

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2012, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Jesse Dowling, Council Member
Ruben Jauregui, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Linda Norman, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk
Dan Lueder, Utility Services General Manager
Jody Fanning, Police Chief
Morgan Scott, Development Services Operations Manager
Tom Whitmer, Natural Resources Director

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR THE CITY

Mr. Whitmer presented different options for possible water conservation plans. The city had indicated an interest in developing and implementing a comprehensive water conservation program. The key areas to focus on are education and outreach programs, incentivized programs, and mandatory conservation measures. He went over some of the other programs that have been done around the state, including requesting low flow toilets in new construction; offering incentives to replace toilets; implementing programs for watering lawns at specific times and days; incentives for removing lawns; requiring car washing on assigned days only, and many others.

Mayor Joens asked about the funding that we had been collecting since we purchased the water companies and how much was available for this program.

Mr. Whitmer stated he will check and find out.

Mr. Bartosh stated we are at around \$200,000 for this program.

Mayor Joens stated we are talking about replacing 700 toilets so that is going to take resources to implement a conservation program.

Mr. Bartosh stated we can start now, but we may have to look at hiring additional staff to support it.

Council Member Pratt stated this is long overdue and we need to think about doing this. He would like to see us focus on the educational and incentive programs.

Mayor Joens believes we could even do more education for young people.

Council Member Elinski thanked Mr. Whitmer very much and stated the suggested mandatory measures were well thought out and prudent, but we should start on the outreach program sooner rather than later.

Council Member Dowling concurred with the other Council Members.

Council Member Jauregui stated he would like to see the people in the construction business provide input on this as well.

The Council directed Mr. Whitmer to go forward with it.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS AND INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DOG PARK

Mr. Scott went over the three different possible new locations for the dog park, and went over the location near the Humane Society.

The Council decided that was too close to residents and created more noise with the Humane Society, and that was not a good location.

Mr. Scott went over the Black Hills Drive location. The owner of Black Hills Auto Body would like some additional screening between his business and the dog park. They have had security problems in the past. Woodford Orthodontics is also concerned about the dog park being close to them.

After discussion, the Council decided that was not a good location either.

Mr. Scott discussed the third option, which was near the reclaimed water pond on Mingus Avenue. The land was owned by the city and is currently leased out, and the lessor would be willing to lease the property back to the City for \$400/month.

Council Member Elinski questioned why we needed to lease the property back.

Mr. Scott stated yes, we would have to lease the property back. He then discussed the potential sound barriers at the existing dog park. The first one would be a masonry wall that met ADOT standards along a freeway. The second is an earth berm. And there is a composite material that is used for dog parks. We can also install slats in the existing chain link fence. The dog park would require a minimum of 330 feet of noise barrier, but staff is recommending that the barrier be approximately 550 feet. Staff is also recommending that the fencing be at least 12 feet high. The cost for an ADOT sound barrier wall for a six feet tall wall along 550 feet would be approximately \$50,600. The same wall at 12 feet tall would be \$137,500. A six feet tall wall of earth berm would be \$14,667, a 12 feet tall wall would be \$58,667. Accoustifence material, which is installed on a chain link fence at 6 feet tall would be \$14,208 and at 12 feet tall would be \$22,626.

Council Member Dowling suggested we could do a six foot tall berm with a six foot tall accoustifence, so we could still have the 12 feet coverage.

Mr. Scott discussed the possibility of rearranging the site.

Mayor Joens stated a citizen suggested to her that the small dog area should be swapped with the training area, so the little dogs would be farther away. And another citizen suggested that we should close that road so the dogs would not chase cars.

Council Member Pratt stated he would like to see a vegetation sound barrier, look into the accoustifence and rearrange the dog park. He would hate to see the dog park moved from Riverfront Park, but would like the city to look at abating the noise so it doesn't bother the neighbors.

Council Member Jauregui agreed that we should leave the dog park where it is at. Regardless if we did move it, it would have some opposition somewhere. It is in a good spot there. And we can deal with noise with a sound barriers and since it was brought up about the road it is worth looking into.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer agreed with what has already been said and it doesn't make a lot of sense to move the dog park.

Council Member Elinski stated he is in favor of keeping it where it is and rearranging the dog park and he wants to do the accoustifence option, but would like to combine that with an earth berm.

Council Member Dowling stated he is in agreement. He wants do everything we can to abate the noise and will always be there for later use if necessary.

Mayor Joens opened the floor to the public.

Cynthia Malla, Jody Wheeler, Thomas Shandera, Myrelle Mchale and Bill Larsen spoke in favor of keeping the dog park at Riverfront Park.

Darold Smith spoke against the dog park on behalf of Jeanice Allen and presented the council with a petition from her. She had collected signatures from the residents near the dog park that do not want it near their houses.

Council Member Pratt stated he has gone to Mrs. Allen's house and she does have a complaint. It is clear the city has worked on that and we are trying to mitigate the issue without taking drastic steps.

Mr. Bartosh stated staff will go ahead and put some recommendations together. The Police Chief has assured him that the dog park is the most patrolled location in the city. We might want to look at having a park ranger in the future.

Mayor Joens stated it might be a good idea to use the COPs (Citizens On Patrol) and have them trained to handle the dog park, and they could volunteer there then they would have the authority to write tickets.

Mr. Bartosh stated they have the authority to write parking tickets, but he doesn't think they would have the authority to write a criminal citation.

Council Member Jauregui asked how does the public deposit the waste into the trash cans.

Mr. Lueder stated they have encouraged the public to bring their own bags for the waste. Part of the problem is that the heat increases the bacteria and that increases the smell.

Mr. Bartosh stated staff can look at increasing the frequency of the pickups during this time of year.

Council directed staff to mitigate the noise and smell at the current site and to bring it back to a regular work session.

Mayor Joens asked the public for a show of hands if they are in favor of closing the dog park immediately.

No one raised their hand.

Mr. Lueder stated staff can look at rearranging the roads to the community garden, including closing the southern road near the dog park immediately. Staff will also move the trash cans farther north away from the residents to mitigate the smell.

REVIEW OF INFILL MAP OF VACANT PARCELS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

Mr. Scott displayed the current map that showed the vacant land area within the city limits. The purpose of this map is to show a business or developer that wants to come into the community what areas are open for development.

Council Member Elinski stated the map should include the lots where a developer could use reclaimed water.

Mr. Scott stated that is very limited but that is something they could do. They don't want to make the map too busy.

Council Member Pratt stated this is good and it shows that we don't necessarily need to expand to grow, we can expand from within.

Mr. Scott stated staff will be putting the map on the city's website.

Council Member Dowling stated the map should show when there is a building on the property, it should color code that entire property so that we are not looking at so much blue dots.

Mr. Scott stated staff can work with the county GIS on that.

Council Member Dowling also suggested a change of colors so it pops out more.

Council Member Elinski stated this should be given to Casey Rooney.

Mr. Bartosh stated the businesses that are interested in coming to Cottonwood are only interested in existing structures.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously. The work session adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a work session of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on September 11, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

Date