

MINUTES

April 28, 2021

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL | 160 SIXTH AVE. E. 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Smith, and Council Members: Jeff Miller, Dr. Jennifer Hensley, and Lyndsey Simpson

Staff Present: City Manager John F. Connet, Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle, City Attorney Angela Becker, City Clerk Angela Reece, Communications Manager Allison Justus, and others

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Volk called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with all members in attendance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Discussion Regarding Bronze Statute Placement on Main Street – *Barbara G. Volk, Mayor*

Mayor Barbara G. Volk updated City Council regarding placement of bronze statutes on Main Street referring to requests received by Mayor J. Carey O’Cain from the late Tom Orr. Mayor Volk stated the matter was referred to the Downtown Committee who are looking at a policy regarding public art placement on Mainstreet. Mayor Volk stated Mayor O’Cain was in agreement with the suggestion.

B. Budget Clarification – Special Appropriations- *Brian Pahle, Assistant City Manager*

City Manager John Connet recommend removing the special appropriation process from the FY 21-21 Budget process and proposed consideration of non-profit funding requests during the month of July to allow staff to fully understand the requirements of the American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds which are being allocated to municipalities. Manager Connet proposed creating a special process to vet applications utilizing City Council Goals, Objectives, and Core Values as criteria to judge funding a request. Manager Connet clarified the ARP funding must be spent by December 31, 2024 and asked for feedback from City Council. Council Members agreed with staff suggestions and agreed to hold a special meeting on July 14th at 4:00 p.m. in the City Operations Center located at 305 Williams St. to discuss special appropriations.

C. Stormwater Utility Ordinance & Policy – *Michael Huffman, Stormwater Administrator*

Stormwater Administrator Mike Huffman presented and discussed the proposed Stormwater Utility Ordinance including fee structures and exemptions. Mr. Huffman clarified responsibilities for maintaining infrastructure outside of the City’s right of way and discussed specific instances in which this may be warranted where stormwater runoff leaves City right of way and flows onto private property. City Attorney Angela Becker clarified funding for the drainage assistance program is only available to the extent that it is budgeted. Mr. Huffman presented and discussed the proposed Stormwater Management Utility Service Charges and Credit Policy which outlines guidelines for eligibility and credits. Mr. Huffman stated if a nonresidential property has a stormwater control mechanism that is maintained and functioning properly, they may receive a 50% credit on their stormwater service charge per month. Mr. Huffman clarified that property owners must apply to receive this credit Council Member Dr. Jennifer Hensley proposed having the \$50.00 application fee to be credited toward the applicants next monthly stormwater service charge if approved. City Council members agreed and directed staff to amend the proposed policy to reflect this.

Mr. Huffman further discussed the proposed Stormwater Service Charge Fee Schedule as outlined below. City Attorney Angela Becker clarified this schedule would be included in the annual fee schedule as adopted within the Budget Ordinance.

hiring additional IT positions including an in-house IT Director and Application and Database Managers while continuing to utilize VC3 to provide a strong infrastructure and other critical resources. Assistant Manager Pahle discussed providing options for community engagement recalling the recent fiber buildout completion and stated the City has taken a lead in providing better access to broadband for citizens.

Assistant Manager Pahle clarified the focus areas were part of a coordinated approach to full implementation of this plan over a three-year period and said an IT Director Position was not requested in the FY21-22 Budget. City Council Member Jerry Smith stated he feels like waiting to implement an IT Director may not be prudent and said he feels like this is a form of protection and stated he feels the City Council owes this to the Citizens to protect its assets. Council Member Dr. Jennifer Hensley stated she would like to talk about having an IT Director during the budget workshops. Council Member Jeff Miller stated he supports the plan but would like to see optimization of the plan and what it will look like with workgroup recommendations.

City Manager John Connet stated the key point to having an IT Director is the position serving as an in-house liaison between staff, City Council and VC3, who will identify IT needs, evaluate software options, and assist with coordinating efforts within the organization. Manager Connet agreed with Council Member Miller and stated this position is a significant need but is not mission critical at this time and suggested taking the next year to prepare a job description and budget for it as this is something that would be hard to implement by July 1st. Council Members agreed with the City Manager's recommendation.

3. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m. upon unanimous assent of the Council.


Barbara G. Volk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Angela L. Reece, City Clerk