

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, February 14, 2022

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bolt, DeKryger, Postler, Postema, Vanderwood and Mayor Poll

ABSENT: Councilmember Fitzgerald

STAFF: Hofert, Koster, McCarter, Pols, Rynbrandt, Paul Smith, Scott Smith, VandenBerg and Yenchar

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Bolt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Metro Pattern Crime Team (MPACT)

Captain Pols shared information on MPACT, a proposed multijurisdictional investigative team committed to addressing patterned crime within the participating communities. This team is currently made up of detectives from Wyoming, Kentwood and the Kent County Sheriff's Department. This collaborative effort is an evolution of the former Metro Fraud and Identity Theft Team (MFITT) that has been in place for nearly two decades. There is opportunity to have additional communities join this collaboration and discussions are ongoing about potential FBI involvement. Wyoming will supervise and house this team.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular meeting.

5. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Survey Results

McCarter explained the process to date, noting Council's desire to survey community members on how these funds might be spent. Staff has provided project suggestions.

Paul Smith noted final rules were released regarding how ARPA funds can be used. Smith also explained the "safe harbor" provision for up to \$10M, which provides more spending flexibility. There is a balance of \$2.7M that must be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. Smith reviewed the project categories and how they were prioritized in the community survey.

Council discussed the use of these funds, noting the outcome of the May proposals could change priorities. There was also discussion about eliminating items on the list that have an existing or alternate funding source. Council requested a cost estimate for fire sleeping quarters.

Staff will work on cost estimates and continue discussions with departments through budget review to understand potential funding opportunities beyond ARPA funds.

6. PACE Program Amendment

Scott Smith explained the purpose of this program and a recent request to use this program at the Reserve Flats project. Due to the requirements of the program and the limitations of its application, an amendment is necessary in order to consider application of this program in this instance.

Smith explained two items will be presented for Council's consideration on this matter. The first would be the amendment to Wyoming's program and the second addresses the agreement for this request. Smith noted our program was conservative to begin with and even with the amendment to accommodate this request, it continues to be conservative.

Council supports moving these items to the next regular meeting.

7. Liquor Licensing Ordinance Amendment

Smith explained the desire to revise the liquor license ordinance to incentivize the use of new quota liquor licenses as an economic development tool, specifically in the city center development. Smith noted the limited number of licenses available and the cost of purchasing an existing license on the open market. Smith reviewed the proposed revisions.

Council discussed various aspects related to liquor licensing, license availability and costs.

Hofert shared information on how the City of Kentwood limits issuance of liquor licenses.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular meeting.

8. Redistricting

VandenBerg reviewed the process of redistricting at the city level, noting how the decisions made by the MICRC and Kent County contribute to the decision making at the local level. Two ward redistricting proposals have been prepared for Council's consideration. The first makes no change to ward boundaries and the second shifts two precincts from Ward 3 to Ward 1 to offset anticipated growth in the Ward 3 and limited growth in Ward 1. This second proposal does not alter Ward 2, as growth in Ward 2 is expected to fall somewhere between the other two wards.

Council discussed the proposals.

Hofert briefly discussed various housing development currently proposed throughout the city, making note of efforts in each ward.

Council supports moving the second proposal forward for consideration.

9. Board and Commission Appointment and Reappointment

VandenBerg shared the proposed reappointment to the Economic Development Corporation and an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council supports moving these items forward to the next regular meeting.

10. Budget Presentation

McCarter noted this is the first of three budget presentations that will be provided prior to the budget public hearing and council consideration in May.

Yenchar provided an initial review of budget information relating to personnel and the status of various insurance, pension and OPEB funds. Yenchar then discussed revenues, including a review of millage rates, taxable values and trends related to revenue.

Yenchar noted some of the considerations in this budget year include uncertainty surrounding the continued impact of COVID, as well as the impact of the May ballot proposals should they pass. Department level budget reviews will begin next week. Yenchar gave a brief overview of the remaining steps in the budget timeline leading up to final approval in May.

11. Any Other Matters

None.

12. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk