

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF HUERFANO
CITY OF WALSENBURG
Regular Session Meeting
February 16, 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, City Clerk Lori Sheldon, and City Treasurer Jacque Sikes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Quintana asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 2nd Regular City Council meeting. James Moore recommended that the wording in the portion of Mr. Hein's report regarding Pending Grants Update be modified to refer to the Northlands Financing being composed of money from USDA along with the office of Economic Development and Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). James England moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that the minutes from the February 2nd Regular City Council meeting be accepted as modified. 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 15th at 5:30. Those in attendance were himself, Mayor Quintana, Councilpersons Silvana Lind, Nick Vigil, Craig Lessar, and Rick Jennings. Also in attendance were City Administrator Alan Hein, Assistant City Administrator Beth Neece, City Finance Director Krystal Vigil, Police Chief Larry Baldonado and Gas Department head Art Ortiz and from the media – Bill Knowles from the Huerfano World, Larry Patrick from the Huerfano Journal and Renee Rinehart from the Signature. The first item on the agenda was a proposal for the City to sell 240 acres of the East Ranch for \$150.00/acre. The proposal was met with a less-than-favorable response as the acreage included the swan and duck lake water fowl part of the property. The committee felt that the per acre price was extremely low and (recommends that Council) pass on the offer. The second item was bids for replacement of 50 feet of corroded main feeder line that is the only line feeding the city with natural gas. After some discussion the recommendation to Council from the Committee is to keep the business with a local contractor even though the price was slightly higher than the lowest bid. The next item on the agenda was the continued restructure of the City and further budget cuts that may need to be implemented to offset the City's \$400,000.00 budget shortfall. With the prison closure seeming imminent and the current layoffs and budget cuts already made the City still finds itself needing to trim around \$400,000.00 to get the City back into a sound financial position. City Administrator Alan Hein pointed out that, even with the proposed \$200,000.00 reduction in the police budget, further layoffs may be necessary in the Water and Sewer department and the Streets department which will put it at the 10 originally discussed in the City's restructuring plan. This, in conjunction with the re-evaluation of the police department, which staff and the Committee still feel is over-staffed for a city of our population, along with a patrolling and more active police chief will be able to close any gaps and still ensure safety for our officers and our

community. It was the instruction to staff to begin to eliminate the modified accrued accounting system and move toward implementation of a municipal cash accounting system. It was reported that the City currently has around 500,000 available in cash and roughly the same in other accounts. Mr. England also stressed the need to complete and return all census information as this is the next 10 years future for the City and County in financial funding. The next meeting will be March 1st at 5:30.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Erin Jerant reported that the Committee did not meet. The next meeting will be March 1st at 6:00.

Safety Committee Chairman Craig Lessar had no report. Mayor pro tem England asked if the committee would explore the idea of bringing back the siren for use at curfew and as a safety device to warn during hazards. Councilman Jerant has been under the impression that it does not work any more. Mr. England replied that he had been assured by staff that it does work and can be tied into the phone system. Mayor Quintana asked that it be tested.

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

CITIZEN FORUM

No citizens signed in to speak.

REPORTS

Administrator Alan Hein reported on the following:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Status: Mr. Hein has been working with the engineer. He has put together a spreadsheet on the different options that we feel could possibly take place as far as reductions in the design of the wastewater treatment plant. That number is currently at \$910,000.00 in savings which is substantial but not as good as he had hoped. We're still looking at a shortfall of about \$649,000.00 to start this project. Councilman Jerant asked if we're being fined. Mr. Hein replied that he had met with the state and we're not in trouble at all. As long as we keep moving forward we're in good shape.

Martin Lake Valve Replacement: The project is right on track. We're hoping to have it completed in 30-45 days. The excavation is just about complete and construction of the valve should start within the next week.

Restructuring Update: Mr. England did a good job of covering this in his report. Mr. Hein handed out copies of the plan. Councilman Lind asked if he knows what would be saved with 2 fewer water and sewer employees. Mr. Hein replied that he did not at this time. Mayor Quintana asked if we can run optimally with the number of employees that are left. Mr. Hein replied in the affirmative. If we implement any of the plans we had prior to this year then we'll probably have to staff up a little bit at that time. As we stand right now we are plenty well staffed for what we have going on at this time. Mayor Quintana asked about on-call personnel. Mr. Hein replied that we have a primary and a secondary for each department.

Monthly Reports

Mayor Quintana asked if there was any discussion on reports. Councilman Jerant

asked about the Northlands GID revenues. There was extensive discussion regarding the GID and what monies they are entitled to from utilities and taxes. There was also discussion regarding the pending mil levy and the fact that debt must be incurred before a levy can be set.

Jacque Sikes read the cash total of \$8,277,254.71 from the Treasurer's report and then went over a new report that she and Krystal (Vigil) have been working on.

Unfinished Business

There were no items on the agenda.

New Business

First item was the bids for repair of the gas line. James England moved, seconded by Rick Jennings that the bid from Heath Andreatta Excavation for \$36,412.00 to replace the 50 feet of primary transmission line that is corroded, replace a 6" gas transmission line south of town at the border station. After confirmation that Andreatta has the x-ray equipment required, and that the procedure for setting up welding for a 6" pipe are in place, motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

The second item was appointments to the Regional Building Authority. James England moved, seconded by David Mockmore, to appoint Gerald Jerant to the 2 year term and JB Vallejos to the 1 year term. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

Finally, James England moved, seconded by James Moore, to set a workshop to discuss restructuring of the committees for March 2nd at 5:30 p.m. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

James England then moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, to go into executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e). Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

At the conclusion of the first executive session, Mayor Quintana stated: The time is now 7:35 p.m., and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Mayor Bruce Quintana, Rick Jennings Ward 2, Silvana Lind Ward 1, James England Ward 2, Nick Vigil Ward 4, Dave Mockmore Ward 3, Erin Jerant Ward 3, Craig Lessar Ward 4, and James Moore Ward 1, Daniel Hyatt City Attorney, Alan Hein City Administrator and Beth Neece Assistant Administrator. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record.

Seeing none, James England moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that a 5 minute recess be taken before the next executive session. Mayor Quintana called a 5 minute recess.

James England moved, seconded by Erin Jerant, to go into executive session for a conference with the City Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b);

At the conclusion of the executive session, Mayor Quintana stated: The time is now

8:40 p.m., and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Mayor Bruce Quintana, Rick Jennings Ward 2, Silvana Lind Ward 1, James England Ward 2, Nick Vigil Ward 4, Dave Mockmore Ward 3, Erin Jerant Ward 3, Craig Lessar Ward 4, and James Moore Ward 1, Daniel Hyatt City Attorney, Alan Hein City Administrator and Beth Neece Assistant Administrator. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record.

Adjournment

With no further items on the agenda, the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:41 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.