

City Council

Study Session

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

ATTENDEES: Council members Rose, Sundstrom, Tremblay, Howard, Leggett and Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett. Council member Montgomery was absent due to illness. Also in attendance were Mayor Johnson, City Administrator Schmidt, Police Chief Arsanto and Planning Commission Chair Helmer.

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett called the Study Session to order at 7:03 PM.

AGENDA

Police Station Expansion Study: Police Chief Arsanto stated that we have discussed expanding the Police Station to meet our current needs and our needs into the future; however, he has heard Council talking about possibly wanting to have a feasibility study on all City Buildings. If that is the case, he is hesitant to spend \$20,000 now on an expansion study for the Police Department if the plan down the road is to spend money to do a study on all City buildings. Chief Arsanto voiced his needs and concerns. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the current Police Department building as well as the old Police Department building. Council member Tremblay suggested that a feasibility study on all City buildings is something we could probably do ourselves. City Administrator Schmidt stated that the \$20K for the Police Station feasibility study is budgeted and he does not think this is poorly spent money because the study will tell us what we need and can do at the current Police site. The Consultant Agreement for the Police Station Expansion Study will come forward to the Council at next week's meeting.

Planning Commission Task Clarification: Planning Chair Helmer presented the Council with a memorandum with regards to the Board of Adjustment/Hearing Examiner ordinance and a request for task clarification. He joined the discussion, stated the Planning Commission's position and voiced their concerns. City Administrator Schmidt stated that the City Attorney recommends moving away from a Board of Adjustments and letting the Hearings Examiner hear issues. A discussion ensued regarding the legal complexity of issues coming before the Board of Adjustments and the knowledge, expertise and training required of our volunteer board members to handle these complex issues. The Planning Commission recommends that the Council expand the Commission's review to include removing the board as a decision-making body, and urging those board members to become commissioners. It was agreed that the lack of expertise of citizen volunteers opens the City to lawsuits. Council member Tremblay stated that he thinks that due to the required level of expertise, BOAs are becoming extinct. The Planning Commission will do the work to eliminate those decisions that go to the BOA, they will do their due diligence and bring their recommendation back to the Council.

Silhouettes: Assistant Fire Chief Skogan will place a number of silhouettes around town for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. These wood silhouettes are painted red and each includes the story of a domestic violence victim.

Legislative Letter: Mayor Johnson shared a letter she has prepared to send to the State Legislature outlining the City's legislative agenda.

Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan: Council members were provided a copy of the Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan and City Administrator Schmidt suggested that the Council adopt it by resolution as quickly as possible. Delay means we are missing out on increased impact fees. Everyone was asked to read the Plan and direct any questions to the Planner or City Administrator. This resolution will be on next week's agenda. City Administrator Schmidt stated that Comp Plan Elements 1-4 are on the agenda this evening; however, the Planner is sick and cannot be here to discuss. Please read/review these elements and call the Planner with questions/comments. Be ready to discuss elements 1-4 at the next workshop.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dangerous Dogs Ordinance: After a short discussion on where we are on this issue it was decided that Council member Howard will write the language for a survey to mail out with next month's utility bills to find out how our citizens feel about this issue. Currently, there is breed specific language in our code, but there has been discussion to possibly eliminate the breed specific language and strengthen the dangerous dog language.

Marijuana: The Planning Commission has completed their work and an ordinance will be coming to the Council at the October 27 meeting.

City Administrator Schmidt made a couple announcements regarding upcoming Fire Department meetings and work/repair on the White River Bridge.

With nothing further, the Study Session adjourned at 8:28 PM.



City Administrator Dave Schmidt



Mayor Pat Johnson