

**Work Session, Douglas City Council
April 29, 2019**

A Work Session of the Douglas City Council was held on Monday, April 29, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 101 N. 4th Street, Douglas, Wyoming. Mayor Kemper called the meeting to order. Those present were:

Mayor and Council: Rene' Kemper, Mayor; Councilmembers John Bartling, Monty Gilbreath, Kim

Pexton, and Karl E. Hertz

Others Present: Jonathan Teichert, City Administrator; Karen Rimmer, City Clerk; Mary Nicol, City Treasurer; John Harbarger, Public Works Director; Clara Chaffin, Community Development Director; Jim Willox, Converse County Commissioner; Nick Larson, City Engineer/CEPI; Jarod Fehringer, Landscape Architect/CEPI; Dennis Switzer, KKTU Radio; Colin Tiernan, Douglas Budget; Stacey Poppinga; Bryan Hardy

Item I.1. N. 3rd Street Improvement Project/Façade Grant Discussion: Nick Larson, Jared Fehringer, and city staff provided Council with an overview of the plans for the N. 3rd Street Improvement Project, particularly regarding current parking available (including alley parking) and potential parking spots available based upon varying angles of parking spots. Nick Larson, City Engineer, presented several calculations to demonstrate effects based upon different parking space angles. Other factors deliberated at length included the width of the travel lane; width of sidewalks; pedestrian safety; handicap access; landscaping and beautification; walkability; traffic speed; differences between the east and west sides of N. 3rd Street; and use of parking by downtown business employees. The Downtown Master Plan process, public meeting outcomes, and the final adopted document were reviewed. Related to downtown improvements and discussed by Council was the economic development grant application in the amount of \$50,000 recently submitted by The Enterprise for the Façade Grant Program. A synopsis of the program was presented including the match amount (\$5,000 per property); requirements of qualifying businesses; and required approvals from the City and Historic Preservation Commission. The positive economic impact to Douglas was examined, as well as the positive impact for the businesses who have utilized the program. This is an action item for the May 13, 2109 Council meeting. **Item I.2. Utility Rate Study Discussion:** The utility rate

35 study that was presented by Carl Brown, "Getting Great Rates", at the April 22, 2019 Council
36 Work Session, was considered at length. Discussion followed regarding the large amount of
37 information and data that had been provided to Council, as well as the need to see better
38 comparison data of current and potential changes and the resulting impacts. Staff expounded on
39 the impacts that changes will have on the manner in which the City bills residents for all
40 utilities. All concur that a better understanding of the outcomes is needed and that public
41 meetings are necessary. Staff will prepare the data for Council; this item will be considered
42 at a later date. **Item I.3. Clean-up Week Discussion:** City staff illuminated for Council the
43 issues with the City's bi-annual "Clean-up Week" events each spring and fall. The program is
44 being abused and not being utilized in the manner it has always been intended. The costs to
45 the City are extremely high due to the amount of garbage and household items that are left out
46 for collection and the amount of staff time required to collect these items. Alternative
47 solutions were discussed including offering a spring clean-up only; no longer picking up
48 garbage and household items at residences or in alleys; allowing city residents the option of
49 hauling one pickup load only to the Landfill; and ways in which to ensure only city residents
50 were using the benefit and only one trip per resident was occurring. Staff will continue to
51 work towards these goals. **Item I.4. Recreation Center General Discussion:** Jim Willox, County
52 Commissioner, helped to clarify the proposed components of a potential memorandum of
53 understanding and funding agreement between the City, the County, and the School District.
54 Items specifically elucidated included the total project costs for each Douglas and Glenrock
55 facility; proposed features of the Rec Center; operation and maintenance costs; Joint Powers
56 Board structure; the funding structure tied to the number of each entities' board
57 representation; and location and infrastructure costs. The County will donate 25 acres for the
58 facility. The bond issue was discussed at length as well; George K. Baum and Associates is the
59 firm who would be handling this aspect of the project. The ballot resolution and timeline were
60 deliberated; three of the four Converse County municipalities and the County must pass the
61 resolution in order for the Rec Center to become a ballot issue. **Other Discussion:**
62 Administrator Teichert and Commissioner Willox provided details regarding the upcoming
63 Contested Case Hearing before the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council regarding the Cedar
64 Springs Wind Project. The proposed amount for each Converse and Natrona Counties, as well as
65 the municipalities of Douglas, Glenrock, Rolling Hills, Lost Springs, Casper, Evansville,
66 Mills, and Bar Nunn were reviewed as well as proposed projects for each entity. Witness lists
67 were considered as was the overall process, which is new to all parties involved. The
68 Industrial Siting Council had opposed Natrona County's claim to vacate. Following final

69 discussion and comments, the Work Session was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. **No Council action was**
70 **taken.**

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Karen Rimmer, City Clerk