



MINUTES
CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 15, 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

:00 Roll Call

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

:01 Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Godes led the Pledge.

:01 Agenda Changes and Conflicts

No conflicts offered.

:01 Citizens Appearing Before Council

No citizen appeared.

:02 Council Comments

Councilor Stepp stated that the River Fest, held by the River Commission, is August 7th.

Councilor Davis stated that the Farmers Market is thriving and fulfills the vision of 7th St.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman stated that on August 15th, the first Rocky Mountaineer Train will come through Glenwood and the Tourism board is planning a big welcome. Willman also commented that the CML's new initiative is housing. Willman welcomed everyone back to an in-person Council meeting.

Councilor Kaup asked if it would be possible to have a City run child care center for employees at the Community Center. Council directed City Manager, Debra Figueroa for staff to take a preliminary look into the possibility.

Mayor Godes thanked Alissa Owsley, Director of Information Systems, for her work to make the in-person Council meetings possible. Godes commented that the City Manager review is overdue and suggested an Executive Session for the next Council Meeting.

:10 Motion for Consent

:10 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Hershey, to approve the consent agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

:10 South Midland Update

Kathleen Bontavich, presented. Phase 1 of the roundabout is currently in progress and will be the focus until August 16th when school returns. Roadway surfaces on much of South Midland are temporary asphalt and afternoon rains often lead to potholes, but they are attempting to patch them as quickly as possible. Their main goal is to come up with a comprehensive plan for smooth transition for buses and traffic for the upcoming school year. One of these aspects is that Sunday work is now necessary.

Mayor Godes asked about the upcoming hours during the school year. He suggested that the new 9am-4pm weekday hours might interfere with school traffic at 3pm.

Mark Gould stated that they will clarify Gould's hours and work with the school schedule when he meets with the school next week.

:24 DDA Board Appointment

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman and Councilor Davis, the two Council liaisons to the DDA, highly recommend Chad Lee, applicant, for the DDA.

Mr. Lee commented on his enthusiasm for the vitality for the Downtown Corridor and 6th street. He stated that it is time for updated parking, but the DDA should not operate it. He commented that North Landing is the gateway to 6th street and what happens there needs to be done with care and not to rush anything.

:27 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Davis, to appoint Chad Lee to a second term on the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

:28 RFTA Funding and Maintenance IGA for the 27th Street Underpass

Item was moved to later in the agenda.

:29 Downtown Paid Parking (MOVE Study)

Terri Partch, City of Glenwood Civil Engineer, presented. The MOVE study showed that the City is reaching parking capacity in the entire downtown area. Employees are occupying much of the off-street parking. Residential overnight parking in off-street lots are 20-40% full. The main recommendation is to implement off and on street paid parking in 2022. Other recommendations are to implement a truck loading zone. Establish weekend enforcement. Update our parking management from chalk to a license plate recognition technology. Adjust fines for parking violations and improve signage.

Councilor Stepp asked if bike parking and the cost of increased transportation by RFTA would be included in this request. Partch replied that the MOVE study did address the need for more bike racks and also included more information on the RFTA situation.

:45 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Robert Gavrell, Transportation Commission, commented that the Transportation Commission is very impressed with the new study. Gavrell stated that it is to be implemented in phases starting with enforcement led by a parking manager. Gavrell emphasized that hiring a parking manager would in turn create revenue for the City.

Sheila Markowitz, Bennett Ave, commented that this is a tourist town, but the way forward is with enforcement and not paid parking.

Kevin Brady, Glenwood Springs, commented that all of the other solutions, such as enforcement, have yet to be tested before coming to the solution of paid parking. Brady stated that this will affect citizens as people avoiding paid parking will park in residential neighborhoods.

:56 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

:56 Councilor Kaup moved, seconded by Councilor Wussow, to adopt the managed parking recommendation from the RFTA and City MOVE study, from the Transportation Commission and from the DDA. To direct staff to begin developing a managed parking plan for the City, including outlining program costs estimates and potential revenue as well as a plan for public outreach and stakeholders input. This will be brought back to Council for further consideration in the fall.

Councilor Davis commented that he would like enforcement in place by June.

Mayor Godes stated that he will support this motion based on its request for a plan and public input, not immediate implementation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman commented that he would like to see a measure of enforcement by June.

City Manager Debra Figueroa stated that there currently is parking enforcement however there has been a problem hiring an enforcement officer.

Ayes: Kaup, Wussow, Davis, Stepp, Willman, Godes

Nays: Hershey

Motion Passed 6-1.

1:06 Resolution 2021-17: A New Fee Schedule for the Issuance, Transfer, Renewal, and Other Related Services of Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses.

Ryan Muse, City Clerk, presented on a new proposed fee schedule for marijuana licenses. Fees have remained at the same level since 2011 and 2013, and Glenwood is one of the municipalities in the state with the lowest fees. The increase is to offset the cost to the City in managing marijuana stores and grow locations.

Councilor Davis asked if other municipalities have the same sales tax levels as Glenwood. Ryan Muse replied that everyone contacted in the research had a sales tax. Muse also pointed out that sales tax is a tax on the product while the fees will affect the owner when an application is made.

1:11 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Michaele De'Jide commented but was not audible.

1:12 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

1:12 Councilor Hershey Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Kaup, to approve Resolution 2021-17: A New Fee Schedule for the Issuance, Transfer, Renewal, and Other Related Services of Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses.

Ayes: Godes, Hershey, Kaup, Wussow, Stepp, Willman

Nays: Davis

Motion Passed 6-1.

1:15 RFTA Funding and Maintenance IGA for the 27th Street Underpass

Terri Partch, City of Glenwood Civil Engineer, presented on the underpasses for 27th Street and Highway 82. RFTA has 4.3 million dollars from the Destination Tax Measure and with the City, are looking for other grants. There are CDOT grants totaling around 3.1 million dollars and the overall project costs estimate is 10.1 million dollars. The City has contributed \$500,000. RFTA has funding available from other projects not completed and added to their contribution totaling just over 7 million dollars. Partch asked for consideration of the maintenance provisions, in this provision the City would be required to maintain 23rd to 27th Street while RFTA would maintain the Rio Grande Trail and Highway 82 tunnel. \$250,000 from the 2022 budget will be put towards the project to assist with snow melt and additional sidewalk.

Councilor Stepp asked if the cost would be less if the sidewalk is not completed and if the City would be responsible for any repairs or liability to and for the underpass. Partch replied that the funding should be left to cover fluctuations in costs. Dan Blakenship, RFTA, replied that funding for those projects would still be there in the future. Karl Hanlon, City Attorney, replied that the City would be open to liability, but it is the same for anywhere in the City.

1:26 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Robert Gavrell, Transportation Commission, commented that the Transportation Commission is in favor of the underpass and a continuation of RFTA's services down Hwy 6.

1:28 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

1:28 Councilor Hershey moved, seconded by Councilor Kaup, to support RFTA Funding and Maintenance IGA for the 27th Street Underpass.

Councilor Stepp asked if there could be a fifty-fifty split of the costs. Terri Partch replied that the IGA covered that issue unless there is an unforeseen condition during construction.

Councilor Kaup commented that this is an important project with a huge value to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Willman commented that this project is of benefit to CDOT and they should be doing some of the maintenance of one or both of the tunnels.

Councilor Wussow commented that this is a health and safety project aimed at keeping citizens safe but is concerned the estimate for costs will rise as per most construction projects. Wussow stated that the City should only commit \$125,000.

Councilor Hershey commented that this is a major safety issue.

Ayes: Godes, Stepp, Kaup, Hershey

Nays: Davis, Willman, Wussow.

Motion Passed 4-3.

1:35 Outdoor Dining Regulations

Matt Nunez, Economic Development Specialist, presented on outdoor dining regulations now that the pandemic requirements have lessened. Nunez requested guidance on how Council would like to proceed to reinstate lease and application fees, and the continued use of parklets at the public right of way.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman asked if any other restaurants had expressed an interest in using the parklets. Nunez replied that he was unaware of any other interest although other restaurants have or will apply for outdoor dining areas.

