

STATE OF COLORADO  
COUNTY OF HUERFANO  
CITY OF WALSENBURG  
Regular Session Meeting  
June 15, 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 City Administrator Beth Neece, City Clerk Lori Sheldon, and City Treasurer Jacque Sikes.

Officer John Salazar and K-9 Atos did a demonstration of Atos' drug-detection capabilities and Officer Salazar answered questions from Council, citizens and the press.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Quintana asked if there were any comments or questions for the June 1st Regular City Council meeting. James Moore asked that the attendance be corrected as Mr. Hein was not at that meeting. David Mockmore moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that the minutes from the June 1, 2010 regular meeting be accepted as corrected. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee** Chairman James England reported that the Finance Committee met twice since the last Council meeting. The first was on Monday, June 7th at 6:00. All Council members were in attendance along with several citizens and representatives from the Huerfano World Journal and the La Veta Signature. Items on the agenda were as follows:

- ◆ Randy Watkins and Mr. Schommer from the auditing firm were here. They received questions from Council on the items that Council would like to see reviewed. Council expects the report of their audit to be presented to the committee and Council by the second meeting in July.
- ◆ Carl Tomsic came forward to ask the Committee to pass on to Council a request for funds to help in assisting the youth of Walsenburg with sports. The Committee passed on recommendations to Mr. Tomsic and wanted to wait for the auditors' report to get a better understanding of the dollar amount in our contribution fund.
- ◆ Bruce Eccher had come forward and expressed concern over our current sewer billing rates for hotels and motels. It was expressed by the committee that if funds were reallocated from this part of the billing then the difference would have to be made up somewhere else. Committee has instructed staff to put together the numbers and information to review the situation and review any allocations or changes that could be made. This issue will also come back before the committee in July.
- ◆ A request to adjust tap fees but due to a lack of response the last 3 times the City has made an effort to help with this matter, our current financial situation being what it is, this item was tabled from discussion.
- ◆ The IT position is currently being sought and advertised.
- ◆ The question of uniforms for City employees was discussed and this will be on the agenda for later tonight.

The second meeting was last night (June 14<sup>th</sup>) at 5:30. All Council persons were present with the exception of Councilperson Jerant. The media as well as members of the community were also present.

- ◆ The first item on the agenda was the resignation of the Finance Director. It was discussed and advertising started today. Our City Administrator made it known that staff will make adjustments in the mean time to compensate for her absence.
- ◆ Sewer rates were discussed and again, that item will come back up in July.
- ◆ Mineral leases were discussed. That item will be on an agenda for the first meeting in July as it came to the forefront that there needed to be some changes in the way the original lease was worded.
- ◆ It was also decided by the committee to accept the Treasurer's report for this month and to alleviate going over the standard monthly items. We'll begin reviewing our standard monthly reports next month after the audit is completed.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** Chairman David Mockmore reported that the Committee met after the Finance meeting with the same people in attendance.

- ◆ Last weekend was not a terrific weekend because of the weather but we still put \$1,749.00 into the bank. We had a good day on Thursday. Friday was partially good. Saturday we closed and Sunday was a short day before we had to close again. The weather looks good for this next weekend so hopefully we'll have a good turnout. To date we have \$10,164.00 income and expenses which include one go-round with payroll, we have \$1,894.00 to the good after our first 12 days of operation. Other expenses include chemicals – being closed 3 days a week, the chemicals are evaporating. Councilperson Jerant asked about the expenditures listed on the report for Wild Waters and whether those came out of the pool revenues. She also asked whether the park is operating on its own revenues as opposed to the money that was budgeted for it. Mr. Mockmore replied in the affirmative to both questions. Councilman Moore stated his concern about receiving a printed report of the financials with breakdowns of concessions and admissions. Mr. Mockmore stated that he could get a printed report.

### **CITIZEN FORUM**

Cathy Garcia, President and CEO of Action 22 gave a presentation regarding her organization. It is the only regional advocacy organization covering 22 counties encompassing approximately 36,000 square miles in southern Colorado. It is a volunteer membership organization of individuals, businesses, organizations such as chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, and city and county governments, working together on the common issues that affect southern Colorado. Ms. Garcia lobbies at the State Capitol for southern Colorado regarding issues like transportation, Economic Development, health, etc. Ms. Garcia answered questions from council regarding the Action 22 foundation and health care and the "Ports to Plains" trade corridor.

