



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session

***Work Session
Penn Room***

***Monday, October 18, 2010
7:00 PM***

Although Council Work Sessions are open to the public, public comment is not permitted. However, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe the work sessions. Comment from citizens or professionals during the work session may be solicited on agenda topics via invitation by the Council President.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Hearing - N. 6th Street Repaving Project**
- III. Managing Director's Report**
- IV. Housing Strategy (J. Kromer)**

City of Reading

City Council

Work Session

Monday, September 20, 2010

Councilors Attending: V. Spencer, F. Acosta, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, S. Marmarou, D. Reed, D. Sterner, J. Waltman

Others Attending: C. Younger, T. McMahon, L. Kelleher, F. Denbowski, C. Geffken, D. Robinson, N. Nemeth

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council, called the Work Session to order at approximately 7:47 pm.

Managing Director's Report

Interim Managing Director Carl Geffken read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- 2011 budget to be presented to the City Clerk on October 1st. The budget will be introduced a Special Meeting on October 4th
- Thanking the County for assisting with the graffiti removal
- Quality of Life neighborhood tour planned for September 30th at 4 pm, at 10th and Windsor.

Mr. Acosta requested that the Administration provide adequate notice when Quality of Life neighborhood tours occur in Council Districts.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz described the success of the Quality of Life neighborhood tour in District 2

CDBG Action Plan Review

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Nemeth distributed copies of the draft CDBG action plan. Ms. Kelleher stated that a copy of the draft budget is also attached to the agenda.

Mr. Nemeth explained that the 2011 AP column on the spreadsheet reflects the recommended allocation for the approved projects. He then highlighted the proposed projects in the draft budget.

Mr. Acosta expressed the belief that lighting and repair of the racquetball court is more essential at Third and Spruce than the repair of the basketball area. He suggested that the Administration review the needs of the facility and the facility's usage, rather than just taking recommendation from the Park and Rec plan.

Mr. Spencer noted Council's ability to amend the CDBG budget prior to its approval.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the ten (10) year Park and Rec plan set the guidelines for improvements. He noted that the Park and Rec Advisory Council is currently working to update the ten (10) year Park and Rec plan.

Mr. Sterner stated that he has requested speed tables for North 14th Street, near the Hillside playground. He inquired about the process to bring these projects forward. Mr. Geffken suggested that Councilors bring ideas to the Mayor and the Managing Director.

Mr. Robinson stated that the asterisk next to projects in the CDBG budget draft denotes projects that were deferred from the General Fund area.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested adding two (2) additional columns showing the total project costs and the source of the additional funding.

Ms. Reed expressed the belief that the project plan for the 400 and 500 blocks of Penn are slightly misplaced as they only address planter issues. She suggested seeking private contribution to assist with this project. She also noted the need for a proper plan for the area prior to allocating money. Mr. Acosta expressed the belief that a more appropriate focus could be placed on the City's gateways.

Mr. Denbowski described the problems with the current volunteer program to provide care and maintenance for the median strip planters on Penn Street. He stated that the project as proposed includes a \$35K contribution and in-kind services from volunteer gardening organizations.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz's suggested that the Administration identify a more sustainable solution for the median strip planters. She suggested that this project include some type of anti-weed medium.

Mr. Waltman stated that for the record he has no comment.

Mr. Spencer suggested that Council listen to the thumbnail sketch of the proposed plan and review and discuss the individual projects later. Mr. Nemeth continued to review the proposed projects and explain the monitoring process that is used during the project.

In response to a question, Mr. McMahon stated that the NSP area runs from North 4th Street to Front Street, Walnut Street to Greenwich Street. Ms. Kelleher noted that this is also the approximate area of the Blighted Property Review Committees target area.

In response to a question, Mr. Robinson stated that he was unsure if the Homeless Coalition provides input on the Opportunity House application.

City Council requested copies of the applications for the proposed projects. Mr. Robinson stated that applications for CDBG funding are due July 31st. Ms. Kelleher noted that several years ago the City began funding on a calendar year cycle and working with the County CD office to process applications. Mr. Spencer recalled that this process was put in place to reduce double funding for the same projects. Mr. Nemeth noted the need for Council to vote on the CDBG budget resolution on November 8th as HUD requires it's submission by November 15th.

There was next a discussion on the amendment process. Council will next review the CDBG budget at the October 4th Committee sessions and at the October Work Session.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the Work Session at approximately 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk