

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – February 25, 2014

The Mayor Meyer, presiding, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with all members present except for Councilman Hedquist.

Mayor Meyer invited Charles Walsh from the DDA to discuss the Downtown Plaza Presentation. Mr. Walsh introduced Mike Stepp, Brandon Daigle, Kevin Hawley, and Lisa Burrige, Brittney Tromble, Lou Taubert.

Mr. Walsh then asked Mr. Hawley, the executive director of the DDA, to explain what the DDA is.

Mr. Daigle then stepped up to explain the Public Plaza. He began by showing a Public Plaza in Missoula, MT; a Public Plaza in Buffalo, WY; and a Public Plaza in Rapid City, SD. Mr. Daigle next discussed the possible locations of a Public Plaza in Downtown Casper. Mr. Daigle also discussed the project financing options; some of which were property acquisition, infrastructure grants and investments, and TIF (Tax Increment Financing).

Mr. Daigle then went through the critical next steps.

Mr. Walsh returned to ask Council for first right of refusal from City to lease Adbay Building. The DDA is looking for Council support to proceed with the project feasibility and cost analysis for a new Public Plaza.

Councilman Hedquist joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Vice Mayor Powell asked how the land was obtained. Mr. Walsh said that private industry put in the money and purchased the land.

Councilman Hopkins stated that the City and Amoco has other properties that might be available for trade. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Daigle stated they would be interested in pursuing these options.

Mayor Meyer then asked City Manager Patterson to tee up the next item. Mr. Patterson invited Doug Follick, Leisure Services Director, to discuss the Mike Sedar Pool plan.

Mr. Follick stated the history of the project, including the 1.6 million dollar amount Council granted to go toward the pool and demolition of the pool. After the first bid, the one bid that was received was for 5.3 million dollars. After changing the date of completion specifications they went out to bid again and received two bids, one for 3.9 million and one for 5.5 million. In order to lower the costs they removed the spray park and the lazy river. After going out to bid the third time, they received three bids; the lowest being 3.5 million. They then reduced the size of the play feature and slide, which brought the bid down to 3.3 million. With the help of engineering

and Linda Witko, Assistant City Manager, funding for the 3.3 million has been found to complete this.

Councilman Goodenough asked whether since the schools both are looking to build pools if there is a way we could combine. Mr. Patterson was asked to respond and he stated that there are several complications with sharing the use of the pool. The biggest complication is the use due to scheduling, type of pool, and features of the pool. Mr. Patterson indicated that the City has discussed this with the School District and the fact is that it has to be a competition indoor pool for use in winter, and that would cost a great deal more, and the Mike Sedar pool will feature more play aspects rather than a competition pool.

Councilman Schlager stated that she would support not taking down the specifications of the pool and doing it properly once and for all. Mayor Meyer also stated that he would like to see a nice pool put in which would include more features.

Several Council members asked about what other options we have as to waiting to build a pool, or not replacing the pool, etc. Assistant City Manager Witko stated that over half a million dollars to maintain Washington Pool in order to keep it and because it is over 70 years old it would not be as practical. Councilman Hedquist stated that spending this much money might not please the voters and they should have a say in how to spend their money. He also stated that the pool should never have been pulled out before the City knew a new one could be replaced. Councilman Bertoglio stated that because this pool would not be open until 2015 even if they approved the money now it might make sense to wait and then do it right.

Councilman Goodenough stated that perhaps a certain percent of the population might be satisfied with a water park, spray park. Mr. Follick responded that typically when there is a spray park it is only one feature and it accompanies another aspect of a water park.

Mr. Patterson and Councilman Schlager stated that because of the leakage situation of the pool and the damage done to the soil the pool had to be shut down and removed.

Councilman Cathey asked when the work would actually be done if the pool was only opening April 2015. Mr. Follick stated that it would have to be done in fall of 2014.

Mayor Meyer then moved onto Community Promotions. Mr. Patterson asked Assistant to the City Manager Fleur Tremel to explain to Council this item. Mrs. Tremel stated that Council currently has \$5000.00 in the Council Goals Line Item and that typically now the Spring Round of Community Promotions is opened up. She asked Council for direction on whether to open this Round and how much they would like to allocate to the project. Council indicated that the Spring Round should be opened for in-kind and facilities usage only and this can be brought all at once to Council. Vice Mayor Powell stated that Council should still follow the strict guidelines as to when to give money.

Mayor Meyer then asked V.H. McDonald, Finance and Admin Services Director, to lead the discussion on the Budget and Sales Tax Revenue. Mr. McDonald stated that the revenue had been down 2% although the County has been up about 1%. He stated they are looking into this and so the last two months the revenues have been more in-line. He stated the revenue is still down, but seems to be picking back up, and there was no way to know whether this would continue to increase. Mr. McDonald stated they are watching it and keeping an eye on it and will continue to do the best they can with it.

At this point Council went around the table. Councilman Schlager had nothing to report. Councilman Sandoval went to a Housing Authority meeting. Councilman Hedquist had nothing to report. Councilman Bertoglio spent part of last week down at the legislature for WAM and will be doing so again. Councilman Goodenough went to an alcohol task force meeting and shared info on the tipsy taxi fund. Councilman Hopkins attended the CAEDA joint powers board last week. He stated the Spec Building looks like it will happen. Councilman Cathey has nothing to report. Vice Mayor Powell stated he went to WAM but had nothing to report. Mayor Meyer stated he had nothing to report.

At 6:46 p.m. Councilman Schlager moved to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing property issues, seconded by Vice Mayor Powell.

At 7:14 p.m. Councilman Schlager moved to adjourn out of executive session, seconded by Councilman Sandoval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.