



MINUTES
CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2021
101 W. 8TH STREET
6:15 PM

Note: Official meeting minutes are located on the City website via YouTube video at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GlenwoodSprings1885/videos>. The times in agenda items indicate approximately where the item can be found on the YouTube video timeline.

REGULAR SESSION

2:18 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Godes, Mayor Pro-Tem Willman, Councilor Kaup, Councilor Wussow, Councilor Hershey, Councilor Davis. Also present were Debra Figueroa, City Manager; Jenn Ooton, Asst. City Manager, Matt Langhorst, Director of Public Works, and Karl Hanlon, City Attorney.

2:19 Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Godes led the Pledge.

2:19 Agenda Changes and Conflicts

Councilor Hershey requested item C be removed from the consent agenda for a vote. Mayor Godes moved item C to the first agenda item.

No conflicts offered.

2:20 Citizens Appearing Before Council

Janell, Cooper Avenue, wanted to discuss Highway 82 and improving traffic flow. Quoting Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Highway 82 is a high-risk area for wildlife vehicle collisions due to a migration corridor. She stated that a wildlife corridor overpass could be built costing around two and a half million dollars, but the costs pale in comparison to the amount caused in damages, and together with the benefits of species and eco system conservation as well as better use of emergency services, would

provide a safer environment. A project in Kremling, CO has reduced wildlife vehicle collision by eighty percent.

2:23 Council Comments

Mayor Godes commented that he represented the City at the signing of Senate Bill 260, five billion dollar funding of roads and infrastructure. He stated that he was approached by several people telling him how much they enjoyed visiting the city.

Councilor Wussow commented that she would like the Council to direct Community Development and Planning and Zoning Departments to look into standards and code for landscaping and better water management practices for both commercial and residential community. Councilor Hershey commented there is not enough water to support rapid growth. City Manager, Debra Figueroa said the departments would do that.

Bryanna Starbuck announced that the City received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 2019 from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Finance Director, Yvette Gustad, along with the Finance Department was recognized.

2:31 Motion for Consent

2:31 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Kaup, to approve the consent agenda for items A and B.

Motion passed unanimously.

2:31 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Mayor Godes, to approve item C on the consent agenda.

Councilor Hershey commented that the City should not go ahead with improving 6th and 7th Street when it cannot maintain its current streets and that private nearby businesses should help pay. Mayor Pro-Tem Willman commented that this is a good expenditure of funds by the City for the citizens. Mayor Godes replied that local businesses already contribute through taxes that fund the DDA and the City cannot use the DDA budget to repair public streets. Councilor Kaup commented that she sees this as a closing out of the Grand Avenue Bridge project and the area needs to be dressed up after the completion of the bridge. Councilor Wussow commented that she wants the City to finish projects, and this will add the finishing touches.

Mayor Godes called for a Voice Vote.

Ayes: Wussow, Willman, Kaup, Godes, Davis

Nays: Council Hershey

Motion passed 5-1

2:35 South Midland Update

Kathleen Wanatowicz presented. Work will be extended by one hour during the Summer while school is not in session. There is a new detour until school restarts. There will be utility work with advanced notification to residents. Mayor Godes commented that there have been no complaints, but he has seen small problems with waiting at both construction areas. Ryan Johnson, Engineering Department, replied that it happens when there is a delay in one activity, and they are attempting to address the problem.

2:47 Introduction to the New Executive Director at Valley Settlement

Debra Figueroa commented that the new director, Maria Trajano Rodman was not present, and this item will be rescheduled.

2:48 Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development Act

Jennifer Ooten, Director of Economic and Community Development, presented that this bill (SHRED Act) would keep a portion of ski fees in local jurisdictions for local projects. Councilor Hershey, Councilor Kaup and Mayor Pro-Tem Willman all replied with their support.

2:51 Mayor Godes moved, seconded by Councilor Hershey, to take an official position of support on the Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development Act, also known as the SHRED Act.

Motion passed unanimously.

2:51 Review and adoption of 2021 updates to the 2015-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan priorities

Item was continued to later in the Council meeting.