Charles Bryant appeared to ask if the City would participate in a fund-raiser for the skate park. They would like to conduct a limb drop-off where citizens could drop off their tree limbs in exchange for a donation. City crews would then pick up and dispose of the limbs. He assured that there would be monitoring so that people would not drop off trash or non-organic material. James England moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that staff be allowed to direct the workers as needed for the skate park fund-raiser as in in-kind gesture

in lieu of a monetary contribution. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0. Mr. Bryant then asked if the City would be able to deposit donated funds for the skate park project. Since the facility is being built in City Park and the City will have to be involved in any grant applications, Council agreed to keep the funds in the City's general fund, delineated for the Skate Park.

## **REPORTS**

Liaison to the Huerfano County Economic Development group **Silvana Lind** had no report.

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Jacque Sikes reported that as of the End of May the account balance is \$8,585,562.49. Year to date we are at \$503,092.80. Without the ranch sale we are down \$11,381.34. The capital improvement fund is down \$131,794.00. The Water and Sewer fund is down \$31,769.00 without the ranch. Nick Vigil moved, seconded by Erin Jerant, that the Treasurer's Report for April be accepted as presented. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

**Administrator** Alan Hein reported on the following:

**Wastewater Treatment Plant:** We've been negotiating back and forth and trying to figure out a format that would work to get this project off the ground. We have accomplished that. We received the notice of award today from TetraTech Engineering firm. As soon as the Mayor signs off on it then it will go back to the contractor and the contractor will secure the bonds and insurance necessary to start the project.

**Northlands PER:** We have fired that back up again. This is a request of the USDA to revise and update the PER. The engineering firm has hired a consulting group to do the survey for the cultural resources on this project. They're requesting 648 acres be researched. The deadline on this is July 1<sup>st</sup> to have the PER revised and back to the USDA. We don't see a problem with getting that accomplished so the individuals doing the cultural survey are going to start this week and will get all their information compiled. In response to a question from Councilperson Jerant, Mr. Hein stated that this was done in part but not enough to satisfy the USDA. Councilperson Moore added that it probably has something to do with Native American artifacts and Mr. Hein confirmed this.

**Mexican Ditch lawsuit:** Mr. Hein was contacted by Tim Beaton who is the City's water attorney. This lawsuit has been pending for about 7 years. They settled out of court which will save the City a considerable amount of money. The water rights of the City have been retained in good status which is what the goal was when we went into this.

**Grocery Store Status:** Bresnan, with the help of the City crews, installed the conduit to relocate their lines. The paperwork and the process we have to go through with Qwest to get their work done is in the final stages. The next stage (for the main project) is scheduling of the construction. That has been done earlier this week. He was expecting a phone call to tell him what the schedule is but he had not received that yet. The general contractor for the developer came in and did some survey work on it and they would like to start moving dirt this week.

## **Police Chief**

- ◆ Chief Chamberlain reviewed the monthly statistics.

## **Monthly Reports**

- ◆ Due to the resignation of the Finance Director, the only reports on the agenda under consent items were the Utility Billing Aging, Fuel Consumption, Expenditures, and Code Enforcement. Council would like the Code Enforcement report to include a legend that explains the action codes. David Mockmore moved, seconded by Craig Lessar, that the reports be accepted. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0

**Unfinished Business**

The semi-annual leaf and limb pickup was discussed. There will be 2 options for customers. First, customers may have a \$3.33 monthly fee added to their utility bill. This will entitle participating customers to 2 scheduled pickups per year. The second option allows customers to pay a \$20.00 one-time fee for a pickup within a certain from the date of payment. Erin Jerant moved, seconded by Nick Vigil, that the optional leaf and limb pickup program be instituted on a trial basis for one year, starting in July, for a cost to the customer of \$3.33 per month. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

**New Business**

Rent vs. buy was discussed in regard to uniforms. At this point in the year it would cost approximately \$3,000.00 to rent uniforms for the remainder of the year. It would cost about \$3,600.00 to buy uniforms for all the crews. Buying the uniforms now will save the City the \$3,000.00 rental costs. James England moved, seconded by David Mockmore, that the City sever the contract with AlSCO Cleaning Services and that staff be directed to purchase uniforms for City employees. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

The item regarding the Shell Oil mineral leases was postponed until the first meeting in July due to a need to revise the agreements.

Erin Jerant moved, seconded by David Mockmore, to approve the fireworks application for Judy Reiners. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

Craig Lessar moved, seconded by Erin Jerant, that the liquor license renewal application for the Silver Dollar Inn for malt, vinous, and spirituous liquors be approved. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

After a short discussion, the matter of deciding on a new signer for the bank and investment accounts was postponed to the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjournment**

With no further items on the agenda, the City Council meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

CITY OF WALSENBURG

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce A. Quintana,  
Mayor

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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.