Councilor Kaup asked if the permitting process is reinstated, will that require a change to what restaurants are now allowed to construct compared to last year. Nunez replied that there are guideline and design standards and would recommend keeping them, except for an item that does not allow construction in a right of way.

1:39 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

Steve Nieslanik, owner of Masala and Curry and Glenwood resident, currently uses two of the parklets. He requested that Council renew the permit with the exception of taking them down in the winter.

1:41 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

1:41 Councilor Davis moved, seconded by Councilor Wussow, to continue as in the past year with these restaurants and outdoor dining and limit from two spaces to one space feeling

that we were at a point in this pandemic where more people were comfortable eating indoors so the demand for outdoor dining has been reduced, and to reinstate the fees.

Councilor Stepp asked if Glenwood's double and single parklets are comparable in size to other municipalities. Jennifer Ooten, Assistant City Manager, answered that the size of the parklet has to do with the available depth at which they will be placed.

Councilor Kaup commented that we should not restrict the parklet to one parking space rather it should be eight or nine by twenty-three or twenty-four.

Councilor Davis asked the gross fees for 2019. Nunez replied he doesn't have the number, but the admin fee was seventy-five dollars and one dollar seventy-five cents per square foot.

Mayor Pro-Tem does not think the fees should be waived and businesses can get permission from a neighboring property to use the parking space there would only be a loss of one or two more parking spaces.

Councilor Kaup commented that they should follow the staff recommendation.

Ayes: Hershey, Wussow, Davis

Nays: Kaup, Godes, Willman, Stepp

Motion Failed 4-3.

1:49 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Kaup, to adopt staff's recommendations set forth in the staff report.

Councilor Davis requested confirmation that the dining areas beneath the bridge will remain the same. Mayor Pro-Tem Willman replied yes.

Ayes: Willman, Wussow, Stepp, Kaup, Hershey, Davis

Nays: Godes

Motion Passed 6-1

1:51 Recess

1:58 Compensation Study Results

Laurie Graves, Graves Consulting, and Debra Figueroa, City Manager, presented. The purpose of this study was to help the City's leadership team to recruit and retain talented employees and to provide recommendations for the City's pay structure and benefits program for implementation and maintenance. Debra Figueroa introduced the financial impact of implementing the new pay structure with a total of just under \$1,400,000 for the 2022 budget and for it to be implemented beginning August 1, 2021, with an immediate cost from the general fund of just under \$500,000.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman asked if salary is a percentage of the overall general fund. Karl Hanlon replied that the increase across all funds would be up from 22% to 23.1% and for the general fund from 60.1% to 62% of \$20,000,000 in the general fund.

Councilor Wussow asked if this would help employment. Human Resources Director, Dana Peterson, replied that it would help with new employees as well as with staff retention.

2:28 Mayor Pro-Tem Willman moved, seconded by Councilor Hershey, to adopt the staff recommendation that will increase the 2021 budget starting August 1, 2021.

Councilor Stepp commented that she understood the need, but this should be more thoroughly discussed by council because there are so many projects at the top of the list. She understood the need to retain employees, but this very rushed for this increase in the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Willman commented that it costs a lot of money to train staff and they are the ones who provide the services to the citizens.

2:33 Mayor Godes opened for public comment.

2:33 Mayor Godes closed for public comment.

Councilor Hershey commented that the Police Department is short by ten officers which is a safety issue.

Councilor Kaup commented that it was important to look at where the City stands in comparison with other communities to be able to recruit and retain staff.

Councilor Davis commented that this amount comes to an average of 6% per employee which is an efficient business. Figueroa pointed out that there were no raises or cost of living increase in 2021.

Motion passed unanimously.

2:37 Report from City Administration

A. City Manager

No report.

B. City Attorney

No report

C. Correspondence Incoming/Outgoing

2:37 Adjournment