

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
March 15, 2021
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Michael Postma, Oballa Oballa and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert and Police Chief David McKichan

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Library Director Julie Clinefelter and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Honorary Council Member Teresa Lugo, Austin Daily Herald, Tim Ruzek

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Waste Water Treatment Plant Update

Public Works Director Steven Lang provided an update on the progress of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He stated the project needs to be designed and reviewed by the end of July for the permit from the State. He stated the purpose of the presentation is to show where the funds for the project are going to be used for. He added that the City has received \$7.45 million so far from the legislature. He provided a map of the proposed improvements and digital renderings of the proposed facilities.

Mr. Lang stated the project will be delayed until 2022 to try to gain additional funding from the legislature. He stated there is a risk that the City would not receive the grants in 2022. He added that eventually we would have to start the project because the plant is having trouble meeting demand.

Mr. Clark added that the City would not likely go after federal earmarks on the project because of the small amount of funding and the low likelihood of receipt of the funds.

Mr. Dankert noted that interest rates are looking to be low long-term.

Mayor King spoke in favor of waiting until 2022 to see if the City can obtain additional funding.

For Council information only; no action needed at this time.

Item No. 2 – Rezoning of “Post Office” Area

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a proposed area to be rezoned between 1st Street SW, 4th Street SE, Oakland Avenue and 4th Avenue SE. She stated the area would be rezoned to R-O designation to increase development potential for uses allowed in that area including single family homes, apartments, business and professional offices.

She stated the matter will need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to Council making a decision on the matter.

For Council information only; no action needed at this time.

Item No. 3 - Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Council retreat will be on March 22nd with Julie Tesch as a presenter.

Item No. 4 – Open Discussion

The Council discussed the allocation of the Park and Rec maintenance employees at the Nature Center. Mayor King stated he has met with Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson about the issue.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk