

MINUTES

WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Nabours called the Work Session of June 25, 2013, to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Councilmembers present:

MAYOR NABOURS
VICE MAYOR EVANS
COUNCILMEMBER BAROTZ
COUNCILMEMBER BREWSTER
COUNCILMEMBER ORAVITS
COUNCILMEMBER OVERTON
COUNCILMEMBER WOODSON

Councilmembers absent:

None

Others present: City Manager Kevin Burke; City Attorney Michelle D'Andrea.

4. *Public Participation enables the public to address the council about items that are not on the prepared agenda. Public Participation appears on the agenda twice, at the beginning and at the end of the work session. You may speak at one or the other, but not both. Anyone wishing to comment at the meeting is asked to fill out a speaker card and submit it to the recording clerk. When the item comes up on the agenda, your name will be called. You may address the Council up to three times throughout the meeting, including comments made during Public Participation. Please limit your remarks to three minutes per item to allow everyone to have an opportunity to speak. At the discretion of the Chair, ten or more persons present at the meeting and wishing to speak may appoint a representative who may have no more than fifteen minutes to speak.*

Kay Doggett, resident, addressed the issue of dead pine trees along corridors of the City.

Mr. Burke noted that this issue has been scheduled for discussion at the July 9, 2013, Work Session.

The following individuals addressed the Council, voicing support for the Dew Downtown:

- Linda Fleisher
- Lee Cowin

Kevin Ty addressed the Council regarding the upcoming user fees discussion on July 9 and the need to maintain the City's facilities properly.

A. Highlights of Recreational Activities - July as *Parks and Recreation Month*

Recreation Director Brian Grube said that July was Parks and Recreation Month and the following members of the Recreation staff then reported on upcoming activities:

- Louis Lucero
- Matt Faull
- Danny Neal
- Shauna Fisher
- Eric Bobkowski
- Jessica Foos
- Claire Harper
- Katherine Suhr
- Mark Stento
- Kris Walsh
- Glorice Pavey
- Jonathan Bordwell

Mayor Nabours then stated that he would propose combining Items 5 and 7, to be discussed at the same time.

5. Preliminary Review of Draft Agenda for the July 2, 2013, City Council Meeting.*

** Public comment on draft agenda items may be taken under "Review of Draft Agenda Items" later in the meeting, at the discretion of the Mayor. Citizens wishing to speak on agenda items not specifically called out by the City Council for discussion under the second Review section may submit a speaker card for their items of interest to the recording clerk.*

7. Review of Draft Agenda Items for the July 2, 2013, City Council Meeting.*

** Public comment on draft agenda items will be taken at this time, at the discretion of the Mayor.*

Jeff Knorr, resident and member of NABA and the Chamber, but speaking on his own behalf, pleaded with the Council to not increase building fees.

Councilmember Oravits said that since last Tuesday he has been crunching numbers and trying to find what it was going to cost to build at the newer codes. Late this afternoon he received two additional studies and he forwarded those to Mr. Burke, hoping to get them in next week's packet. He said that he was also going to e-mail a spreadsheet to show how much a mortgage would go up.

Councilmember Oravits asked Mr. Knorr how much of a factor it was when these costs were increased. Mr. Knorr said that it was not just that rising cost, it goes back to the

2001 Regional Plan. He said that when things like this are added, they have to increase their costs to make a certain margin and it artificially inflates the cost of existing housing.

Mayor Nabours asked that they focus on alerting staff to information they need for next week's meeting or getting public comment.

Councilmember Oravits asked Mr. Scheu where the study was on the effect of these codes on commercial applications. Mr. Scheu said that he has searched the Internet trying to get data on commercial and cannot find any as there are so many different variables.

Councilmember Overton said that did not want to get into the merit of the codes, but he did have an interesting discussion with a truss manufacturer and there are some concerns from vendors regarding the implementation dates. He said that their software was not compatible with the 2012 Suite of Codes and will need to purchase that to bring their engineering standards up. They were concerned with those plans they have on their desks today.

After brief discussion, Councilmember Overton asked that staff provide alternate language prepared for the meeting that would enable the Council to have a 60-day or 90-day effective date.

Mayor Nabours asked if it was possible for staff to issue some type of rating re energy efficiency once they have done their final inspection of a new house. Mr. Scheu said that staff was not trained to do a HERS or LEED certification. It takes a lot of training and currently the code does require an insulation certification be maintained in the electrical box. He said that it would have to be a third party to provide such a rating.

Councilmember Oravits said that he has crunched some numbers based on the Department of Energy Study, but it would be nice to have them coming from staff. Mr. Burke said that he was not comfortable having staff validating a Department of Energy Study and stating that the City agrees or disagrees. Mayor Nabours said that he did not think that staff had the expertise and training to do a Department of Energy type of study.

Mr. Scheu briefly reviewed the amendments and staff was asked to include as attachments the PowerPoint and four amendments.

6. **Debrief the FY14 Budget Process**

Mr. Burke said that now that the budget has been adopted, staff wanted to check in with Council about the process, to discuss what worked and what did not. Each of the Councilmembers gave their opinions as noted below:

Mayor Nabours

The min-retreats were indispensable; could be even more. They need a mini-retreat early on, perhaps to discuss goals and identify financial issues. Through the process he had some concern that there were major expenditures not being reviewed by Council, or it was not user-friendly on how the Council could find the related information. He would

like very clear information such as: 1) how much they have in the bank and why; 2) how much they would be spending; and 3) how much would be left. He said that one example was the transportation tax. He did not recall having any discussion about priorities for use of that funding.

