucci, City Council President, called Regular Meeting No. 2008-14 of the Steamboat Springs City Council to order at 5:07pm, Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in Centennial Hall, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

City Council Members present: Loui Antonucci, Cari Hermacinski, Meg Bentley, Steve Ivancie, Walter Magill, Scott Myller, and Jon Quinn.

City Staff Members present: Alan Lanning, City Manager; Wendy DuBord, Deputy City Manager; Anthony B. Lettunich, City Attorney; Julie Franklin, Deputy City Clerk; Lisa Rolan, Director of Financial Services; John Eastman, Planning Services Manager; Tom Leeson, Director of Planning Services; Philo Shelton, Director of Public Works; Janet Hruby, City Engineer; Bob Keenan, City Planner; Linda Kakela, Intergovernmental Services; Chris Wilson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; and Rich Brown, Police Sergeant.

NOTE: All documents distributed at the City Council meeting are on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- 1. PROCLAMATION: A proclamation recognizing the Middle School students and Yampa Valley Recycles for funding for the Community Drop-off Recycling Center – the “Green Machine”.**

Council Member Ivancie read the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Greg Johnson, Strawberry Park Middle School teacher, was present to accept the proclamation.

JOINT MEETING WITH ROUTT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioners present: Diane Mitsch Bush, Doug Monger and Nancy Stahoviak.

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County Staff present: Tom Sullivan, County Manager.

2. Livability Index.

Ms. Noreen Moore, Routt County Economic Development Committee (RCEDC), introduced Roger Good. He spoke to the need to develop an index of things that the citizens feel are important and decide how to measure them. He provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following: livability index; key elements; value; timeframe; year 1 baseline; roll out; composite 10-County index; civic factors; composite civic index; economic factors; composite economic index; environmental components; composite environmental index; social components; composite social index; livability dashboard; year two and beyond improvements; category specific improvements; and 100% local based development.

Discussion took place relative, but not limited to: the long term plan for sustaining the index; how the categories are weighted; and the potential for changing the weighting factors in the future.

3. Regional Economic Strategic Plan. (5:30- 6pm)

Commissioner Stahoviak noted the need to decide how to move forward on implementing this Community Plan action item. Council and the Commissioners also need to decide what the region is, what other entities and municipalities need to be involved, and how to move forward?

City Council President Antonucci asked if Oak Creek, Yampa and Hayden still interested in being involved. Stahoviak stated that these municipalities need to be contacted again regarding this.

Discussion took place relative, but not limited to: outreach to Moffat County and Craig; and the energy business in Moffat County.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski stated that the City Council needs to discuss how it wants to move forward, but feels that the strategy should include all of Routt County and the Community Plan should reflect what is decided for our future vision.

Commissioner Stahoviak also spoke to timing, asking if the Economic Development Council can move forward with a regional plan at the same time that the City is deciding what it wants?

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City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski feels that the City and County staff need to communicate regarding vision and resources, and Council/Commissioners need to discuss that.

Discussion took place relative, but not limited to: Sports Complex/Triple Crown; and sustainability.

Council Member Quinn suggested moving forward with Phase 1, while continuing the conversation on Phase 2.

Discussion commenced on Phase 1B, specifically what is the fee and what has been done.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski stated that the memo needs to be updated with current costs and tasks.

Council Member Bentley suggested having all Economic Development Council staffs let Council/Commissioners know who they are and what their vision is, and then compile all that information into one document.

City Council President Antonucci noted the need to look at what is in the Community Area Plan and reaffirm that that is still the direction the City/County wants to go. He stated that some goals have been outdated.

DIRECTION: Mr. Lanning and Mr. Sullivan sit down with Ms. Moore to go through the memo and come up with a recommendation of how to move forward and who to include. RCEDC to further communicate with other communities.

Next meeting: County host, City Clerk to contact the County regarding a date in June.

CITY COUNCIL REVIEW TOPICS

4. Downtown Streetscape revitalization. (6:00-6:30pm)

Jamie Archambeau and Darren Event, PBS&J, were present.

Ms. Archambeau provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following: key user groups; vehicle user group; alternatives considered; recommendations; transit user group; recommendation; pedestrian user group; recommendations; bicycle user group; and recommendations.

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Discussion took place relative, but not limited to: having a striped bike lane on 7th Street rather than 5th Street, or in addition to; net loss of parking spaces; conversion of a portion of 3rd Street to a one lane road; concern with taking the signal away at 8th Street; and solutions for 13th Street.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Don Iken voiced concern with the coordination between the City and State relative to the Highway 40 repaving.

Return to the Downtown Streetscape Revitalization topic.

Council Member Magill supports the bike lanes but voiced concern with the loss of parking.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski is not as concerned with the loss of parking and would like an additional bike lane on 7th Street. She supports the Plan. Council Member Myller agrees.

City Council President Antonucci also agrees regarding the bike lane, but is concerned with the loss of parking.

Council Member Ivancie voiced concern with the loss of parking and the one way on 3rd Street, but generally supports the Plan.

Council Member Magill questioned the funding for this project. Shelton stated that staff needs to research the scope and add a cost to each item.

Council Member Bentley questioned adding a light at 3rd and Oak. Archambeau stated that the spacing is too short and the back ups would impact Lincoln Avenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jerry Kozach noted that one of his “pet peeves” is that Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) only allows people 22 seconds to cross Lincoln Avenue. He feels that this is not enough.

Mr. Ron Krall is concerned with the loss of parking and moving the traffic light from 8th Street to 11th Street.

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Mr. John Fielding spoke to the conflict between using Highway 40 as a major corridor and using it as an enhanced pedestrian area. He encouraged Council to look into by-pass options.

Mr. Towny Anderson, Mainstreet Steamboat Springs, voiced concern with removing the light at 8th Street because it is the heart of downtown, however, he feels that people will adapt. He feels that having a light at 11th Street is important. He stated that striped bike lanes and reducing parking is very sensitive for business owners and feels that the City needs to coordinate the bike lanes with parking elsewhere. He spoke to the issue of paving with asphalt versus concrete, stating that concrete has longer life but it makes a lot of noise. He encouraged Council to look toward the overarching goal of pedestrian friendliness balanced with traffic.

Mr. Tom Simmons supports the one-way on 3rd Street, as well as the pedestrian and bike lanes. He supports moving the traffic light and encouraged Council to be visionary.

Mr. Bill Jameson noted the need to address the parking issue separately; and also that the plan does not address that Lincoln Avenue is too narrow to accommodate all the proposed uses.

Mr. Shelton stated that staff would like to work with CDOT to “scope out” the impacts of the paving project and come back with a budget from that.

Council Member Myller spoke to eliminating left turn lanes and noted that parked cars offer a barrier between pedestrians and traffic.

Discussion commenced on eliminating parking on Lincoln Avenue.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski suggested a summer trial of turning the parking lane into a bus and bike lane. She also would like to consider kiosk paid parking on Lincoln Avenue, with the money going toward streetscape improvements.

Council Member Bentley agrees regarding the paid parking.

5. CDOT presentation Lincoln Avenue repaving concrete versus asphalt.

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Mr. Van Pilaud, CDOT Region 3 Resident Engineer, was present and provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following: US 40 resurfacing project; project limits; construction budget; schedule; roadway section; construction of

concrete; roadway section – finished concrete; other successful concrete paving projects; accident data; common project issues; and construction.

Discussion took place relative, but not limited to: that doing two blocks at a time would take approximately two weeks construction time (not including curing time); an optimal parking lane is 10-12 feet; soils testing; in-lay striping; one way couplets on Yampa and Oak; increased noise; studded snow tires; and the field inspection review (FIR) schedule.

Council Member Magill asked if this should be “fast tracked” because it is a critical issue.

Council Member Ivancie supports repaving with concrete but would like to “minimize the pain” by getting it over with as quickly as possible with as little impact as possible.

Shelton would like to do other projects in conjunction with the repaving like: bulb outs, light relocation, conduit at signals, and drainage improvement.

Shelton would like to meet with CDOT for scoping in June and then have another meeting with Council before the field inspection review in October.

Mr. Pilaud clarified that at that October FIR date, Council is locked in to what it has decided to do.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT: Leave the lane striping section as is. The surfacing will be concrete.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one appeared for public comment.

Council Member Bentley would like to see the work done in a manner that minimizes complexity, and is in favor of having the work done at night.

Mr. Pilaud noted that with night work, the City would need to address the fact that batch plant permits are issued during the day. **DIRECTION:** City Clerk to place this topic on the next joint meeting agenda with the County Commissioners.

Council Member Ivancie noted the need to work with business and the community to educate them on what is coming.

6. Budget process overview.

The following PowerPoint presentation was provided in Council's packet, but not presented at the meeting: building and visioning the future of Steamboat Springs; overview; City Legal structure and authority; form of government; volunteer Boards of the City; City services; budget philosophy and process; the vision; the goal; budget 101; flow of budgeting; how to read the budget; budget calendar; economic factors; facts; in Colorado; in Steamboat Springs; economic impact; financial structure and guidelines; goals; fund structure; definitions; tax structure; charges for services and fees; fund balance/reserves; types of fund balance; best financial management; Why are we here?; the future of Steamboat Springs; sales and use tax trend; restraints; priorities; FY 09 budget realities; changes to strengthen operations; What if and how to?; and questions to ask.

Ms. Rolan noted the need to know Council's goal regarding reserves, in the past Council went with 15 percent. She noted the need to look at your area, but she thinks the City needs to increase its reserves to 25 percent. She also feels that Council needs to revisit the enterprise funds and also needs to explore all the options with respect to sales tax and property tax.

Discussion commenced on how much of the reserves should be restricted and unrestricted.

DIRECTION: Staff to gather the studies previously done regarding the need for a property tax, including the Tax Policy Advisory Board report.

Ms. Rolan asked if Council if they support the target of 25 percent unrestricted reserves. Council Member Ivancie would like to move in that direction. Council Member Quinn agrees with 25 percent. He spoke to not increasing the burden on the tax payer but stabilizing the tax base by lowering the sales tax and adding a property tax.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski suggested considering a luxury accommodation tax.

Council Member Magill feels that the goal of 25% is great, but Council has to be realistic.

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DIRECTION: Staff to work in the direction of 25 percent unrestricted reserves and bring different scenarios back to Council. Staff to provide a historical cash flow to include the last two recessions, and analysis on the City's sales tax.

Discussion commenced on the amount of community support and the need to look at the policy for community support this year.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski feels that Council should notify the groups who receive community support money that this is discretionary money and may be decreased if necessary.

Council Member Myller feels that 25 percent seems "a little lofty".

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bill Jameson stated that if Council wants to pass a property tax, the community needs to understand where that money will go. The community will not support it if it is just an effort to generate more revenue.

Council Member Reports:

Council Member Ivancie:

1. Noted that the last in the Bark Beetle series this May 15, 2008 at Olympian Hall.

City Council President Pro-Tem Hermacinski:

1. Stated that Ed Mumm, with Dig This, would like to host Council at no charge. **DIRECTION:** Ms. Jordan to look into scheduling at the end of May or the beginning of June.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Ivancie moved and Council Member Quinn seconded to adjourn Regular Meeting 2008-14 at approximately 9:52pm. The motion carried 7/0.

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MINUTES PREPARED AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Julie Franklin

Julie Franklin, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

REVIEWED AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Julie Jordan

Julie Jordan, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF June, 2008.