

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, October 10, 2022

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bolt, DeKryger, Fitzgerald, Postler and Vanderwood

ABSENT: Mayor Poll and Councilmember Postema

STAFF: Erickson, Hofert, Holt, McCarter, Oostindie, VandenBerg and Yenchar

1. Call to Order

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

2. Student Recognition

Several students from Grace Christian University introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jim Davis, Director of Housing at Family Promise, shared some of the services provided by Family Promise and expressed appreciation of Wyoming's continued consideration of transitional housing opportunities in the City of Wyoming.

4. November 2022 Election Update

VandenBerg shared information about Wyoming's election preparations and some of the challenges of that process, sharing details about absentee ballots, election inspectors, public accuracy testing and recent challenges in election administration.

5. Reorganization of Community Services Duties

McCarter discussed opportunities to restructure department and staffing within community services. McCarter shared operational and service-oriented benefits of this reorganization. Contracts supporting these staffing changes can be presented at the next regular city council meeting.

Council supports bringing this item to the next regular city council meeting.

6. Transitional Housing Discussion

Building on previous conversations with council, Hofert shared a new option 5 for consideration in addressing transitional housing, in addition to previous options provided. Hofert shared how existing zoning, transit opportunities, potential project density and other aspects of transitional housing have been considered to create these options. Hofert reviewed where various transitional housing options might exist based on the parameters of options 3, 4 and 5.

Council discussed the new option compared to the others previously discussed.

Staff is seeking direction from council in order to facilitate continued discussion of these options or proceeding with consideration by the Planning Commission.

Council supports staff's continued efforts to explore option 5.

7. Funding for the Future

Holt noted discussion at the last city council meeting. Holt understood council's direction to staff was to bring forward ballot language requesting 1.5 mills for police and fire services. Language to this effect has been provided. Staff is encouraging council's consideration of this very soon due to the time needed for review by the Governor and Attorney General.

Councilmember Vanderwood shared his interest in exploring a 5-year request for 1.5 mills, similar to what has been done with previous millage requests. Council can review that millage request and determine whether to ask for a renewal or adjustment of the millage.

Holt shared his concerns with a 5-year millage, noting this funding is intended to add service while previous millage requests were intended to maintain service. Failure to renew this in the future would create significant challenges and our organization has limited ability to rely on staff attrition as we have in the past.

Council held lengthy discussion about pros and cons of potential ballot proposals. Based on council discussion, staff will submit materials for council to consider a request for a 1.5 mill proposal to support police and fire without a time restriction.

Council supports bringing this item forward to the October 17 regular city council meeting.

8. Any Other Matters

None.

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

Jim Davis appreciates the conversation being held regarding transitional housing.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk