

The City Council Special Session meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mayor Jonathan Houck, with Councilors Drexel, Harriman, Seymour and Nesbitt present along with City Manager Coleman, City Clerk Davidson, and the press. The City Attorney and WSC Liaison Edwards were absent. A Council quorum was present.

**USA Pro Cycling Challenge 2012 Event.** City Event Manager Messner and City Manager Coleman addressed Council. Manager Messner stated that this year's event will blossom into something incredible. The race's cycling ranking has been elevated and is now ranked at 2.1HC, which is just below the Tour de France, the highest quality race in the world. There will be 12 host cities this year: Durango; Telluride; Montrose; Crested Butte/Mt. Crested Butte; Gunnison; Aspen; Beaver Creek; Breckenridge; Colorado Springs; Golden; and Denver. Gunnison will be a pass-through City and a Stage Start. Almost one-half of the race this year will be on the West Slope; we are in an interesting, central spot to market the Gunnison Valley; there were 3 billion media impressions last year for the race; and there were 6 million distinct media impressions just from this year's announcement.

Discussion on funding and the budget then ensued with discussion on the following items: last year the City was essentially the underwriter for the Gunnison Stage, we guaranteed the commitments; the local organizing committee (LOC) will strongly pursue sponsorships this year especially since businesses and people now understand the scope of the race; this year's budget is more refined but similar to last year when \$56,000 was budgeted; the cost may be higher if an ancillary event, such as a criterium race or a big concert is scheduled; and the promoters are guaranteeing the race for a 5 year total commitment. Mayor Pro Tem Harriman asked about the \$9,558 revenues over expenses in the 2011 race budget. City Manager Coleman explained that the money was transferred from General Fund Revenues to the Events line item for last year's race. The money was not expended and the City Manager made the decision to spend approximately \$5,000 of those funds to purchase a 16' x 16' event tent from Global Shelters. The tent will be used for all kinds of City events, not just the Pro Cycling event. City Manager Coleman reminded Council there is \$20,000 budgeted for Economic Development in the 2012 Budget. Funding mechanisms will be presented to Council for approval in the coming months. The LOC will also be heavily pursuing event sponsorships as well. Mayor Houck stated that all of the LOC are volunteers.

Council consensus was for Staff to go ahead with planning for the 2012 event.

#### **City Manager's Annual Evaluation.**

City Manager Coleman provided Council information from the past year. He stated it takes the entire team to accomplish what has happened. City employees are a great group of folks. Other items discussed included: setting clear expectations in helping people succeed; the professional response and corrective measures taken after the ice rink incident; continuing trails development; the successful initial year of the USAPCC; and meeting expectations of the budget in these challenging economic times.

Council then gave input: Councilor Nesbitt gave the following input and questions: the employee health insurance issues of last year and the success of helping the employees; great handling of the ice rink incident; he has heard good comments about the City Manager's visibility in the community; and good work on the purchase of the Whipp Ditch water rights last year. This was a good and cost effective benefit to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Harriman commented on the following: it's a positive that he is taking more personal time; she is disappointed with the negative result of the GOCO River Corridor Legacy Grant application and feels this is still a priority; she has concerns about the VanTuyl Ranch Annexation and the lease renewal and she is in favor of the public/private partnership on the Ranch; was pleased to be able to offer bonuses to the employees; and the grinding of the sidewalk hazards has been very helpful. Mayor Pro Tem Harriman asked what projects and issues the City Manager foresaw for 2012. City Manager Coleman stated facility management and improvements, continuing to seek grant opportunities that mesh with the budget and continued trails and sidewalk improvements will be pursued in 2012. The City Manager also stated that review of the VanTuyl Ranch lease and the public/private conflicts on the property will be considered.

Councilor Drexel commented on the following: he thinks the City Manager is open and thoughtful not only with Council but with employees; he appreciates the quick work on the WSC Internships Program; he found the orientation tour invaluable after he took office in the spring; he has some questions about delegation and Ken's knowing when to say no; would like some information on how employees are rewarded other than compensation; and one of his priorities is irrigation water concerns in the Palisades Subdivision. The City Manager stated that a irrigation water rate analysis is proposed for the WSC Internship Program. He is also examining delegation and will be sharing this with the Department Heads and he is examining ways to reward employees. He speaks regularly with employees and lets them know what a great job they are doing. Communication is key.

Mayor Houck informed the City Manager he thinks Ken is the right person to be leading the City. He sees success of the City as a group effort. Other items discussed included: the Mayor likes that they are kept in the loop; after speaking with various City employees, employee morale is good and Ken is well respected as a leader; he likes that we are working with other municipalities and entities such as helping Crested Butte last spring with their street icepack problem; he appreciates the spirit of cooperation; he was pleased with Ken taking responsibility for what happens in the City including the ice rink incident; he was concerned about Ken's workload but thinks he now draws the line when needed with the work hard – play hard approach; he likes the idea of creating more return on each investment; he would like to look further on how we can take the budget and evaluate the accountability of each investment; he appreciates that Ken has kept the Discovery Center at the forefront; and he would like to see a small agricultural business incubator on the unused portion of the VanTuyl Ranch. This project could possibly be a part of the WSC Internship Program. City Manager Coleman stated that he too would like to take a closer look at budget priorities earlier in the year. Staff has scheduled a discussion regarding budget priorities with Council in early January.

Mayor Pro Tem Harriman asked for quarterly Gunnison Rising Annexation updates. The City Clerk will schedule these. Councilor Nesbitt asked for a trails interconnectivity update and for the City to stay vigilant on water issues. He would like to see a drought management plan developed. We need to have it in place before we need it. Council consensus was that the City Manager is doing a good job and has created a positive working environment for the employees to accomplish their tasks, projects and goals.

**Possible Executive Session.** No Executive Session was held.

**Action on City Manager's 2012 Employment Contract.** A short discussion ensued on the City Manager's Employment Contract. There are essentially no changes from last year's Agreement and there is no increase in salary. Two word and date changes were made to the document.

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Harriman seconded the motion to approve the City Managers 2012 Employment Contract as amended this evening and to authorize the Council to sign the document.

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Harriman, Houck, Seymour, Nesbitt. So moved

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Adjournment:** The Special Session meeting was adjourned to a Work Session meeting at 8:40 P.M.

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Mayor

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City Clerk