

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of the City Council Work Session  
Monday, February 13, 2023

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnoys (5:35 p.m.), Brann, DeKryger, Hill, Postler, Mayor Vanderwood and Mayor Pro Tem Postema

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Erickson, Hofert, Holt, Koster, McCarter, Smith, VandenBerg and Yenchar

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Student Recognition**

None.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

**4. The Right Place Update**

Hofert introduced Randy Thelen, President/CEO, of The Right Place (TRP). Thelen provided a presentation on the efforts of TRP, reviewing the challenges and opportunities of growing and retaining business in West Michigan. Thelen noted business trends in West Michigan and how the City of Wyoming compares with those trends.

**5. Wyoming Economic Development Update**

Hofert discussed economic development on the city-level, underscoring the importance of building and maintaining relationships with partners like The Right Place, developers, and existing businesses. Hofert briefly discussed incentives used by the city to encourage growth and construction values in recent years. Hofert noted the recent purchase of Placer.AI software and how that data can be used by staff to monitor and enhance growth.

**6. MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program**

Koster noted the challenges in recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers. The city's recent addition of academy sponsorship for police cadets has helped recruit and retain law enforcement candidates. Koster shared details of a new program being offered by the State of Michigan that functions in a similar manner, but also includes paying employed recruits while they are attending their academy. Other area agencies are also exploring these funds.

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

**7. City Council Mission, Vision, and Social Contract**

Holt reviewed the history of the city's mission and vision, noting it was developed in 2018. Council and city departments also have social contracts. Holt discussed how the council social

contract has been used to guide council actions and decision-making. Given the changes on council, Holt thought it was important to review this document in case changes are desired.

### **8. City Council Rules of Procedure**

Smith noted these rules are council's rules of conduct and can be changed whenever council deems it appropriate. Smith reviewed the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act and the purpose of council rules. Smith summarized the various sections of the council rules.

### **9. Board and Commission Appointments**

VandenBerg reviewed the 17 appointments and one reappointment that are proposed. There are also three terms that will be expiring where individuals will be recognized for their service. Mayor Vanderwood noted several of the candidates being recommended for appointment were applicants for the recent city council vacancy. With these appointees in place, there will be 3 vacancies on the city's 18 boards.

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

### **10. 2023-2024 Budget Overview**

McCarter noted this is the first of several budget presentations that will occur over the next several months. Yenchar provided an overview of the city's budget process and discussed revenues, expenses, and various funds, including restrictions on different funds. Yenchar further discussed the process and elements used to develop budget estimates for the next fiscal year, including revenue sources, insurance funds and personnel.

Yenchar noted the upcoming millage request, noting a second budget scenario will be prepared if that request fails. McCarter provided details on the budget approval timeline, noting final approval in May.

### **11. Any Other Matters**

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

None.

### **13. Closed Session (Property Acquisition)**

At 6:42 p.m., Mayor Vanderwood moved, seconded by Councilmember Postler to go into closed session to discuss real estate acquisitions.

Motion carried:        7 Yeas     0 Nays

There was a brief recess. The City Council went into closed session at 7:30 p.m.

The City Council reconvened the regular session and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

---

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk