

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF HUERFANO
CITY OF WALSENBURG
Regular Session Meeting
April 20, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Quintana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at an earlier meeting so was not recited again. 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 April 6th Regular City Council meeting. Erin Jerant moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, that the minutes be accepted as presented. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

CITIZEN FORUM

Mayor Quintana announced that the Citizen Forum would come before committee reports this evening. Councilperson Jerant read a letter from Earl Burch regarding his desire to donate a parcel of land to the City for the purpose of building a bridge to link North Hooper and Pine streets in order to alleviate congestion on Walsen Avenue. Mr. Burch then gave a short speech regarding this matter and answered questions from Council. Mayor Quintana said that administration would look into the feasibility of the project and thanked Mr. Burch for his generosity.

Larry King, from the group "Citizens for a Better Walsenburg", comprised of City employees and other citizens, asked Charles Bryant to read a letter to Council from the group. Mr. Bryant talked about the meetings that have been held, spoke about the desire of the group to have open and honest dialogue without fear of retribution, and then read the letter detailing several concerns the group has. Mayor pro tem England asked whether this should be handled by the Grievance Committee. There was clarification that the Committee was set up to handle employee objections to reprimands if their grievance was not satisfactorily handled by the chain of command. Councilman Moore asked Mr. Hein if any of the concerns detailed in the letter had been brought to his attention. Mr. Hein replied that they had not. There was discussion regarding chain of command and whether Mr. Hein has an "open door" policy. He stated that he does have such a policy but that he also believes in the chain of command, that employees should express concerns to their supervisors who, in turn, will report to him. There was also discussion about the number of police officers and the difficulty of covering all shifts and allowing officers time off with the current staff level. A second letter from citizen Joe Kancilia (who was not in attendance) was also read detailing some concerns he has with utility fees (particularly sewer fees) and several other items also. There was then several hours of discussion regarding the individual points in the first letter (some of which were based on misinformation taken from the newspapers) which concluded with Council asking Administration and staff for more open lines of communication and stating to the members of the group that their concerns would be addressed and that they are welcome to come to any future Council meetings. Mr. King also said that everyone would be

welcome at their meetings.

REPORTS

Administrator Alan Hein reported on the following:

Martin Lake Valve Replacement: The last casement was poured today. They have the intake structure built. The backfill is probably about 2/3 complete. The job is moving very rapidly and is looking very good.

Grocery Store Status: It is his understanding that they are going to close on the property this next week. We have fulfilled our commitments to them to remove trees and structures from the lot. This was an incentive that was put in place a couple of years ago.

Emergency Siren: It's ready to go. There are 2 contact points, one at City Hall and one at Dispatch

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mr. Hein had a very good meeting with the engineers in Denver last week. He talked with Moltz (the contractor). They are currently in the process of re-evaluating some of the areas that the City is going to undertake as far as construction of the project. He met and talked with TetraTech about some of the areas where they might trim their price down. He noticed that they had ¼ million dollars in contract services to the City. He questioned that and they are working on getting some of that trimmed. Councilman Moore asked if we have the expertise to do that kind of work and Mr. Hein replied that we do. Hopefully by the end of the week he'll have the information back from the contractor and from TetraTech. He's hoping to have that on the agenda for the next meeting.

Northlands: The engineer is currently working on revising the PER. The environmental study was the biggest deficiency so they're working on that. They're going to help us as much as they possibly can. Councilman Moore asked about the deadlines for CDBG and DOLA. Beth Neece replied that we need to get financial statements from all the businesses in the Northlands and their employees. Mr. Moore thought that requirement had been waved by OEDIT. Ms. Neece replied that it had not. He also asked about the deadline, which is the 15th of May. After a question from a citizen about whether the citizens of the City will be paying for "that project out there" Mayor Quintana assured that the City is not paying for that and whatever money is spent out there will come back to us through taxation and other means.

Indian Pool Ranch: The letter of intent has been signed by the Mayor. He has been trying to get in touch with the individuals (Faris Land and Cattle) to get the easement for the utilities.

Walsenburg Care Center: A letter has been drafted and signed by the Mayor to Mr. Brandstatter who is looking into the procedure required to acquire this property. He will be in touch with Mr. Hein as soon as he finds out. We're going to go ahead and send the letter to the State Parks and Youth Services requesting that that land be separated for this project.

