TO: Citizens Budget Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Denise Hish, Administrative Assistant

DATE: June 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Minutes of May 21, 2014 meeting


Staff: Mike Bestor, Anne Beierle, Dan Hartman, Denise Hish, Rod Tarullo, Vince Auriemma

Council: Saoirse Charis-Graves

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

The April 16, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. SALES TAX – MARCH (collected in April)

Sales tax collections are up $84,408 (+8.0%) for the month and Use tax collections were up $357,575 (+96.4%) for March. In the area of audit revenue, $3,335 was collected in April. Total audit revenue collected in 2014 is $240,212.

III. CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR UPDATE – Rod Tarullo/Anne Beierle

Anne gave a slide show of areas along Clear Creek that have been improved. There were initially 10 areas that were going to be given better stabilization but along the way there were a few more areas that were damaged due to the ice flows. Since the project was under budget, those new areas were also revamped. The cost was approximately $90,000 for repairs and $400,000 for improvements. The contractor, Narnajo has been a pleasure to work with and very accommodating. The new library area was also discussed and they hope to have the concrete work done by next week and the landscaping done by mid June.

The question was asked about how often does Clear Creek have these ice dams that cause damage – Maybe 100 years ago there was an ice event but most people that have lived here all their lives,
don’t recall it ever being this bad. The question was asked if the City thinks by doing this work and opening the creek up with more access; does it incur more of a liability issue. Rod replied that the liability should be the same; we are acknowledging the usage and trying to manage and minimize damage.

Karen said she would like to see center lines along the trail from behind City Hall to the bridge to accommodate bikers, skateboarders, walker, runners, tubers, kayakers, etc. Rod gave an update on all the improvements that have been done along the trail including widening in some locations. The plan does address issues of usage and that they may consider a center line being placed on the trail in the future.

IV. **DRAINAGE & FLOODPLAINS** – Dan Hartman/Vince Auriemma

When the kayak course was done in 1997, we had no idea what kind of usage it would bring. Once we saw the impact of how many users there were, we felt that it could all go away if someone up stream were to divert the water in a reservoir or other use. The City decided to file for, and we were granted, a recreational in-stream water right (first one to be issued in the state). When we were doing that water case, all the objectors (Arvada, Coors, Clear Creek and others) were not in the case. The State of Colorado had in-stream water rights but they could do them for environmental reasons and they didn’t want anyone else getting rights to them. They fought us to the end, but we were successful after a long battle in the Courts. We had to show that we were controlling the water in the river and that the water was being put to a good use and there was an economic benefit by having them.

Discussion:
We have a very aggressive drainage utility maintenance program. Our staff inspects routinely each spring – we look at every inlet, every pipe, detention ponds, everything. If there is a significant storm, everything is checked again. Goals are to take the Urban Drainage Master Plan and implement it and have a dedicated funding source. Rob Gibson is our Supervisor and he is doing a great job – he recently told the Public Works Citizen Academy that time to start cleaning and maintain is not when the rain starts. Things would have been very different during the rainstorms last year if we had not maintained these drainage areas.

Tucker Gulch trail under 93 has been bid and awarded. We will start the project late August or early September to be completely out of the thunderstorm season due to the chance of flooding. We asked Xcel in January to move a gas line in this area and are still waiting.

Vince showed pictures of the Tucker Gulch Bridge before the heavy rainstorm in September, 2013 and right after the rains and the sediment buildup. Typically there is 11 ft gap under the bridge and after the 10½ inches of rain we received over 6 days, it was less than 3 foot clearance. We applied for and got urban drainage funding and are building the basin upstream so if we have another incident, the sediment will collect there and not run downstream.
The Kenney Run Channel between 23 and 24th street needs to be replaced but there are very large cottonwoods. If we clean that out and try to update that area, the cottonwoods would have to be taken down. The neighborhood is pushing back and don’t want the trees taken out. We are afraid that the culvert is failing and we need to build a new channel. Urban Drainage and the City have both put up $450,000 each but if we only replace the culvert and don’t open that area, the City would have to fund it on our own. We are looking at the trade off if this project is done and the trees are taken out, how many properties would be taken out of the floodplain? Once we have that information – we will go back to the neighborhood for more discussion.

