

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION – June 25, 2013

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with all members present except Councilmen Sandoval and Cathey.

The first presentation on the agenda was from Jessica Tresch, Intern in the City Manager's Office, regarding proposed changes in the process for Community Promotions. Jessica explained that the plan was to include an additional step in the process which would start with a vote sheet to allow Council to determine whether the application met the criteria for Community Promotions. The sample sheet includes five questions which were pulled from the Guidelines. Council members would answer the questions for each proposal and only those who received at least 3 affirmative answers would progress to the next step in the process. Council agreed to incorporate the new vote sheet into the process.

Councilman Sandoval joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

David Hough introduced the crew leader for the Wyoming Conservation Corps representatives who are currently working in Casper with the Platte River Parkway Trust and the City of Casper. Projects which are being addressed include improving the picnic area located adjacent to the trail and the river between the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge and the Railroad right-of-way. Another project will involve constructing a trail that connects Adams Park in the City to the adjacent greenway along a drainage area. Council thanked the group for their efforts and suggested this partnership should continue.

Angela Emery and Keith Tyler presented a proposal for an extension of the Platte River Parkway Trails system which would cross the river at Begonia Park in Paradise Valley and extend west to Robertson Road. The proposal would include funding from a private donor in the amount of \$200,000, allocation from the sale of City property estimated to be \$200,000 and a WYDOT TAP Grant in the amount of \$350,000 for a total of \$750,000. Engineering estimates for this project were \$1,276,033 which left a shortfall of more than \$500,000. The timeline was pushed because of the deadline for applying for the TAP Grant. After an extensive discussion regarding the value of this project and the potential of finding additional funding, Council asked that the Parkway Board consider another approach that would keep the possibility of this extension moving forward but not require a commitment from the Council at this time. Mr. Tyler indicated that the Board had considered applying for the TAP funds to complete the proposed underpass and access along Robertson Road which would be important for the future extension of the pathway to the west. Council agreed to provide the matching funds for the TAP Grant for the Robertson Road project if the Board was successful in securing the grant. They also encouraged Mr. Tyler to continue to seek the easement needed to support the bridge project in the future and asked that this project be brought back for further discussion when more information regarding the costs and funding possibilities could be obtained.

Mayor Schlager left the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Meyer presided.

Pete Meyers was introduced to lead the discussion on the possible changes in the designated truck routes in Casper. Council agreed to add 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Beverly to Wyoming Boulevard

and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Wyoming Boulevard to Hat Six Road to the current truck routes, and to continue to look at other options for directing truck traffic on the East side of Casper. The Council wanted to discuss these options at a future meeting when the two missing Councilmembers from Ward III were present to participate in the discussion.

Jolene Martinez led the discussion regarding the North Platte River Restoration Master Plan. The Plan calls for a total investment of \$13 million in improvements to the Platte River as it flows through Casper. Jolene introduced Angela Emery with the Platte River Parkway Trust, Al Condor with Wyoming Game and Fish, Cary Bruce with the Two Fly Foundation, and Joe Meyer with the Bureau of Land Management who all spoke in support of the Master Plan. Council thanked the staff and volunteers for the work that has been done on the River Revival and the Master Plan. They indicated their support for moving forward with implementation of the plan and reminded staff that they had approved a \$500,000 allocation for the first phase of the implementation in the FY2014 budget.

David Hill, Casper Public Utilities Manager, presented a proposal to Council for improvements to the Zone III Water System infrastructure. He explained that the request would be to file an application with the Wyoming Water Development Commission for a 67% Grant to fund this project. When completed the improvements would support an additional 1500 acres and 4200 residential lots for future development. The project cost is estimated at \$5.3 million. If the grant is approved the state would provide \$3.55 million and the City would be responsible for \$1.75 million. Council gave their support for moving forward with this application.

The City Manager reminded Council of the informational meetings which were scheduled for Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers on the Platte River Restoration Master Plan. He also noted that the next work session is scheduled for Friday, June 28, 2013 at 7:00 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.