Wednesday, July 20, 2011

In attendance:
Betsy Brooks, Matt Burde, Marv DeSelm, Ed Dorsey, Jean Garrabrant, Pat Gorman, Ken Kranz, Marv Morgan, Bob Nelson, John Spice, Dick Sugg, Bethany Thomas, Leonard Todd, Lynda Wentworth

Staff:
Steve Glueck, Jeff Hansen, Denise Hish, Teresa Reilly

Council:
Karen Oxman

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

With a motion by Bob Nelson and a second by Jean Garrabrant, the June 15, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. SALES TAX - MAY (collected in June)

Sales tax collections were down $5,858 (-0.7%) for the month. Use tax collections were up $19,082 (12.1%) for May. In the area of audit revenue, $95,596 was collected in June. Including building use tax audits, the total audit revenue collected for 2011 is $479,727. The use tax numbers through May are encouraging as the year-to-date totals are at the 2008 pre-recession levels.

So far, the numbers continue to look good compared to 2010. The sales tax collections are on budget for the year and up slightly over 2010. Use tax continues to be very strong during the first part of the year.

Jeff added that there are 3 Sales Tax hearings scheduled for the next few weeks. He also stated the process is to have a local hearing with him, and then they can appeal to District Court or the Department of Revenue. Pat Gorman shared his concern and asked how does the City make the tax base grow in this economy. Jeff stated with new retail that does not exist in Golden would potentially increase the tax base because Sales and Use tax is Golden’s primary tax revenue. Golden receives approximately $5M a year in property taxes and approximately $10M in Sales Tax and $2M to $3M in Use Tax.

III. 2nd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT – Jeff Hansen

Discussion/Questions:
• The heavy rains have affected water, golf course and Splash revenues.
• June was great weather for Splash.
• Bethany asked how long the City expected to pay subsidies to the Museums and Jeff responded it just depends on grants and donations that they are given.
• Ed asked about the Guanella storage leases on page 8; why is that showing an increase? Jeff said he would get more information, but thought we had other water leases in that total amount. (Note: the increase is due to Clear Creek County pre-paying future storage charges.)

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Steve Glueck

Discussion/Questions:
GURA does not stop in 2014; the tax increment stops in 2014, but there are 2 important policy questions:

• Do we need Urban Renewal?
• Who now pays for the downtown management that GURA handles such as holiday lights, power washing sidewalks, parking garage management, banners, etc?

The Planning Department is working on a Central Neighborhood Plan in the bowling alley area off S. Golden
Road and also looking at the Colfax area; Zeta to the east end of Interplaza. There will be LOTS of discussion before anything is decided and that will include GURA, Council, Jeffco and citizens. Steve feels the best way to see new retail will be in the Colfax area by Interplaza.

For the most part, businesses are doing well in Golden. Have a few small retail that have opened and recently Coors Tech rented a 66,000 sq ft space to an Engineering company from Arvada that wanted to expand.

The main focus of Economic Development is to have a vital economy.

Jeff added that right now the only real increase in sales tax comes from inflation. The City of Golden is changing from a growth community to a maintenance community and that will be a big focus with City Council this budget.

V. HIRING TRENDS/SALARY IMPLICATIONS – Teresa Reilly

Discussion:
• Presently the City of Golden employees 198 Full-time employees
• Currently have 5 full-time openings
• Turnover rate at the City is approximately 9% with an average tenure of 10 years and an average age of 44.
• Since the first of the year, HR has processed approximately 5,000 applications
• In 2009 – no salary increase was given and in 2011 there was a 2% across the board increase. On the positive side, there has been no layoffs or furloughs either. Currently in 2012, Mountain States is predicting 0 to 2 1/2% increase in the Denver metro area.
• The average benefits package is 35 to 40% of the employee base pay in Golden.
• Wellness plan – 85% of FTE participate in this voluntary program.

VI. FINANCIAL TREND MONITORING SYSTEM (FTMS) – Jeff Hansen

Jeff stated that his biggest concerns are the utility operations as related to wastewater charges; look for an increase in rates in 2012. He also pointed out that these Trends are for the last 5 years, not looking forward. Existing customers will have to pay more for water and wastewater since there are no new customers (new taps) and everyone will have to pay for the maintenance to these lines.

Jeff suggested everyone watch or attend the August 4 Council meeting for more information.

VII. VOTING MEMBERS – AS OF JULY, 2011

¬ Betsy Brooks
¬ Matt Burde
¬ Jim Dale
¬ Marv DeSelm
¬ Ed Dorsey
¬ Jean Garrabrant
¬ Ken Kranz
¬ Jan Martynuska
¬ Kathleen Moncrieff
¬ Marv Morgan
¬ Bob Nelson
¬ John Spice
¬ Dick Sugg
¬ Bethany Thomas
¬ Lynda Wentworth
VIII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:15am.