2:52 Citizen Survey

2:53 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Mayor Godes, to approve a poll that would include infrastructure, airport, workforce housing, attraction tax, and lodging tax as discussed in the work session, and to appoint Councilors Wussow, Councilor Davis, City Manager Figueroa, and City Attorney Hanlon complete and approve the final draft to be sent out to the public in seven days.

Ayes: Davis, Wussow, Godes, Kaup, Willman

Nays: Hershey

Motion passed 5-1.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman wanted clarification of the cost. Debra Figueroa replied that the total cost was \$17,500.

2:57 South Canyon Planning

Brian Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented that South Canyon is broken into an upper, middle, and lower area. Its assets include the landfill, camping, archery and gun range, camping, the bike path, the hot springs, and other recreation activities. Concerns are illegal dumping, limited access for traffic, the hot springs water quality, and fire danger. The purpose of this presentation was to ask Council if they would like to put in a plan for any type of development or mitigation. Mayor Pro-Tem Willman asked the time frame and amount that a public/private partnership of the hot springs would require and could an RFP require public input. Brian Smith replied that planning is extensive and implementation costs would depend on the community and Council's direction. Smith stated an RFP could be structured for public input and could contain specific criteria. Councilor Kaup wanted clarification of the area involved, the cost for the whole canyon area, if a phased approach would cost more, is South Canyon regarded as a city park and she expressed concern for commercial development. Brian Smith replied that he would defer to Council on whether they wanted to do a phased project, but it is easier to acquire funding in phases. He did not have a cost for the whole canyon area or for a phased approach, but whichever approach is taken, there will be canyon wide impact. He stated that South Canyon is designated park lands.

3:27 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Todd Hurst, Glenwood Springs, goes to the hot springs, and performs clean up tasks and maintenance including draining the springs to prevent bacteria levels. The condition of the hot springs is quite good and the warning sign for fecal matter is for the creek in the South Canyon. Camping is mainly self-contained vehicles, not tents, and there are no fire pits. He said signage, a porta-potty, and a bear proof container would be great for the public park but would like to keep things as natural as possible.

Breanna McCallum wanted clarification on what the plan was going forward. She would like to see a natural hot springs and South Canyon and that the South Canyon Park remain as a local amenity and hopes this process has public input.

Jim Olp, calling from Golden, previous multi business owner in Glenwood Springs, founder of South Canyon Coalition and author, stated that this is the best presentation for preserving South Canyon he has ever seen and would like to participate in the planning team.

Craig Amichaux commented that the two main issues are egress and entry to the landfill and is in support of a diverse advisory board, working under the leadership of Brian Smith, to find a solution.

Tye Richardson, South Canyon, stated that the biggest issue with South Canyon is fire protection. He is happy that a wetland delineation report is being undertaken to see if wetlands can go under State and Federal protection. He also commented on the elk reproductive

grounds that have been negatively affected by bike trails and suggests putting limits on the use of higher trails to enable breeding.

Tracy, Wilderness Voyagers Bike Touring Co., commented they are interested in being able to offer South Canyon on their bike tours and to express commercial entities are interested in using the area.

3:43 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

3:44 Councilor Kaup moved, to ask staff to come back with a cost estimate for a full plan of South Canyon that is a public process that includes stakeholders as outlined and preferred by Parks and Recreation Commission. She requested that this would be returned to Council prior to the budget discussions for 2022 and the City Manager or Finance suggest a place for funding, perhaps from the tobacco fund or other sources if the Parks and Recreation does not have the budget.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman is believed the short-term situation needs to be addressed such as traffic and recreational activity. He stated that development of the hot springs and tent camping would be a positive way to address South Canyon.

Councilor Davis stated that staff is already spread very thin, and it would be difficult for them to move outside of city limits. He goes on to state that illegal dumping is a problem in South Canyon and that occurs because of lack of monitoring. He said the solution is commercial development. He wanted to remind Council that a development will have to go before the County Commissioners and there will be additional public input during that period.

Councilor Wussow voiced her hesitancy for supporting a development before obtaining public feedback.

