



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
held Wednesday, April 15 1998 for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works
Budget.

The meeting began at 8:05 p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council Members Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, and Thomas X. White. Mayor Judith F. Davis and Council Member Edward V.J. Putens arrived later in the meeting.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, City Clerk; Ken Hall, Acting Director of Public Works; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; W. Bowman Ferguson, Management Analyst; Victor Kirk, Teri Padgett, Jimmy Keifline, Richard Mills, Bill Phelan and Gene Diest, Foremen; Antoinette Conrad and Cindy Murray, Secretaries.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Leonnie Penney, Neal Barnett and Steve Perez of the Recycling Advisory Committee; Kerana Todorov, The Gazette and Betsy Likowski, News Review

Mr. McLaughlin commended Mr. Hall and the entire Department for their efforts to maintain the community. Mr. Hall introduced the members of his staff.

Mr. Hall summarized the Department=s accomplishments. He noted completion of the Storage Building and renovation of the Mechanics Shop. Mr. Hall referenced street resurfacing projects. He noted the switch to once-a-week refuse had been very successful.

Mr. Hall stated that he was proposing to upgrade the Recycling Coordinator and also evaluate the custodial crew to determine if additional staffing was needed. He noted the retirement of Norman Lockerman, the Greenbelt Connection driver, and indicated that Carmen Davino would be transferred to the position.

Next, Mr. Hall summarized the planned street projects for the upcoming year and noted that his staff would be working with the Planning Department to install traffic calming measures. He noted that the refuse fee would be reduced. On behalf of the refuse collectors, he requested that Council consider requiring single-family homes to place refuse at the curb. He also indicated that Public Works planned to help with the renovation of Roosevelt Center Mall. Mr. Hall indicated that staff planned to landscape the medians on Mandan Road and Hanover Parkway.

Mr. White asked if residents were voluntarily placing refuse at the curb. Mr. Ferguson responded that there were a few. Mr. White suggested a voluntary effort. Ms. Davis asked about the number of twice-a-week customers. Mr. Ferguson responded that the number was about the same (10). Mr. Turnbull asked about the reasons for customers opting for twice-a-week. Mr. Ferguson responded that there were no specific reasons.

Mr. Roberts relayed a complaint about someone on Northway continually placing items out for Special Trash. Mr. Ferguson responded that staff investigates excessive amounts of trash and indicated he would investigate the situation on Northway.

There was discussion regarding the need for increased administrative work and supervision by the proposed Senior Administrative Assistant. Ms. Davis requested a specific description for this position. Mr. McLaughlin stressed that this person would still spend 75% of their time on refuse and recycling issues.

Council discussed changes in the distribution of salaries. Mr. Putens asked about cleaning needs at the Community Center. He expressed a desire to add a half-time cleaning person. Mr. White asked about contracting out for cleaning services. Mr. McLaughlin responded that because the building uses are different, there is a need for flexibility and availability during the day in some of them. At present, the city uses both contractors and permanent employees to clean city buildings.

Ms. Davis asked if there was a maintenance plan for buildings. Mr. Hall responded that this was an objective. There was some discussion regarding the security camera item. Mr. Putens expressed concern about several street problems in Greenbelt East. Mr. Diest noted that one of the problems was a dead fire hydrant. Council requested that a letter be sent. Mr. Hall announced that the open house was tentatively scheduled for May 9.

Council asked about the unmet needs under Maintenance of Multi-Purpose Equipment. Mr. Keifline indicated that the transmission flusher/coolant recovery was needed to prolong the life of the vehicles. Ms. Davis noted that the unmet needs were relatively small. Mr. Putens asked that the computer and automotive items be added to the wish list.

Mr. Ferguson distributed a cost comparison of refuse and recycling programs. Mr. Putens noted that some associations in Greenbelt East were considering leaving city service. Mr. McLaughlin noted that there was a surplus in waste collection and if Council wanted they could drop the fee further by \$1 or \$2 per quarter.

Mr. White asked about "recycling only" customers. He suggested that fee might need to be readjusted. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Turnbull suggested that additional recycling containers were needed, particularly in the Multi-Purpose Room. Mr. Ferguson recognized the efforts of the Recycling Committee.

Next, Council looked at Street Maintenance. Mr. White believed that the concrete mixer and Tamper/Compacter should be under the Replacement Fund. Mr. Phelan summarized his plan to landscape the medians on Hanover and Mandan Roads. He noted that the city could grow the plant materials in-house for a tremendous cost savings and enable the city to do all the medians at once. Mr. Phelan discussed some of the problems with trees.

Council complimented Mr. Phelan and his crew for their efforts throughout the city. Under the Cemetery account, Council asked that an MBO be included for evaluation of the Cemetery's future.

Under Parks, Mr. Phelan explained the unmet needs. Mr. Putens liked the "bullet" and wanted it added to the wish list. Mr. Roberts favored not removing weeds in the gutters. There was considerable discussion regarding spraying chemicals on weeds. Council added pack tanks to the wish list. Mr. Roberts asked about the amount of work the city sends out.

Under Intra-City Transit, Mr. Roberts expressed a desire to expand the service, possibly to include service for commuters. He also believed it might generate some revenue. Mr. Putens also was interested in expanding the service for commuters.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Moran, CMC

City Clerk