

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – October 22, 2013

Mayor Schlager called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Councilmen Bertoglio, Meyer and Goodenough, Councilmen Sandoval, Hedquist, Powell, Hopkins and Cathey.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Peg Ingram on the redesign of Gosfield Addition #4. The Planning Commission had approved the proposed subdivision but based on the input from neighboring property owners on Arden Lane Ms. Ingram has made a slight change in the size of the lots which face the Country Club and reduced the open space to accommodate the desires of the neighbors. Craig Collins noted that the changes which have been made did not change the density of the subdivision and were minimal which would not require a reconsideration by the Planning Commission. Ms. Ingram noted that she has some concerns regarding the City's requirement for redevelopment of County Club Road on the south side of her property and would like to delay the improvements until more of the lots have been sold. She intends to begin selling lots on the north side of the subdivision to gauge what the market will demand at this time. Council thanked Ms. Ingram for working with the neighbors and asked that staff continue to work with her on the subdivision agreement regarding street improvements.

Peter Nicolaysen spoke on behalf of the property owners on Arden Lane and noted that they were happy with the changes which have been made in this proposal. They have some concerns with the improvement of Country Club Road and would like to be included in those discussions.

Council asked if any of the property owners have talked with the County Commissioners about Country Club Road which is currently located in the County. Neither group had approached the County Commissioners at this time.

City Manager Patterson introduced David Hough, Special Projects Coordinator for Community Development, who introduced Mike Hentz the consultant on the Paths, Trails and Bikeways Study that is being conducted by MPO. Mr. Hentz presented the preliminary report on the findings in the study. Council thanked him for the presentation and agreed that it should be moved forward to the MPO Policy Committee for final action.

City Manager Patterson presented the applications received from local nonprofits for unallocated capital funds from 1%#13. A total of 9 applications had been received. It appeared that two (2) of the applications did not meet the criteria established by Council; so the Casper Community Greenhouse Project, and the Wyoming Food For Thought Project were removed from consideration. The Salvation Army project appeared to qualify for funding from the Façade Grant Program in CDBG and will be referred to that process. The National Historic Trail Center Museum, and the Casper Mountain Biathlon Club were both denied based on the evaluation that they are not a pressing need at this time. The four remaining applications were discussed and Council determine that Mercer Family Resource Center, Joshua's Storehouse and Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies were moved forward for full funding of their requests. The applications from the Casper Housing Authority was held for further consideration with a request for additional information. Staff was directed to meet with the Housing Authority staff to determine if there would be a way to provide funding for the apartment building redevelopment

to handle the asbestos, lead paint and Bed Bugs mitigation, and then make it available for a private investor.

Tracey Belser, HR Director, presented the request from Human Resources for funding to conduct a specialized compensation study for the City of Casper. Council discussed the pros and cons of doing a compensation study and determined that it was a reasonable proposal to gather information for consideration in a future budget discussions.

Linda Witko, Assistant City Manager, presented an update to the City Council on the proposal for a process to educate the public about the upcoming Optional 1% Sales Tax issue. Council provided some suggestions with regard to the Citizen Survey and encouraged the staff to move forward with the process. 1%#15 will be voted on in November of 2014.

City Manager Patterson introduced Kim Summerall-Wright, Executive Director for the Casper Housing Authority, who presented an update to the Council on the Crisis of Homelessness in Casper. Council asked several questions regarding how to invest public dollars in creating more housing without a dependence on funding from the Federal Government. Ms. Summerall-Wright noted that most Housing Authorities were able to leverage their positions in the housing market to acquire units that were not tied to Federal dollars or Federal control. Council expressed support for the concept of mixed housing with some units of affordable housing located within buildings that have market rate housing as well in order to avoid having buildings which were entirely low income residents. Kim discussed programs which the Housing Authority is working on to try and improve the self-sufficiency of their clients and make subsidized housing a temporary solution rather than a permanent stop. Council thanked Kim for her presentation and asked that she continue to work with staff on finding ways to improve the housing stock in Casper.

At 7:55 p.m. the Mayor adjourned the Work Session.