3:47 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Hershey, to direct staff to submit an RFP to seek potential development proposals for the hot springs as well as recreational vehicles and tent camping. This RFP would also include a traffic control plan. Staff would be directed to work to the project team to get public input.

Ayes: Hershey, Willman, Davis

Nays: Kaup, Wussow, Godes

Motion failed 3-3.

4:18 Council Kaup moves, seconded by Councilor Wussow, to conduct a short, accelerated public process and feedback on the South Canyon vision then move forward with an RFP on development depending on what comes out of that process of the lower hot springs area. This is to be completed by the end of 2021 and not to exceed \$20,000.

Councilor Davis stated that this motion was flawed because the RFP was limited to an undefinable lower hot springs area.

Councilor Wussow withdrew her second.

Councilor Kaup withdrew her motion.

4:22 Mayor Godes moved, Seconded by Councilor Kaup, to spend no more than \$20,000 on an 8-week public engagement process to be concluded by August 13th in order to have a presentation at the second Council meeting in August.

Ayes: Godes, Kaup, Wussow, Willman

Nays: Davis, Hershey

Motion passed 4-2.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman voiced his concern on the burden of staff.

4:26 Councilor Wussow moved that once the public input is received, that information becomes available to anyone who would like to submit a proposal and that proposal is met by the end of this year.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

4:27 Councilor Davis moved, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Willman, to put out an RFP within the next 30 days for the hot springs as well as recreational vehicles and tent camping for the South Canyon area.

Ayes: Godes, Davis, Hershey, Wussow, Willman

Nays: Kaup

Motion passed 5-1.

4:34 Review and adoption of 2021 updates to the 2015-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan priorities

Steve Smith from the Transportation Commission presented. Jennifer Ooten, Staff Liaison, was also present. Steve Smith stated that the long-range transportation plan priority guides are broken down into three components, improving safety and correcting hazards, improving connectivity by filling gaps in the transportation network, and taking advantage of divers and emerging funding opportunities and partnerships.

Councilor Wussow expressed concern over the lack of resources designated to the 8th street connection.

City Manager Figueroa stated that for staff parking and transportation issues are a priority and Steve Smith said if funding becomes available 8th Street will become a priority. Jennifer Ooten said it would be helpful to have it written on a list of budget projects.

4:49 Councilor Wussow moved, seconded by Councilor Kaup, to adopt the 2021 updates to the 2015-2035 long-range Transportation Commission plan priorities with the amendment to add the 8th street connection onto the list of major priorities.

Motion passed unanimously.

4:50 Ordinance 2021-06, An Ordinance of the City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Amending Sections 090.030.040 and 090.030.050 of the Glenwood Springs Municipal Code- This Ordinance Authorizes Commercial Use of the Parks Through a Permitting System.

City Attorney Karl Hanlon presented that this first reading of the ordinance is to set up a more detailed set of park regulations by a resolution that will come in front of Council next meeting.

Councilor Kaup made a recommendation to the ordinance that staff has the ability to limit permit activity. Also, permit holders are held responsible for their damages and required to clean up their trash.

Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

4:56 Councilor Kaup moved, seconded by Councilor Davis, to approve Ordinance 2021-06, An Ordinance of the City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Amending Sections 090.030.040 and 090.030.050 of the Glenwood Springs Municipal Code- This Ordinance Authorizes Commercial Use of the Parks Through a Permitting System with the additions from Councilor Kaup.

Ayes: Willman, Wussow, Godes, Kaup, Davis

Nays: Hershey

Motion passed 5-1.

4:58 Report from City Administration

A. City Manager

City Manager Figueroa stated that Parks and Recreation Director Brian Smith is currently having staffing challenges. Brian Smith stated that staffing issues are creating a problem for public amenities and services as well as full time employees are being worked above their requirements. Due to this, there are complaints from the public.

B. City Attorney

C. Correspondence Incoming/Outgoing

Councilor Hershey made the request for Mayor Pro-Tem Willman to add an agenda item to discuss Mayoral authority.

5:08 Adjournment

4:56 Mayor Pro Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Wussow, to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.