What is Urban Drainage – It is an organization that provides funding and professionals to help with design. If we build a facility that is compliant with their regulations, they will help with funding of maintenance, going forward.

Vince discussed flood insurance and regulations – The goal of flood insurance is to protect life and property and also makes us eligible for FEMA if anything happens. Golden has been participating since the early 80’s. The program is based on a point system 1-10, the higher being more expensive. Golden used to be a 9 and recently that was changed to a 7. If we regulate the flood standards for building codes, do community outreach and have a drainage system plan, we get points for all these things, thereby lowering our points. Homeowners get 5% off for each decrease in points (5% discount for a 9 and 15% discount for a 7, etc). If the City doesn’t participate in the flood insurance – no one in Golden could buy flood insurance. Ft. Collins is rated a 3 – they have a very well funded drainage utility and they have spent a lot of time and money perfecting the flood plain. Vince estimated approximately 180 parcels in Golden are in the floodplain and therefore are required to have flood insurance. He also stated that if the floodplain touches your property and even though it is not close to your structure, you still are required to carry flood insurance. Sometimes you can submit a survey and get removed from the floodplain because it really is all about elevation of your property.

Heritage Road updates – pricing from Brannan this year for Heritage Road – the increase was 23%. All the increases made sense but when we re-bid, it was even more. Asphalt is up that much and is a problem for capital projects. The current budget will do 25% less road projects. Heritage road is a complete streets project and funding will come from 6 different areas but we are nervous about what the costs will be. We have 5 qualified contractors and have held pre-bid and have had 20 additional questions. We are hoping all 5 will submit bids but won’t know for a week or so. Asphalt is a petroleum product – that accounts for more than 50% of the increase. The other increase is due to trucking costs. We require that 20% be recycled materials – 17% is recycled asphalt and 3% is recycled roof shingles, which results in approximately 14% cheaper in costs to the City. It saves us money and gets us to some of our sustainability goals.

PW Citizens academy starts again after Labor Day – look at City website for more details.

VIII. CIP AND OPERATING BUDGET DISCUSSION – Mike Bestor

Will continue to recommend we take care of infrastructure first. Biggest impacts will be the asphalt increase costs.
If you have any other comments, suggestions or priorities, please let those be known by next CBAC meeting.

IX. **BLUE RIBBON REPORT REVIEW**

Karen shared that this report is an on-going guideline – does anyone have questions? Marv asked if there was a plan in place to look back at this report each time budget decisions are made. Mike replied that the Blue Ribbon Report is primarily a list of potential resources. Council keeps it in mind and will look at it as budget planning becomes more difficult.

Mike gave a heads up to watch or attend the June 12th City Council meeting. Nathan from the Museum will be giving a presentation on the Astor House. They need money to fix the foundation – how much is enough, on-going maintenance costs? Those are things when the Blue Ribbon Report will come into play – where will that money come from?

X. **VOTING MEMBERS – AS OF MAY, 2014**

- Jim Dale
- Louanne Dale
- Marv DeSelm
- Ed Dorsey
- Jean Garrabrant
- Peter Luptovic
- Marv Morgan
- Bob Nelson
- Bob Nettleship
- Karen Oxman
- Eric Scarbro
- John Spice
- Dick Sugg
- Bethany Thomas
- Leonard Todd

XI. **OTHER DISCUSSIONS / CITY UPDATES**

- Recreation HVAC system update – Mike submitted an application to the Planning Commission to apply for rezoning; had a public meeting with about 6 people attending a couple of weeks ago. Mike will now go before Planning Commission on June 4 and they will make a recommendation to City Council to approve or disapprove re-zoning.
- Adjourned at 9:30am.

Next CBAC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 7:30 a.m.  
Meet at the City Council Chambers.