Police Chief Chief Chamberlain went over the statistics report. He wants to go back 3 years to do comparisons to see if we need to be concentrating more on certain areas of the city and/or on certain types of crime. He'll get back to Council on that. Mayor Quintana mentioned that it might be a good idea to spotlight in the very dark areas. There was some discussion regarding curfew issues which will be reviewed. Councilperson Lind asked about certifications. Chief replied that all of the officers have been certified by the Taser instructor from the Sheriff's department. They are also looking at getting

everyone intoxilyzer certified. They are also working on a physical fitness program. Ms. Lind asked about communication with the Sheriff's department. Chief replied that one of the first things he did when he took office was to go talk to the Sheriff and they have been in constant communication since then. Mayor pro tem England asked what the plans for the dog are. Chief replied that he is a triple-certified (drugs, patrol, and tracking) dog and they are working on a plan to utilize him more and offer his services to other agencies.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Chairman James England reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday, April 19th at 5:30. Those in attendance were himself, Mayor Quintana, Councilpersons Rick Jennings, Silvana Lind, Nick Vigil, David Mockmore, Erin Jerant, Craig Lessar, and James Moore. Also in attendance were City Administrator Alan Hein, Assistant City Administrator Beth Neece, [Nancy] Lave from the Chamber of Commerce, Finance Director Krystel Vigil, Renee Rinehart from the Signature, and Larry Patrick from the Huerfano World Journal. Items on the agenda were as follows:

- ◆ The monthly reports – next on this evening's agenda. There were a lot of questions asked and answered as best they could be answered. The finance director is looking into some other questions and will report back on those.
- ◆ The franchise rates were also discussed. The franchise agreement with San Isabel will be coming due in about 2 years. Franchise agreements with Qwest and Bresnan were also discussed.
- ◆ The Indian Pool project – the location of the property in relation to the City, specifically the Northlands was discussed. They were provided with a map and Alan covered the rest in his report.
- ◆ Contract with KSPK for water park advertising – this is dependent on a later agenda item regarding Walsenburg Wild Waters.
- ◆ The lease for cattle on the East Ranch will be discussed by the committee at a later date for possible use next year or for use as winter grazing if we can get the state bill passed that will allow us to lease the land.
- ◆ The next meeting will be on May 3rd at 5:30.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Erin Jerant reported that the Committee met after the Finance meeting with the same people in attendance.

- ◆ They talked about what they can do to encourage the skate park. No one was there from the group that is trying to establish the skate park but they're trying to get some grant help to get that going. She was informed today that the companies who make energy drinks sponsor skate parks and that should be investigated.
- ◆ The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the water park which is on the agenda for later in this meeting.
- ◆ The next meeting will be May 3rd following the Finance meeting.

Monthly Reports

Mayor Quintana asked if there was any discussion on reports. Councilperson Jerant happily noted that the Utility Billing Aging report is much lower than it has ever been before. Ms. Jerant also asked for clarification of a number on the disconnect log as a hole had been punched over the number.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Jacque Sikes reported that as of the End of March it is \$8,742,050.28. She also reported on whether each of the funds was up or down. The overall change in the funds was a positive \$631,502.68. James England moved, seconded by Jim Moore, that the Treasurer's Report for March be accepted. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

Councilperson Jerant asked for clarification on the Revenues over Expenditures report that the gas revenue was \$181,528.43. She thought that it had been reported as \$52,000. Krstel Vigil stated that that was the profit.

Unfinished Business

- ◆ Walsenburg Wild Waters – Dan Hyatt wanted to clarify that the contract with GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) stipulated that the park would remain open for 25 years. He suggested that, if Council votes not to open the water park, that it be contingent on getting consent from GOCO and also suggests that we extend the agreement so that it will be open a total of 25 years. He was in a similar situation with the Division of Wildlife and that was how they worked it out. There was further discussion with input from citizens and Council offering ideas for different ways to stop the losses. Erin Jerant then moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, that Walsenburg Wild Waters be closed this Summer subject to negotiations with GOCO regarding eligibility for future grants. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 6-3 with the nay votes from David Mockmore, James England, and Mayor Quintana.
- ◆ The final reading of Ordinance 994 was postponed.

New Business

- ◆ Discussion to set a date for a town hall meeting was also postponed to the next meeting on May 4th.

Adjournment

With no further items on the agenda, the City Council meeting adjourned at 10:25 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.