

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF HUERFANO
CITY OF WALSENBURG
Regular Session Meeting
February 2, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Quintana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council members present were: Rick Jennings, Silvana Lind, James England, Nick Vigil, David Mockmore, Erin Jerant, Craig Lessar, and James Moore. Others in attendance were City Administrator Alan Hein, Assistant Administrator Beth Neece, City Attorney Dan Hyatt, and City Clerk Lori Sheldon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Quintana asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 19th Regular City Council meeting. James Moore asked for a correction regarding a question posed during Mr. Hein's report about an urban renewal program. James England confirmed that it was he who asked the question referring to something a past Council person (Edie Flanagan) had asked when this subject was referred to in an earlier meeting. James England moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, that the minutes from the January 19th Regular City Council meeting be accepted with the requested change. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote of 9-0.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Chairman James England reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday, February 1st at 5:30. Those in attendance were himself, Mayor Quintana, Councilpersons Jim Moore, Nick Vigil, Silvana Lind, Craig Lessar, Erin Jerant, and Dave Mockmore. Also in attendance were City Administrator Alan Hein, Larry Patrick representing the Huerfano Journal, Bill Knowles of the Huerfano World, Renee Rinehart of the Signature, Police Chief Larry Baldonado and citizens Mike and Nancy Lave. Agenda items were as follows:

- ◆ IGA on the police transfer from the City to the County.
 - This item was discussed with committee members expressing various opinions.
- ◆ A review of the current 2010 Police budget.
 - City Administrator Alan Hein informed the committee the City is still \$250,000 to \$300,000 in arrears after the first round of layoffs and budget adjustments. Committee discussed further cuts to balance the deficit facing the city and directed staff to investigate the \$200,000 possible savings that will be recognized by reducing the current police force to 10 active working officers. This, in effect, will show an initial savings up front and is in line with the IGA that is on the agenda later and keeps our current force at a safe operating level according to Chief Baldonado. This will also help close our current budget deficit that was expressed by the City Administrator. Further cuts in certain areas and directives to staff will be items for discussion at future Finance Committee meetings.
- ◆ An initial introductory summary from City Treasurer Jacque Sikes on upcoming financials that she will be reporting to the Finance Committee for review and to pass on to Council.

- City Treasurer Jacque Sikes will be working closely with staff to better inform the committee, Council and the public.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 15th at 5:30.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Erin Jerant reported that the P&R committee met directly following the Finance Committee meeting and all the same people were in attendance. Items of discussion included:

- ◆ Job descriptions for the Pool Manager and Lifeguards.
 - Staff was directed to go ahead with advertising for these positions.
- ◆ The advertising budget for Walsenburg Wild Waters.
 - The KSPK ads were discussed.
- ◆ A free tennis program that someone from Pueblo wants to come down and do for the kids.
- ◆ The two handball/racquetball courts are open.
 - The equipment is gone and both courts are open and people can check out keys at City Hall.

Safety Committee Chairman Craig Lessar reported that the employees had their monthly CIRSA safety meeting with a program on Slips, Trips and Falls. Forty eight employees attended. Also, 25% of the employees took advantage of the Spanish Peaks Outreach Clinic which was offered before the meeting.

Public Resources Committee Mayor Quintana stated that this committee is handled by staff and there is no update at this time.

Mayor pro tem England asked the media to let the public know that we are looking for more input and participation from people in the community who have any expertise they can share with the committees to make them better. Mayor Quintana added that Council is going to revisit the way the committees are formatted and he believes that Council should hold a workshop to set the framework for the new style of committees. The last time an ordinance was passed addressing committees was in 1957.

CITIZEN FORUM

Mary Ann Romero from South Central Council of Governments gave a presentation regarding the census. She emphasized the importance of being counted as it affects representation at all levels of government and also determines funding for important programs for seniors, including Medicaid, funding for roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. Questionnaires will be delivered via mail or in person for anyone who does not get mail directly to their homes. There will also be questionnaire assistance centers in town for anyone who needs help completing them. Only 48% of the households in Huerfano County completed and sent in their forms during the 2000 Census. This amounted to millions of dollars lost in the 10 years afterward. Las Animas county lost \$5.6 million annually over those 10 years. Also, they are still allowing people to apply for jobs with the Census bureau. Interested persons can call or go online to apply. Mayor pro tem England asked for clarification on the simplicity of the form (only 10 questions) and reiterated Ms. Romero's point about the importance of completing and returning the

form. Dan Hyatt asked about the policy regarding institutionalized persons. Deb Muehleisen from the Census Bureau replied that people in nursing homes, college dormitories, prisons, etc. will be counted in this community by someone who will go to the facilities to collect the information.

Ms. Romero also gave a short presentation on the services that COG offers to the community.

Resolution promoting the Census:

James England introduced:

Resolution 2010 R-2

Whereas the United States Constitution Article 1, Section 2 requires that the people in each State be counted every ten (10) years; and

Whereas this count is scheduled to occur in the year 2010; and

Whereas the number of representatives for the state of Colorado is determined by this count; and

Whereas voting district apportionment is determined by this count; and

Whereas the allocation of federal funds critical to cities and counties is in large part determined by this count; and

Whereas a complete count is only possible through education, awareness, and community-level action because it helps residents understand that the 2010 count is easy, important and safe;

Now therefore, let it be resolved that The City of Walsenburg will put forth its best efforts to promote census awareness and action and hereby declares 2010 to be Census Awareness Year!

City of Walsenburg

Attest:

Bruce A. Quintana, Mayor

Loretta Sheldon, City Clerk

and moved that such resolution be adopted and published in full. Motion was seconded by David Mockmore. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

REPORTS

Administrator Alan Hein reported on the following:

Martin Lake Valve Replacement: Mr. Hein received the construction schedule, copies of which he handed out to Council. There was a pre-construction meeting on the previous Friday. Barring any bad weather they're hoping to start re-filling the lake at the end of March. It's an aggressive schedule but he is very confident that they can achieve that.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mr. Hein had a very productive meeting today with David Knope from the State of Colorado and our engineer. They discussed design

revisions to cut costs. The State was very receptive to our comments and suggestions. The deadline on this project is February 8th. The contractor has agreed to give us another 30-60 days. The State has agreed to work with us on some of the design issues. The current flow through the plant is .5 to .75 million gallons per day. The new plant was designed for 4.75 million per day. Normally for a new plant you would double your capacity for future demand so, having shown that to the State along with the current condition of the City's finances, the State is very receptive to cut-backs in the design. Hopefully, instead of a new design we can amend the current design. Councilman Jerant asked about whether the CCA closing will make a difference. Mr. Hein replied that it would not be considered for future planning. Mayor pro tem England asked whether Mr. Hein had "put a pencil" to the cost savings. Mr. Hein replied that his goal is \$1,000,000.00. The last time he put a pencil to it we were between \$800,000.00 and \$900,000.00.

Pending Grants Update: The USDA Grant is composed of 3 grants – the USDA loan, the OEDIT Economic Development grant which is participating in the CDBG grant together come to \$4,169,000.00. The OEDIT grant is pretty much a shoe-in based on the criteria for their grant which is job retention in the Northlands area. The CDBG grant is still pending approval in March or April. His understanding is that they all come together to make one grant. Beth turned in an application a couple of weeks ago for an Economic Development grant for the infrastructure for the grocery store. Their criterion is, normally, that they will not fund retail businesses. We requested that they waive that criterion. They are more receptive to possibly granting a loan and not a grant as opposed to waiving the criteria that would be paid back through the sales tax dollars. The Enterprise Zone grant, which is used for advertising (for the water park), is a grant through COG. They allocate the funds to cities that are willing to participate in that. It is for \$12,186.00. COG is going to apply for that again this year.

Water Rights matters:

- ◆ Application from the town of La Veta for a change to the Mexican Ditch.
 - La Veta wants to change the location of their headgate. That is scheduled to go to trial on June 29th. Our portion of it has to be filed by March 1st. The water attorney is currently working on that.
- ◆ The water supply plans.
 - Northlands Substitute Water Supply Plan – by reason of a mandate we have to come up with a plan. We have one year left as the current plan ends May 11, 2011.
 - Corsentino Well
 - Raw water line – we have to submit a plan for augmentation for that water if we get the line built. The thing that prompted the plan to run the water line back up to La Veta was the change in the Walsenburg ditch from irrigation water to municipal water.
 - Grandote Proposal – There was a meeting last week with the Mayor, Mayor pro tem and staff and Dr. Briggs who is requesting the change from irrigation water to municipal water. The water attorney brought to Mr. Hein's attention that the last thing that the City Council had instructed Mr. Briggs and his attorney was that they wanted a proposal protecting the City's water rights. We have no correspondence to date about the specific intended use of the water.
 - Last is the Martin Reservoir refill accounting which he is looking forward

to doing.

Councilman Moore asked for further detail regarding the augmentation requirements for the replacement line for the Raw Water Line. Mr. Hein, Ms. Neece and Mr. Hyatt explained, in part, what the rules are pertaining to augmentation and why we would have to augment even though that water stays in the basin.

Chief of Police Larry Baldonado had no report.

Unfinished Business

James England moved, seconded by David Mockmore, that the Tavern Liquor License, Malt, Vinous, & Spirituous Liquors for Rosa’s Cantina be approved. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

James England moved, seconded by Silvana Lind, that the 3.2 Beer Liquor License for 7-Eleven store #19585 be approved. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

New Business

James England moved, seconded by David Mockmore, that the Law Enforcement Intergovernmental Agreement with Huerfano County be tabled. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-1 with the nay vote from Erin Jerant and Craig Lessar recusing himself as he is employed by the County Sheriff’s office.

James Moore moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that Nick Vigil be appointed as liaison to the Lathrop Youth Camp Building project. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 8-0 with Nick Vigil recusing himself.

Finally, Mayor Quintana expressed his disappointment with the press for their “roof is falling” attitude about the closing of the prison.

Adjournment

With no further items on the agenda, the City Council meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

CITY OF WALSENBURG

ATTEST:

Bruce A. Quintana,
Mayor

Lori Sheldon
City Clerk

The preceding minutes were prepared according to §47 of Robert’s Rules of Order, i.e. they contain a record of what was *done* at the meeting, not what was *said* by the members. Tape recordings of the meeting are available for 6 months thereafter only for listening in the City Clerk’s Office as well as copies of Ordinances and Resolutions.