CITY COUNCIL

STUDY SESSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

ATTENDEES: Councilmembers Tremblay, Rose, Howard, Boyle Barrett, Montgomery, Irons and Sundstrom. Also in attendance were Mayor Johnson and City Administrator Schmidt.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett called the Study Session to order at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett announced that the first item for discussion is the Mommy & Me mobile sign. It was decided at the last Council meeting that this sign code issue should come to the Study Session, prior to possibly being remanded to the Planning Commission. Dr. Dale Clark was in attendance to speak on behalf of Mommy & Me.

1) Signage Issues

City Administrator Schmidt stated that this is not a variance issue; it is strictly prohibited, so it would take a code amendment, at which time it is then opened up for anyone. A very lengthy discussion ensued regarding the City's sign code, the vision behind it and how much work had gone in to developing it. Many different types of signage were discussed, as well as the placement of signs in the City and using signs to attract business to our downtown core. Council member Howard read parts of the code concerning non-permitted signs. Council member Tremblay stated that he does not like to go back and change ordinances and suggested that we look for a solution that is acceptable. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee could be formed to research this issue, and that the problem be clearly defined. The problem was stated as "How do we improve signage to support Buckley businesses on Main Street." Following further discussion it was decided that this issue might best be handled by the Community Services & Public Safety Committee, and they can explore solutions and bring a recommendation back to the full Council. Their next meeting will be February 20, 2014, at 7 PM, at City Hall, and Dr. Clark was invited to attend. City Administrator Schmidt will extend an invitation to Chris Gibson with the White River School District, and will also make sure that the City Planner is in attendance.

MISCELLANEOUS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnson confirmed Study Session dates for the remainder of the year. The only first Tuesday that doesn't work is September 2, the day after Labor Day. It was suggested that September's Study Session be moved to the last (5th) Tuesday in September, as long as it doesn't conflict with a budget meeting. Study Session dates are: March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 30, October 7, November 4 and December 2.

Mayor Johnson provided each Council member with a copy of a book entitled "The Ten Commandments of Community Leadership" which is published by AWC.

City Administrator Schmidt provided a brief update on where the City stands with the gas sale to PSE. Right now there is an issue with easements that is taking a significant amount of time to remedy.

City Administrator Schmidt reported that during the City's current energy upgrades that two piles of asbestos were found in the crawl space under City Hall. This will have to be removed before energy upgrades at City Hall can be completed. We have received one very high bid, so City Administrator Schmidt is checking to see if the contractor who abated the asbestos on the Miller property (for a very competitive price) is a contractor on the State Contractors List and if so, he will call for a quote from them.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett asked Council members to tell her what topics they would like for discussion at future Study Sessions. Council member Sundstrom raised the issue of Robert's Rules of Order. After a short discussion, it was decided to put adoption of Robert's Rules on the agenda for the next Council meeting on February 11th. This was followed by a short discussion regarding rules and procedures for the Council, and the rules for a motion to reconsider. City Administrator Schmidt will request a legal opinion from our City Attorney.

With nothing further, the Study Session adjourned at 8:34 PM.

City Administrator Dave Schmidt

Mayor Pat Johnson