Mr. Burke said that how the projects get selected would be a good topic for a mini-retreat. He said that they have a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, but have generally focused on the current year. Perhaps another mini-retreat could be review of the five-year plan.

Councilmember Brewster

She did like the fund level, which allows them to see where the money was going at the working level. She liked the mini-retreats as it gave them more time to digest the information. She liked the April format and found it useful. She agreed it was a good idea to start with a review of goals and accomplishments. She agreed with having a mini-retreat on the five-year plan and attaching some of their monies to those projects. She said that overall it was much easier and less painful than in the past.

Councilmember Overton

He said that he had a few concerns with the mini-retreats as they seemed somewhat disjointed. There were big decision points, and if it was for information only they need to understand that. If there is a programming change or major policy shift it needs to happen at the conclusion of the budget retreats; no one ever committed. Additionally, he said that they were staff-intensive. It required a lot of preparation, even at the retreat itself, and perhaps they should limit it to those that are speaking. He did agree that it was important to look at goals. They stayed focused on one or two key goals, and they need to make sure they are giving attention to others as well.

Vice Mayor Evans

She said that she was not overjoyed with the extra days they had; she would prefer the boot camp version. She agreed that the mini-retreats did feel disjointed. She said that the issue of user fees was spread out in different meetings, and she also worried about public participation and interaction with the budget. She suggested that they create a simple video talking about Governmental Budgeting 101 that could address the Annual City Budget, talk about the General Fund and other funds, without getting into a lot of depth. They could put it on the website somewhere and also have a section with Barbara (Goodrich) talking about truth in taxation and the tax levy. It would also be nice if there was a way for the public to leave comments about the budget.

She said that she would also like to provide a summary of each of the mini-retreats on the website. This year tweets were sent out about something being done, and they were taken out of context, resulting in the Council needing to put out fires. At the end of each day they could summarize into five or six key things, review the basic conversation and the direction moving forward. That could then be posted on the website and forwarded to the Council.

Councilmember Woodson

Councilmember Woodson suggested that they then take that summary and place it first on the next agenda to receive public input on those items. He agreed with reaffirming the goals with Council early on.

Mr. Burke asked if they needed to get back together again for a status report on their goals, or do it again in September or part of November. Councilmember Woodson said that he thought they were approaching economic recovery and they should have a discussion on the impact of that to the City.

He agreed that the mini-retreats worked well. He has been through this the old way and neither is perfect, but the mini-retreats worked well although they were sometimes difficult to attend. He said that the CIP did not focus on future years, and he would like to see a list of projects and related dollar amounts. He closed by stating that staff did a great job.

Councilmember Oravits

He said that he thought the mini-retreats were great. Being one of the three “newbies” they were helpful for him and he would like to see them continued. He said that it was important to continue filming the retreats for those times when questions may arise.

Councilmember Barotz

She said that she liked the mini-retreats and agreed with other comments that they need to be tied together better. The information provided in April was fine for her. She was okay with starting with the accomplishments, but would like to keep that brief, from a high elevation, and see how they are connected to the Council goals. She said that she would like to find a way to where the Council did not have their backs to staff. She also supported visiting goals in September with the impact of changes in the economy.

Mayor Nabours asked Council if they were okay with a morning for a few hours to review the goals and goal setting for next year. Mr. Burke asked if there was any chance they would be interested in the last week of their summer recess. After brief discussion, he said that staff would begin polling Council to see if they would all be available.

Mayor Nabours said that in some of the more recent policy issues, staff has presented Council with the issue, and then asked Council to select an option. He believed that idea could lend itself to some aspects of the budget process.

8. Public Participation

Andy Fernandez, resident, addressed the Council on a variety of issues.

9. Informational Items To/From Mayor, Council, and City Manager.

Councilmember Barotz reported that she attended the Navajo Rug Auction and it was a fascinating experience. She noted it would be back in October.

Councilmember Brewster asked if Mr. Grube would be taking over Elizabeth Anderson's duties since her position was not being filled. Mr. Burke said that during the budget they redid the structure and Recreation has returned to Public Works and Mr. Grube will be a section head and Library is returning to Management Services.

Councilmember Oravits said that last Friday they had State Representatives at City Hall where they held a hearing on water. They are going around the state talking about water, and Representative Barton is the chairman.

Vice Mayor Evans wished Councilmember Barotz a happy birthday (Saturday). She also noted that she provided the key note address for the College of America's graduation. Additionally, she attended Juneteenth.

Councilman Overton reported that this weekend would be the Environmental Aircraft Association Young Eagle program which provides for local aviation pilots to take 8-17 year olds up in an airplane. It is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

He also reported that he attended the official unveiling of the James Cullen Park, although it was not an official ceremony. He said that the sign was completed and on Father's Day the family had a semiprivate barbecue activity. He thanked Steve Zimmerman for assisting with the completion of this project.

Mayor Nabours said that last Friday he attended a meeting of the Greater Mayors Association, and he found they were all dealing with the same issues. It was good to trade points of view and at times they may take things for granted here. He said that they had one councilmember state that their budget review consisted of the City Manager saying, "Here's the budget, let me know if you have any questions." Another councilmember asked him if Flagstaff Council sets goals.

Councilmember Barotz noted that Vice Mayor Evans birthday had been on June 21, 2013, and wished her a happy birthday as well.

Mr. Burke reminded everyone that their next meeting would be on Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. to discuss water.

10. **Adjournment**

The Flagstaff City Council Work Session of June 25, 2013, adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK