

February 26, 2019

**CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

5:30 P.M.

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M., by Mayor James Gelwicks with Councilors Mallory Logan, Jim Miles, Bob Drexel, and Leia Morrison present along with Western Liaison Max Oldham, City Attorney Kathy Fogo, City Manager Russ Forrest, Finance Director Ben Cowan, and City Clerk Erica Boucher. Additional City staff present were Court Clerk Melissa McLeod, Information Technology Director Mike Lee, Police Chief Keith Robinson, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Mike Rogers, and City Engineer Cody Tusing. Municipal Judge Jim McDonald was there as well as representatives from Tetra Tech and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The press was present. A Council quorum was present.

Citizen Input:

No citizens came forward.

Council Action Items:

Approval of the February 12, 2019 Regular Session meeting minutes. Councilor Logan moved to approve the February 12, 2019, Regular Session meeting minutes and Councilor Morrison seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Logan, Miles, Gelwicks, and Morrison. So carried.

Roll call, abstain: Drexel.

Roll call, no: None.

Consent Agenda: Council Morrison moved to approve the Consent Agenda which contained authorization to purchase a Compaction Roller in an amount not to exceed \$57,201.00 with the intention to source a trailer for purchase utilizing the remaining budget amount of \$6,599.00 and approval to purchase the Sewer Camera Van budgeted as a Capital Expense in Fiscal Year 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$159,391.00. Councilor Logan seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Miles, Gelwicks, Drexel, Morrison, and Logan. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

2018 Municipal Court Report. Municipal Judge Jim McDonald and Court Clerk Melissa McLeod approached Council. Judge McDonald thanked Court Clerk Melissa McLeod and Deputy Clerk Tara Kindall for their professional and administrative support throughout the year. Overall, Court has been functioning well with some sessions busier than others. He did not have any new or alarming trends to share with Council. Discussion occurred about Judge McDonald's work in Alamosa, CO, where he also serves as the municipal judge. The judge stated that Alamosa is entrenched in the opioid crisis based on what he has seen in the courtroom there, but wasn't comfortable or able to speak directly to its causes or make conclusions about the economic or social issues occurring in Alamosa that may have impact on drug use and crime in Alamosa. He doesn't believe that Gunnison is at a similar opioid level as Alamosa. He stated that the police department or hospital would be more knowledgeable about that topic and could better answer questions about drug use and overall crime in Gunnison. Councilor Drexel asked the judge if he felt courtroom security was an issue. Judge McDonald stated that he appreciated having the police department presence in the building prior to their relocation, but felt that overall security in the courtroom is adequate as there is regularly a police presence in the courtroom.

CDOT Update on City Projects. Raelene Shelly and Jason Huddle of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) approached Council along with City Engineer Cody Tusing. The three of them summarized their recently completed walking tour of pedestrian crossings, stoplight functionality, and traffic flow patterns in the downtown area. City Manager Russ Forrest, downtown business owner Heidi Magnus and Chamber Director Celeste Helminski joined them on the tour to discuss issues and concerns related to traffic flow and pedestrian safety on CDOT controlled highways. CDOT controlled highways are HWY 135 running north to Crested Butte and HWY 50 running east and west through Gunnison. City Engineer Tusing reviewed the main issues that were discussed during the walking tour. They were: 1. The southbound red arrow turn at HWY 135 and how it pushes traffic back into the downtown area; 2. The flashing yellow light also at HWY 135 and the perception if pedestrian crossing is safe during that time; 3. There was discussion of changing the cross walks to the west side of the street which seems to be safer. Ms. Shelly added that Gunnison could progress to all west side pedestrian crossings which would develop new traffic patterns and pedestrian crossing more consistent for walkers and drivers; therefore, possibly safer over time; 4. Add more signage and paint HWY 50 east and west bound lines to

better identify through lanes. The City Engineer acknowledged that after the City painted the east side right line at the stop light, it did add some awareness to travelers that that lane was not a specific turn lane; however, just adding the white striped lines was not 100% effective, especially in the winter. MUTCD calls for all white paint to be used, whereas yellow paint would make that area stand out more; 5. It was noted that bump outs could be used on the south side and colored crosswalks may be helpful on the north /south side of the street; 6. There was mention of Gunnison's low lighting downtown. Council asked if delineators were also discussed amongst the group. The City Engineer said they were and mentioned a few concerns about having them, such as the difficulties they could cause the snow removal crews in the winter. City Manager Forrest also mentioned that the delineators would be driven over by large trucks making turns and could offer a false sense of security especially on the northeast and northwest sides of the street. However, bulb outs on the southwest and southeast may be worth a try in the summer. Raelene Shelly mentioned that she will be taking this list of concerns back to CDOT for further discussion and to determine possible solutions; 7. The suggestion was also made to add flashing speed signs on east, west, and north side entrances coming into town.

Discussion ensued regarding a few other areas that need to be examined by CDOT. They are the crosswalk timing at Virginia and Main Street, the short turn light at Spruce and Tomichi, and the functionality of road sensors and cameras.

City Engineer Tusing transitioned to the HWY 50 Crossing projects for crossings at Legion Park and 11th Street. He confirmed that the City did not received acceptable bids for the project. The City did receive one bid from a company in Montrose, but received word the morning of February 26, that the company had recently experienced a financial hang-up while switching between accounting companies which made them ineligible for the project at this time. The company is working to resolve the issue and is very interested in the project. The City would still like to meet with the firm. If this project moves forward, construction could start at the beginning of May and could be completed by the end of the year.

Lastly, the CDOT representatives spoke about the West Gunnison project. The total value of the project is \$160,000 with a \$128,000 coming from the Federal Government. The City suggested dovetailing the West Gunnison project and the comprehensive plan together to devise a specific construction ready project that would fit into the original scope of work for the funding by August 30, 2019. There is a 10-year rule associated with a TAP grant for construction to be completed. The City is aware of the needs in West Gunnison for access and connectivity and asked Houseal Lavigne to specifically look at this area to help generate project ideas. Discussion ensued about if an idea generated for the West Gunnison area was successful how it could be applied to other parts of the City.

Council asked the CDOT representatives about the Little Blue Canyon project. Raelene Shelly stated that this is actually a Central Federal Lands Project occurring on CDOT highway. She explained that they haven't confirmed road closure times through the canyon yet. They are still trying to devise a closure schedule with consideration to the industries that will be mostly effected by the closures, such as commerce and the timber industry. Under consideration for Phase One is to have a single lane opened for a window in the morning, over the lunch hour, and in the evening. The road would be closed overnight. Overall the project will occur in two phases and over two years, starting in 2020. Phase One would consist of rock blasting and Phase Two would focus on wall building and paving. CDOT is in the process of hiring a PR professional to execute their communication plan. CDOT will be asking for and needing local assistance regarding communication on this project.

Council took a break 6:20 p.m. and returned at 6:27 p.m.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Modernization and Energy Efficiency Improvements Project. Tetra Tech senior project manager, Mark Maxwell and WWTP superintendent Mike Rogers came before Council. They presented Council with background, regulation and scientific information regarding the functionality of the WWTP. Mr. Maxwell reviewed the budget and funding streams for the project. He and Mike Rogers also shared the tentative schedule with Council and noted that construction would begin in July 2019. Due to the scale of this project it is beneficial for the Public Works Director to have authority to move ahead with long-term purchases for efficiency and to keep the project on schedule. Expected delivery of equipment is typically six months after the purchased order has been placed. Councilor Logan moved to authorize the City Manager to allow the Public Works Director to approve contractor purchase orders (GMP #1) for long lead time treatment equipment in the amount not to exceed \$3,506,503.00 and Councilor Miles seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Gelwicks, Drexel, Morrison, Logan, and Miles. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Supplemental Agreement No. 2. When the original scope of work was developed for the WWTP, there did not seem to be a need to build a new dewatering building. The original recommendation by Tetra Tech was to renovate the building; however, it has now been determined that remodeling the dewatering building is not sufficient, but a new building is needed. Tetra Tech and Mike Rogers confirmed that the existing building will stay online throughout the WWTP Improvement Project in order to maintain plant functionality. Discussion occurred for Council to understand where the funding would come from to build a new structure. It was explained that revenues would be reallocated from the WWTP enterprise budget and the City would apply for a DOLA grant to pay for the new building. Tetra Tech acknowledged that a new dewatering building should have been included in the original scope of work.

Councilor Logan moved to authorize the City Manager to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to modify the existing contract with Tetra Tech for Design and Bidding Phase Engineering Services for the Modernization and Energy Efficiency Improvements Project at the WWTP in an amount not to exceed \$113,348.00. Councilor Morrison seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Drexel, Morrison, Logan, Miles, and Gelwicks. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

Letter of Appreciation for Ellen Harriman for her service on the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority Board. Mayor Gelwicks acknowledged that Council had received and accepted Ellen Harriman's letter of resignation from the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority Board as the City representative. Council vocalized their appreciation for Ellen Harriman's long-time and committed service to the Board.

Councilor Drexel moved to sign the letter of appreciation for Ellen Harriman for her service on the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority. Councilor Morrison seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Morrison, Logan, Miles, Gelwicks, and Drexel. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

Council and City Staff gave reports.

With no further business, Mayor Gelwicks adjourned the Regular Session meeting at 7:33 p.m.



(seal)

Jim Gelwicks, Mayor

Attest:

Erica Boucher, City Clerk