

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

City Clerk Johnson called the roll. Eight Councilmembers were present; Councilmember Martin was excused.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Council Administrator Gonzalez stated there is a request to postpone for two weeks the Work Session Agenda Item 7-D: City Council Engagement Program, Boards and Commissions. Consensus of Council approved.

3. **REGULAR MEETING COMMENTS FOR MARCH 11, 2014**

Peter Wysocki, Planning and Development Director, stated that for the Public Hearing on Item 14, Whistling Pines West indoor shooting range, the developer and two separate appellants requested postponement from the March 11<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing date to April 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be at Council's discretion to approve.

4. **REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 24, 2014 WORK SESSION MINUTES**

There were no comments.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was requested.

6. **STAFF AND APPOINTEE REPORTS**

A. Agenda Planner Review

Ms. Gonzalez provided an overview of upcoming Council Agenda items. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Introduction of the Ancient Olympia Sister City partnership activities and upcoming delegate visit. The delegate visit will be scheduled on April 8<sup>th</sup> under Recognition.

Councilmember Knight asked for clarification on whether an Ordinance proposed and discussed at a Utilities Board meeting should be brought to Council first for review at a Work Session then presented for action at the following Regular Session. President King stated he did not think it needed to be presented at a March 24<sup>th</sup> Work Session after having been reviewed at the Utilities Board meeting, therefore the item could be added under "Utilities Business" on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Councilmember Miller asked about the April 8<sup>th</sup>, Consent Calendar item, City of Colorado Springs Drainage Criteria Manual, Volume 1. He and Councilmember Knight requested an update at the Work Session on the status of Volume 2, which they understood was being held up at the State level. Deputy Chief of Staff Waters responded they will have to get back to the Councilmembers on that information.

B. *City for Champions* Project Update

Bob Cope, Senior Business Climate Specialist, reported on the governance for *City for Champions* that includes a very public, collaborative process led by County Commissioner Amy Lathen and Councilmember Merv Bennett. He noted current recommendations that the Regional Tourism Act Advisory Board co-chairs will be Mayor Bach, Council President King, and County Commissioner Dennis Hisey. He reported on current deadline dates, the master planning process, and announced the schedule for the monthly public meetings will be held in collaboration with the City, El Paso County, and the project partners scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, the next of which is March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department.

Councilmember Miller requested Council receive a copy of the letters of intent and milestone report when it is finalized; as well as, he requested updated information showing the numbers behind the increased projections. Mr. Cope stated he will provide that information once he receives it.

President King and Councilmember Knight asked about the status of the draft Resolution expected to be received over the course of the past 10 days. Mr. Cope responded that this is in the hands of the City and County Attorneys and he will have to get back to Council with that answer.

Councilmember Pico noted the Museum was hiring staff and asked how that was being funded. Mr. Cope responded it was his understanding Mr. Celeste had successfully raised funds from philanthropic organizations for the project and it was from these funds that the administrative and due diligence costs were being paid.

7. **PRESENTATIONS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION**

A. South Academy Economic Opportunity Zone Action Plan

Councilmember Bennett introduced Solutions Team members Fred Veitch, Lead, and Tiffany Colvert, Chair, who gave a presentation on the background, existing conditions, specific areas focused for initial improvement, enhanced design elements and infrastructure needs.

B. North Nevada Economic Opportunity Zone Findings & Recommendations

Councilmember Knight acknowledged the excellent work being performed by the Solutions Team on the North Nevada project. Mr. Veitch provided an update on

progress for the area and was encouraged by the massive expansion currently underway at UCCS that affords great opportunities for plans going forward.

C. Fire Department Briefing on Ambulance Contract

Fire Chief Riley described the basis for the Ground Emergency Ambulance Service contract, commitments to continue collaboration with El Paso County and expressed encouragement for the improved and substantially expanded eight minute response areas within the City.

Deputy Chief Collas walked through details of the presentation and responded to Councilmembers' questions. He acknowledged that the contract included a one-time 5% rate increase after several years without increases, and limited periodic rate increases in 2015 and beyond based upon increases in the Consumer Price Index.

D. See action taken earlier in the meeting.

**8. ITEMS FOR INTRODUCTION**

A. An Ordinance Pertaining to a Sales or Use Tax Exemption within a Commercial Aeronautical Zone

Dan Gallagher, Interim Aviation Director, introduced Tom Binnings, Senior Partner with Summit Economics, who provided a presentation based on the research for the proposed Commercial Aeronautical Zone ("CAZ") at the Colorado Springs Airport concluding the proposal appears fiscally neutral to the General Fund with potential diversification for the economy and enhanced airport revenues.

Dr. Christopher Thornton, Chair, and Andi Diancur, Vice Chair, of the Airport Advisory Commission, stated the Commission has been fully briefed and are in full support of the Ordinance.

Richard Janitell, Chairman of Westside Operators, described the organization that was established in 1998 with the purpose of unifying the diverse activities at the airport and to attract more businesses.

Additional individuals who spoke in support of the Commercial Aviation Zone included: Tony Porterfield, President & CEO of GTG International Inc. and Rampart Aviation, LLC; Britt Ham, President & COO with Trine Aerospace & Defense; and, Andy Merritt from Regional Business Alliance.

B. A Resolution supporting a Local Government Grant Application to Great Outdoors Colorado for the Colorado Springs Fitness Zone Park Development Project.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, announced the National Recreation Park Association has teamed up with Macy's Corporation to

raise awareness and support for community parks. Between March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, you may donate to “Heart your Park” when shopping at Macy’s. Of the 550 parks across the nation selected for the program, Garden of the Gods is the park locally chosen. Macy’s has guaranteed to match up to \$250,000 in donations.

Jeff Webb, Parks’ Grants Coordinator, described the opportunity that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department has, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land (“TPL”), to pursue a grant through the Great Outdoors Colorado (“GOCO”) to develop two new outdoor “fitness zone parks” in the parks adjacent to Deerfield and Meadows community centers.

Councilmembers Bennett and Gaebler expressed appreciation for the pursuit of healthful, active opportunities for the community.

Councilmember Knight asked about why this project is being given consideration ahead of others on the list of requests for development and improvements. Ms. Palus responded that this was an opportunity that came up about a year and a half ago and came to fruition with TPL funding and the GOCO grant. She stated you take these opportunities when there’s private funding and an opportunity to receive a match grant.

Councilmember Knight expressed concern relative to the Resolution’s language in Sections 3 and 4 relative to an obligation for the City to provide matching funds. Ms. Palus responded that there are matching funds required but they will be provided by the Trust for Public Land. Councilmember Knight asked for confirmation from the Legislative Counsel Andrews whether it is a requirement to include that requirement in the Resolution if the City is not obligated. Mr. Andrews stated he will get an answer back to Council by tomorrow.

## 9. **ITEMS UNDER STUDY**

- A. Introduction to Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) and Discussion of Possible Code Change Addressing Petition Signature Requirements

Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager, provided a presentation that described the City LIDs’ purpose, history, authorization and administration; the requested code change and impacts.

Bob Loevy, representing the Old North End Neighborhood, described why the request has been made and encouraged approval of the LID code change.

## 10. **COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

- A. Councilmember Miller encouraged Council’s attendance at Councilmember Gaebler’s strategic planning meetings, the first of which is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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- B. Councilmember Knight described last week's Council Budget Committee meeting at which they discussed possible questions for each City department in preparation for the budget cycle. The list of recommended questions for Council's consideration will be introduced at the Work Session on March 24<sup>th</sup>. He described that the Budget timeline will begin on October 6<sup>th</sup> with votes on the Budget scheduled during both November Regular Council meetings.
- C. President King inquired as to when the interviews for the confirmation process for Wynetta and Dan Gallagher would take place. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she is working with the Mayor's designee, Michael Sullivan, Human Resource Director, relative to these matters as well as the salary considerations.

11. **ADJOURN**

4:29 p.m.