

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of the City Council Work Session  
Monday, September 12, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Bosker, Erickson, Engerson, Hofert, Holt, McCarter, Rynbrandt, Smith, VandenBerg, Yenchar and Zuidema

**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**

Jim Davis, Director of Housing for Family Promise, noted his interest in item 6 on tonight's agenda. Mr. Davis spoke about the purpose of his organization and his eagerness to work with the City Council to address housing issues in Wyoming.

**4. Language Incentive Pay Program**

Kristen Bosker provided an overview of the efforts of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force regarding the implementation of the Civil Rights Policy and related efforts to support individuals who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) with interpretation, translation and public meeting coverage. Bosker shared information on the demand for interpretation services, noting many of these requests are fulfilled by bilingual city employees. Based on this data, the DEI Task Force in conjunction with Human Resources is recommending a Language Incentive Pay Program. This program would allow bilingual employees to test on an annual basis to ensure they meet a required proficiency level and provide compensation for their assistance in providing interpretation services. In addition to the opportunity this provides for recruitment and retention of bilingual city employees, enhancing this resource supports the City's civil rights policy.

Council supports staff's continued efforts on this item with presentation at a future city council meeting.

**5. Pinery Park Little League (PPLL)**

Connor Zuidema provided an update on PPLL's activities in the last year, noting increased program enrollment, board member changes and improvements related to financial tracking and revenue. Zuidema continues to provide assistance to PPLL and is happy to assist council should there be further questions or requests for additional information.

## **6. Transitional Housing**

Nicole Hofert provided a brief presentation to define terminology, housing concerns and potential zoning amendments and best practices to address some of these items. Staff is eager to hear council feedback on the different opportunities to address transitional housing. Hofert reviewed four recommendations that would help address housing opportunities through zoning amendments.

Council discussed the staff recommendations, as well as the resources and infrastructure in the areas identified. Hofert noted these recommendations should give council a starting point on where these housing opportunities might be located in the city and direction to help staff in the development of a draft ordinance.

This item will be presented to council for further consideration at a future city council meeting.

## **7. Funding for the Future**

Holt noted the progression of tonight's discussion, noting council's request for additional information regarding the Headlee Amendment and its effect on property taxes and further conversation on a millage proposal. Scott Engerson, City Assessor, will discuss the Headlee Amendment and John McCarter, Deputy City Manager, will address some of the questions council has provided on a proposed millage proposal.

Engerson provided a hypothetical property tax scenario outlining how Proposal A and Headlee interact with property valuation to result in tax amounts. Engerson noted how the Consumer Price Index, inflation, new construction, demolition, exempt vs. non-exempt property and sales of property affect the overall taxable values and the amount of taxes that can be collected.

McCarter noted the previous discussions held by council resulting in the items being discussed tonight. McCarter noted the current charter language and the proposed ballot language that would amend the charter. Ballot proposal 1 would amend the charter to allow for collection of an additional 1.5 mills and ballot proposal 2 would seek to combine existing millages and includes a 0.5 mill increase. Several 5x5 scenarios were provided, demonstrating current funding and both ballot proposals and noting the staffing opportunities with these options. McCarter reviewed two handouts that were distributed tonight that address questions raised by council.

Holt recapped council's last discussion, noting council seems to agree on the need to seek an additional 1.5 mills to provide funding for public safety staffing. The question remains on how this would occur.

Council held lengthy discussion about pros and cons of potential ballot proposals. Based on council discussion, staff will prepare materials for council to consider a 1.5 mill proposal.

Council supports bringing this item forward to the October 3 regular city council meeting.

## **8. Any Other Matters**

None.

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

Joel Kamstra, a private developer who does work with Family Promise, encouraged council to be open to ideas that will improve housing opportunities in Wyoming.

Jim Davis, Director of Housing for Family Promise, encouraged council to explore what is really wanted and needed regarding housing opportunities and consider how zoning codes may limit those wants and needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

---

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk