

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – July 26, 2013

Mayor Schlager called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. with the following members present: Councilmen Goodenough, Meyers, Bertoglio, Powell and Sandoval. Councilmen Hedquist, Cathey and Hopkins were absent.

The City Manager updated the Council on the following items:

1. NIMS Training for Community Leaders to be held on October 29, 2013, for the City Council at a special work session. This training is strongly recommended by the Division of Homeland Security.
2. An Assessment Center will be held today for the finalists for the position of Executive Assistant in the City Manager's Office.
3. Metro Animal Control will be sending out a Request For Proposal for design services to remodel the Animal Shelter. Funding for this project will come from the undesignated reserves in the Metro Animal Control Fund.
4. The City Manager has been approached by downtown property owners regarding the possibility of working with the City to develop a loan program to provide funding for code upgrades to older buildings to allow them to be placed back into productive use. Council agreed that staff should continue to investigate the possibility of developing such a program.
5. The Police Department will be conducting an active shooter drill at Casper College on Sunday, July 28th.
6. An application for TAP funds will be coming forward at the next Council meeting in conjunction with the Platte River Parkway Trust to fund the extension of the pathway on Robertson Road. The request will be for \$350,000 state funds, and it will require the City to provide \$80,000 in matching funds from the amount set aside in 1%#14 for trails and pathways. Staff has been working on the project which proposed a bridge to connect the pathway on the south side of the river with a new path on the north side. Research shows that currently there exists a fishing easement on the north side which could accommodate the pathway and could be built along the river to connect to Robertson Road. A proposal may be brought to the Parkway Trust Board for their input, which would include support for applying for future TAP funds to construct the connecting bridge, estimated to cost \$640,000. The revenue from the sale of the lots on the City's property could help to fund the bridge and match a state grant. Council indicated support for staff to continue to work on this lower cost proposal for making the connection at the new location.
7. The Community Development Department is considering bringing forward a recommendation to amend the fees structure for planning and zoning applications to include an amount to cover the costs of any annexation requests. Currently annexations are not charged a fee, even though the City must meet statutory requirements for publication and recording that can be as much as \$700. Council supported bringing this change forward.
8. Two alley vacations will be coming forward, and staff would like to place them directly on a regular Council Meeting since both have been discussed with the Council in the past. The first is the vacation of the alley between the College Heights Baptist Church and the old Garfield Elementary School Building, which has been purchased by the Church and

will be remodeled for a new Church building. The second was an alley between Spruce and Oak Streets that will be part of the NCHS swing space building site. Council indicated support for bringing these requests forward.

At 7:30 a.m. it was moved by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Sandoval to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and potential litigation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At 8:00 a.m. Councilman Meyers left the meeting.

At 8:10 a.m. it was moved by Councilman Bertoglio, seconded by Councilman Sandoval to adjourn the Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.