

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of City Council Work Session
Monday, April 12, 2021

PRESENT: Councilmembers DeKryger (5:39 p.m.), Fitzgerald, Postema, Postler and Vanderwood, Mayor Poll and Mayor Pro Tem Bolt

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Balfoort, Erickson, Hofert, Holt, Koster, McCarter, Rynbrandt, Smith, Stowell and VandenBerg

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Bolt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the City Clerk read the virtual meeting rules.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Division United Presentation

Hofert introduced Steven Duong of AECOM. Duong explained the Division United plan, stating the plan proposes a transit supportive environment along Division Avenue, involving a partnership between the cities of Wyoming, Kentwood, Grand Rapids and the Rapid. The goal of this combined effort is enhanced quality of life opportunities along the corridor. Duong explained the process of developing this plan and the long-term goals of the plan.

DeKryger joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Next steps will include virtual town halls to review the preliminary plan with the community and businesses.

Hofert explained once the plan is complete, it will undergo Planning Commission and City Council review and if approved, it will be used as reference for future development of Division Avenue. The master plan and this plan were developed to complement each other. Hofert explained that part of the desire to develop this plan was the limited investment following the launch of the Silverline.

5. Budget Review

a. Community Services

Rynbrandt reviewed the budget of the Community Services Department, including the Community Development Fund, the Parks and Recreation Fund, and the Building Inspections Fund, highlighting activities completed and anticipated revenues and expenditures within each fund.

Rynbrandt also provided considerations for contracting out construction permitting. Council was supportive of further exploration of this service model.

Council took a 5-minute recess. The meeting resumed at 7:20 p.m.

b. General Fund

Balfort reviewed millage rates and provided a comparison of the 2021 adopted and amended budgets with the 2022 proposed budget and explained where COVID-inspired grants appear as General Fund revenues. Balfort discussed revenues and expenditures in the General Fund, highlighting information on personnel, state revenue sharing, personal property tax, insurance, pension and OPEB funds. Two budget 5x5s were provided, demonstrating various funding and staffing scenarios.

c. Miscellaneous Funds

Balfort briefly discussed the Public Safety, Police, Fire, Sidewalk, Yard Waste, Sewer Bond Reserve and Water Bond Reserve funds, noting the how each fund is used. Data was provided on staffing levels, as well as comparisons of overall resident costs and average water and sewer bills.

Balfort explained the next steps of the budget approval process and offered additional resources to assist Council in its consideration. Final budget approval is scheduled for May 17.

6. PUD-4 Recommendations

Hofert reviewed the concerns Council expressed at the March 8, 2021 work session and the analysis staff completed following that discussion. Hofert presented the revisions to the PUD-4 designation, noting proposed and revised densities, open space and other requirements. Staff is seeking affirmation that council is satisfied with this revision and that it can be moved to Planning Commission for consideration.

Hofert fielded questions and Council discussed the reduced densities and other changes presented.

Council supports moving this item to Planning Commission for consideration.

7. Council Appointment Policy

VandenBerg and Holt presented the amended policy and discussed how applications would be reviewed by council under the revised policy.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular City Council meeting.

8. Charter Amendment Discussion

Bolt read a statement explaining how the current charter reads with gender specific terms, how the charter might be amended to be more gender neutral and the process to bring about a proposal to amend the charter.

Fitzgerald explained his desire to pursue this and Postler noted her support. Postema expressed his interest in addressing additional amendments to the charter.

Smith clarified the ability to amend the charter is limited and a complete revision of the charter would require a charter commission.

There is insufficient support from Council to move this item forward.

9. Any Other Matters

None.

10. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment

None.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk