

MINUTES
Wyoming City Council
April 17, 2023

The Wyoming City Council met in regular session on April 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Monich called the meeting to order. In attendance were:

Council Members:

Dan Driehaus
Grant Hoffman
Melissa Monich
April Robles
Sarah Stankorb Taylor
Jodi Woffington
Chris Woodside

Others:

Rusty Herzog, City Manager
Emily Supinger, City Solicitor

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Driehaus moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Robles seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda carried with all voting yes:

- March 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- Proclamation Declaring April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day in Wyoming
- Resolution Approving and Ratifying an Agreement Between the City of Wyoming and Energy Harbor, LLC for Retail Electricity Services
- Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Pass Senate Bill 576, the Railway Safety Act of 2023

SPECIAL REPORTS/MINUTES:

No comments were received.

VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Herzog reported that there is plenty of free mulch available that comes with free delivery by the Public Works Department. If you have already received your mulch but would like another load, you may place an additional order. Instructions on how to place an order can be found on the home page of the City's website.

The third annual Upcycle event will be held on Friday, April 21 – a list of the vendors and the items they will be taking can be found on the home page of the City's website.

Spring clean-up for junk items will be Saturday, April 22. You may start putting your items out to the curb now, but everything needs to be out by 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. A list of items that Rumpke is prohibited from collecting can be found on the home page of the City's website.

The Environmental Stewardship Commission along with the City is partnering with GoZero Services to provide a drop off composting service at Oak Park starting Saturday, April 22. There is a list of accepted and non-accepted materials on the home page of the City's website along with common questions and answers about the program.

The final Stearns Woods Spring Wildflower Walk and Talk is Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. There are plenty of spaces available for each tour. Information on how to sign up is on the home page of the City's website.

There are also two clean-up Stearns Woods days coming on Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Oliver Road entrance to Stearns Woods. Dress for the weather and bring your own tools if you can help.

Compton Road will be closed to thru traffic during work hours until the completion of the Compton Road/Sidewalk project.

REPORTS OF STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

No reports were received.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

No reports were received.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Bob Byrns, 1202 Morts Pass, addressed Council. Mr. Byrns expressed concern about the growth of vines on trees. In his observations, he noted that if vines are not cut away from trees, then the trees will die. Mr. Byrns recommended that the City notify the public of this potential problem. He has seen this damage to private and public property trees and the City should be more aggressive in preserving its urban forest.

BUSINESS:

A. Presentation of Annual Report from the Urban Forestry and Beautification Commission: Ms. Bobbi Strangfeld and Mr. Jerome Guest of the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission presented a PowerPoint report on the activities of the previous year conducted by the Commission volunteers. The slides were as follows:

Commission Members:

Bobbi Strangfeld, Chair	Sheri Callaghan
Thayne Bedenkop, Vice Chair	Sean Creighton
Mike Lippert, Staff Representative	Daniele Eller
Jodi Woffington, City Council Representative	Flemming Holm

Gail Bason
Andrea Betts

Jerome Guest
Todd Wales

2022 Community Events

Wildflower Inventory & Mapping	February-May
Arbor Day, Hilltop Elementary School	April
Tree City USA	April
Container Planting	May
Rain Garden Cleanup with ESC	May
Wildflower Lecture	May
Urban Forestry & Beautification Awards	October
Fall Festival	October
Make a Difference Day	October
1,120 Volunteer Hours!!!	

Stearns Woods – February thru May 2022
Wildflower Mapping & Inventory

Arbor Day Celebration
Hilltop Elementary School
April 2022

Tree City USA

The City of Wyoming was recognized by Tree City USA for the 29th consecutive year for meeting the standards of sound urban forestry management.

Container Plantings

Commission member Gail Bason, along with the Wyoming Public Works Department, design and maintain the beautiful planters enjoyed throughout the Village. Cannas are removed each October and stored at a local greenhouse.

Rain Garden Cleanup

Wyoming High School
June 2022

Volunteers from the Environmental Stewardship Commission (ESC) joined the UF&BC for the annual cleanup of the Rain Garden, located at Wyoming High School

Wildflower Lecture: Stearns Woods: A Treasure at Risk

On May 17, 2022, Wildflower Project leader Carol Trosset led a discussion about the protection of Stearns Woods and the inventory of emerging spring ephemeral plants.

Urban Forestry & Beautification Awards
Architectural Improvement Award (1)
Community Spirit Award (1)
Tree Awards (2)
Landscaping Awards (3)

Fall Festival

UF&BC members provided valuable information to the community related to wildflowers, native plants and trees, pollinators, and common invasive plants.

Make a Difference Day

Nineteen volunteers joined together and planted 11 trees and 3 native wild flowering plants, funded through the Taking Root Tree Mini-Grant.

Fall Clean-Up

Volunteers cleared vines and thicket from the Stearns Woods entrance at Oliver Road.

Coming Soon!

Stearns Woods is going digital with the help of volunteers who are GPS mapping the various planting areas and tree species in the Woods. Stay tuned!

Ms. Woffington moved to receive the report. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion to receive the Annual Report from the Urban Forestry and Beautification Commission carried with all voting yes.

B. First Reading of the Ordinance Appropriating Revenues Within Certain Funds, Transferring Revenues from Certain Funds and Transferring Certain Funds Within Designated Accounts: Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to suspend the rules carried with all voting yes. Mr. Woodside moved to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adopt the Ordinance Appropriating Revenues Within Certain Funds, Transferring Revenues from Certain Funds and Transferring Certain Funds Within Designated Accounts carried with all voting yes.

C. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Alpha Construction Indiana, Inc. for the Village Green Project: Ms. Woffington moved to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Robles seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Alpha Construction Indiana, Inc. for the Village Green Project carried with all voting yes.

D. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Ford Development Corporation for the Hike Bike Trail Phase 3 Project: Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Ford Development Corporation for the Hike Bike Trail Phase 3 Project carried with all voting yes.

E. First Quarter Financial Summary: Mr. Jeremiah Caudill, Finance Director, presented the summary in a PowerPoint presentation. The first quarter financial summary reflects the financial activity as of March 31, 2023.

- General Fund Revenue:
 - \$3,279,253 total revenues which are comprised of:
 - Real Estate taxes of \$1,638,643
 - Income Tax receipts of \$1,423,299
 - Local Government Fund of \$42,204
 - Charges for services of \$60,101
 - Permits-\$9,586
 - Court costs/fines/forfeits of \$21,280
 - Interest of \$48,105
 - Other Revenue of \$36,036

- General Fund Expenditures:
 - \$2,425,429 total expenditures comprised of:
 - Police Department/Mayor's Court expenditures-\$789,612
 - Other Operating expenditures-\$426,083
 - Public Works/Facilities expenditures-\$605,875
 - Fire/EMS expenditures-\$143,972
 - Administrative/Legislative/Community Engagement-\$142,182
 - Customer Service/Finance expenditures-\$112,226
 - Legal expenditures-\$12,380
 - Community Development expenditures-\$61,849
 - Transfers/Debt Service-\$131,250

- General Fund Highlights:
 - Income tax receipts down 12.3% compared to 2022
 - Property tax receipts totaled \$1,638,643 which is flat compared to 2022
 - Transfers out \$131,250
 - Expenses of \$2,425,429 18.44% of budgeted amount compared to 25% of year complete

- Recreation Fund Revenues:
 - Total 2023 Recreation Fund revenues: \$189,856
 - Major Revenue Sources:
 - Recreation-\$68,537
 - Civic Center-\$47,964
 - Aquatic Center-\$7,458
 - Parks & Fields-\$65,897

- Recreation Fund Expenditures:
 - Total 2023 Recreation Fund Expenditures-\$262,057
 - Recreation-\$141,852
 - Civic Center-\$49,409
 - Aquatic Center-\$45,853
 - Parks & Fields-\$24,943

- Capital Improvement and Water Works Capital Improvement Program Funds:
 - Total CIP Fund expenses-\$53,665
(Municipal Camp Storage \$11,082; Hike/Bike Trail Section 3 \$3,402; Compton Rd. Improvements \$15,000; Debt Service \$24,181)
 - Total WW CIP Fund expenses-\$11,240
(Debt Service-\$11,240)

- Water Revenue Fund:
 - 2023 Water Revenues (at end of first quarter)-\$452,318
 - 2023 Water Expenditures (at end of first quarter)-\$362,408
 - 2022 Water Revenues (at end of first quarter)-\$436,692
 - 2022 Water Expenditures (at end of first quarter)-\$662,808
 - 2021 Water Revenues (at end of first quarter)-\$525,950
 - 2021 Water Expenditures (at end of first quarter)-\$252,653

- Non-Major Funds:
 - Street Construction Fund:
 - Total Revenue-\$132,676
 - Total Expenses-\$72,575
 - State Highway Fund:
 - Total Revenue-\$11,489
 - Total Expenses-\$2,827

Ms. Woffington asked for clarification regarding expenditures being lower versus budgeted and she asked if there was something that did not happen or if anything has been impacted to cause the reduction. Mr. Caudill stated that nothing specific has impacted the numbers. The City tries to find cost savings wherever we can but typically the expenditures are 92-95% under budget each year.

Mr. Woodside commented on the uptake in Recreation revenue in the first quarter and asked if this is due to facility rentals or some other reason. Mr. Caudill stated that Civic Center rentals are up \$6,800 in the first quarter but also some Aquatic Center membership passes were purchased in the first quarter as well. Typically, most of the pool memberships are purchased in the second quarter. Parks and field activities and rentals are also up as well.

Mayor Monich commented that the Finance Committee met this evening to review the first quarter financial summary and noted that the City's finances are on budget across the board, and we have healthy reserves as well. She left the meeting feeling very confident in the City's financial status.

Mr. Hoffman added that he has a sense of confidence following the Finance Committee meeting on how the City's finances are managed and if anyone is curious about anything budget related, they should reach out to Jeremiah Caudill. He will review any numbers he is asked to but in a way that is easy to understand, and you will leave knowing that the City is in good hands.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor echoed the positive sentiments and thanked Mr. Caudill for the conservative estimates on income tax, in particular noting that it is such an important figure for the City. She thanked Mr. Caudill for being very mindful of that.

Mr. Hoffman moved to adopt the report. Mr. Driehaus seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion to adopt the First Quarter Financial Summary carried with all voting yes.

NEW BUSINESS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA:

None was received.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Robles thanked the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission for presenting an annual report. She suggested that every commission should prepare a report to highlight all the things that the individuals and the committee members do as a collective. This helps to showcase what people have done in terms of impacting the City and the quality of things around that we can all tangibly see. Secondly, Ms. Robles stated that Administrative Professionals Day is next week, and she commented that Debby does a

great job along with all the rest of the staff and she thanked them for their continuous hard work to make the City run behind the scenes and without any qualms about crazy questions that Council may have. Lastly, she thanked Rachel Leininger and the Recreation Department staff; it is little over a month until the pool opens but crews are hard at work getting things ready to open. The Wyoming Seadragons have over 100 swimmers registered already with only having gone through two weeks of registration thus far. She thanked Rachel and staff for getting the kids reeled in and into the Seadragons as well as into enjoying what the Recreation Center and the Family Aquatic Center has to offer.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor thanked Bobbi Strangfeld and Jerome Guest for spelling out in the annual report the tremendous impact the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission makes on the community. It is one of the commissions that makes a tangible, physical impact on the community and they did a good job of showing what a big difference all the volunteers make. Ms. Stankorb Taylor commented that Upcycle Day is coming and residents can bring their treasures to Oak Park to be recycled. The best part of the day is being a volunteer as everyone is so nice to the workers and people are excited to bring their carloads of unwanted items to be recycled. She thanked Patrick Walker for organizing the event, he puts his heart into getting people involved in the program. Also, the GoZero composting program is getting ready to be launched. Lauren Albarella and Chris Pagan, members of the Environmental Stewardship Commission, have been working on getting the program going for about six months. Lastly, it was noted in the Promote Wyoming Commission's meeting minutes that the What's Up Wyoming's traffic has increased. The data shows where the visitor traffic comes in from and among all the various places, from social media there was a 262.5% increase in traffic. She stated that she has a feeling that a lot of the traffic from social media is a result of the efforts of Emily Dengler, the City's new Communications & Events Coordinator. Many people have seen her posts but this is a big number that she would like highlighted. The What's Up Wyoming stories have been very good lately and people have been talking about them, so this is a big deal, in her opinion.

Mayor Monich thanked the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission. She attended the Stearns Woods wildflower talk last fall and participated in the Wildflower Walk & Talk this spring. Reflecting on these two events and all the great speaker programs by the Historical Society over the past winter, reminds her how fortunate we are to have these opportunities to learn about our community. She thanked Bobbi Strangfeld and Jerome Guest for presenting an excellent report.

Ms. Woffington thanked Rob Nicolls and his team for the pre-construction work they are doing on Compton Road. She travels regularly from Hilltop, down Compton Road to Mt. Pleasant Avenue and she understands that some will feel the construction is very painful, but the road needs improvement. She has been wanting a hilltop area sidewalk connector since she moved to the community as have many other folks. She understands that the

team is undertaking a significant endeavor. She wished Rob and the department fortitude in the times of grumbling and her gratitude for making this happen.

EXCUSAL OF ABSENT MEMBERS:

All members were present. There were none to excuse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robles seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn carried with all voting yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Martin, Executive Assistant

Karen Zeilman, Clerk of Council

Melissa Monich, Mayor