

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
APRIL 28, 2021
6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Work Session Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for April 28, 2021 to order at 6:00PM

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Lisa Iverson, Linda Nanko Yeager, Brett Ohnstad, Dennis Schilling, and Claire Luger

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Robb Linwood, City Administrator, Kelly Dumais, Assistant City Administrator, Paul Hoppe - Public Safety Director, Mark Erichson, City Engineer, Fred Weck, Zoning Administrator/Building Official and Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent; Jonathan Loose, Wold Architects; Jean McCann, Abdo, Eick, and Meyers

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Mayor Iverson – Read aloud a statement explaining that the Council is meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained that tonight's meeting would be held according to State Statute 13D.021, will be live streamed on the City's YouTube page, and will be recorded as part of the public record on the City's website.

1. To continue discussion regarding financial impacts of facilities and street CIP in relation to the City's long term plan.

City Administrator Linwood discussed at the April 7th, 2021 Wyoming City Council work session Wold Architects had a presentation that continued discussions on priorities and options for existing or planning for new facilities. Wold Architects provided analysis that focused on option analysis, facility projected need, short and long term priorities, historical cost data and financial estimates of options and financial impacts. Mr. Linwood went summarized the options for the Public Safety Facility, City Hall and Public Works. He then discussed with the council the total estimated costs of the facilities and costs per square footage. It was also discussed some of the components of construction inflation and the impacts of doing projects now and later. The council was able to review the high level financial impacts of the cost of the facilities.

City Administrator Linwood then gave an overview of the City's Street Improvement Program, 5 Year CIP, maintenance program, city streets completed since 2014, cash flow analysis and the introduction of the long term plan. City Administrator explained that the draft long term plan has been updated for council review. Some of the highlights of the plan are as follows:

- The General fund tax levy is set to cover the cost of operations and is projected to increase 3.50 percent annually.
- The issuance of bonds is projected for Facilities in 2023 and 2025 and for Street Replacement in 2025. To repay these bonds, the first tax levy increase is projected in 2023. The 2009A bond is fully repaid in 2025 and the reduction of this payment helps to offset the increase in tax levy for the 2023A bond issue.
- Total taxes levied is projected to increase from \$4.4 million to \$6.5 million over the duration of this Plan. The anticipated increase in tax capacity will offset some of this

increase in terms of future projected tax rate which is estimated at 43.31 percent in 2021 increasing to 51.23 percent in 2025.

- The total cash position of the City is projected to decrease from \$15.3 million (2019 actual) to \$7.4 million (2025 Estimated) as cash reserves are utilized for capital needs.
- The Plan showed an option and implementation of franchise fees in 2021. In 2021, 3 months of revenue are included. The fees are projected to provide approximately \$290,337 funding annually for street improvement projects. For comparative purposes, Franchise fees were compared to the property tax levy for impacts. If a property tax levy is used rather than Franchise fees, the impact to the median valued home is a 2022 property tax increase of \$73. The impact to a residential customer using franchise fees is \$63 on an annual basis

Jean McCann – President AEM – Ms. McCann talked about the long term plan in greater detail and talked about how potential debt would impact the city. She discussed the general fund over the length of the plan and the growth of the tax capacity. The tax capacity assumptions are based on growth and estimated conservatively. She went on to identify the health of funds and how we identify those in the plan.

The Council had questions regarding the plan. Mayor Iverson wanted to let the public know that we are just reviewing projected numbers and we are looking forward and have not voted on any plan moving forward. The Council had questions ranging from the sale of city property, if we had an open portion of city hall at the plan how it could be reused in the future. Council asked if there was staff additions in the plan. If there would be any new utility bonds issued. The council had questions regarding assessments for street project 10 years vs. 15 years. Questions about a storm siren in the CIP. Staff stated that there were some updates in the plan that were necessary as we moved forward in 2021. Questions about the age of existing city facilities. Chief Hoppe went through some of the deficiencies at the current Police department facility. The current long term plan does not include the potential addition of new businesses in the tax capacity.

Jonathan Loose from Wold Architects discussed that the next steps would be to evaluate if the council would like to look at design for the projects and the schedule.

After considerable discussion it was asked what direction the council would like to see with the project and look at design.

Council Member Nanko Yeager – Would like to see a scaled back design that is more affordable.

Council Member Ohnstad – Was in favor to move forward

Council Member Schilling – Was in favor of moving forward and looking at design

Council Member Luger – Was in favor of moving forward

Mayor Iverson - Was in favor of looking at potential design

2. American Rescue Plan Act Discussion

City Administrator Linwood discussed that the Treasury still has not given complete guidance on these funds. He did give a summary of what we knew about the program right now. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 – the latest COVID-19 stimulus package – is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARP, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$130 billion for local governments split evenly between municipalities and counties.

What we know so far is the law also spells out a few other details about the aid to local governments, including that:

- Funds will be released in two payments to local governments, with half following

enactment and half paid 12 months following receipt of first payment.

- There will be no minimum population threshold for payments, but non-entitlement distributions will be capped at 75% of the pre-pandemic city budget.
- Funds can be used to replace lost revenue.
- Funds can be transferred between jurisdictions or to nonprofit partners.
- There is an expenditure deadline of Dec. 31, 2024.

The Department of Treasury will issue guidance detailing its interpretation and implementation of eligible uses and we had anticipated having more information for the council on this topic, but they have yet to come out with the full guidance as of April 26, 2021. We anticipated full guidance prior to this work session but this has not happened.

The early estimate for the City of Wyoming for funding allocation for the City of Wyoming was approximately \$918,554.88. This number is preliminary and the treasury and other entities have stated to use precaution on the initial numbers as they are not final and subject to change. At this point we believe the earliest the city would receive the first payment of these funds would be June 9th, 2021. City Administrator Linwood said we will have this topic at a future work session when there is more guidance.

3. To consider Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training Program

Assistant City Administrator Dumais gave an overview about the training as follows: In 2020, the City Council directed staff to explore the feasibility of the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) training program to do some training for the City Council on equity and inclusion. At the time, GARE had been providing programming geared towards normalizing conversations about race—understanding terminology, understanding the history of race, and why race matters. It also provides local governments with tools and skills to build race equity into their processes and policies. However, in 2020 the GARE program underwent significant changes last year in response to national events and the pandemic. The new revised structure of their program is a networking program of communities working on implementing anti-racist policies and practices. Many of the communities participating had extensive diversity, equity and inclusion programs already established. With the significant changes in the program, staff have reached out to local trainers who offer services more in line with the original discussion the Council identified last year. The City Council has taken multiple steps this past year to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in policies and initiatives including expanding digital access to public materials, the Swenson park and Railroad Park projects, proclamations affirming the council's commitment to human rights and also another proclamation to affirm the council's commitment to senior residents to name a few. Wyoming's approach to conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion have taken a broad approach that considers a variety of identify factors that can affect a person's access to, enjoyment of, or sense of welcome to the Wyoming community, services, and facilities.

The City Council asked if the potential of a lesser amount of sessions was possible or if they could be spread out. Council discussed if this would start with council or employees as well. Some members of council had gone through the training before and thought that there was value. One council member had concerns about the experience they had at a previous training.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that she would check back with the consultant to see what options could be presented to council.

****Railroad Park Master Plan** – City Administrator Linwood gave an updated that the were excited to share a video with the city council regarding the Master Plan at Railroad Park and that we have been successful in raising over \$200,000 up to this point. The First State Bank of Wyoming has contributed \$100,000, Hallberg Family Foundation \$50,000, Rosenbauer \$50,000 and SRC \$1000.00. The Council was extremely excited, thanked all of the donor's generous donations and thanked city staff for their work on the project.

**MAYOR IVERSON ADJOURNED THE APRIL 28, 2021 "WORK SESSION MEETING" BY
GENERAL CONSENT AT 7:28 PM**