

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

Mayor Weisgerber called the special meeting of Loveland City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Vice Mayor Bednar, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Osborne, Mayor Weisgerber

Also Present: Mr. Carroll, City Manager; Mr. Wright, Assistant City Manager; Mrs. Cox, Clerk of Council; Mr. Taphorn, Finance Director; Mr. Steger, Assistant Finance Director; Chief Huber; Police Chief Sabransky; Acting Deputy Chief Wilmes; and Mr. Wisby, Deputy Public Works Director

Mr. Zuch arrived at 7:10 p.m. and Mr. Schickel arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor Weisgerber entertained a motion to go into work session; so moved by Vice Mayor Bednar and seconded by Mr. Elliott. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. The Mayor announced the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

WORK SESSION

Mr. Carroll explained Mr. Wright has prepared a computer generated presentation and also compiled the data for the CIP. Before Council tonight is a draft of the requests that have been submitted by City Staff. For purposes of the budget process, capital equipment is anything that costs more than \$1,000 and has a useful life of one year or more; CIP projects are classified as exceeding \$10,000 and having a useful life of five years or more. The nature of tonight's discussion will be infrastructure, rolling stock, and equipment, care of the City's 106 lane miles of roadway, 81 miles of underground water, and dozens of miles of storm water infrastructure, and to get community input on community needs and discuss improving City services through prioritizing and making difficult decisions.

Three central themes were presented in the 2009 – 2013 CIP: deliberateness, as 2009 promises to be one of the more difficult budgets than recently presented; technology, to automate services and use online services; and basic infrastructure. Challenges staff operates under include holding personnel costs, including health insurance costs and not increasing personnel; distinguishing wants from needs while focusing on replacing existing equipment; continuing to invest in job creation projects in order to fund future projects; and holding utility rates by having budget discipline and not increasing expenditures. Technology investments requested include a proposed \$6,500 expenditure that would allow filing taxes online and nearly \$66,000 of other information technology items, including replacements of computers and servers. There are a number of water line and water related projects and replacement of rolling stock on this CIP so the City can continue to provide the services it does today. Public Works proposed over \$22,000 of minimum park enhancements and replacement of rolling stock. The Recreation Board has proposed improvements of \$135,000 at Lever Park and a new shelter for Nisbet Park. His recommendation will include approximately \$60,000 for Lever Park to repair tennis and basketball courts and replace fence, but not to replace the shelter at Nisbet Park at this time, though Council may disagree. Also included in the CIP is \$50,000 to update the Comprehensive Master Plan. He will continue to recommend the consolidation of four funds into two funds to simplify the General (or unrestricted) Fund and to reduce the number of transfers. A chart was displayed that showed the City's utility rates have increased less than the rate of inflation (consumer price index) since 2004, but sewer rates have increased over three and one-half times the rate of inflation with the trend projected to continue for the next 20 years. This requires the City to be mindful of the significant increases ratepayers will have to pay for sanitary sewer. He also intends to recommend revisions to the City's fiscal policies, specifically to the catastrophic reserve policy. With reserves established in other funds, he feels the City is perhaps over reserving in their unrestricted funds. While it is important to keep a solid catastrophic reserve, he doesn't believe it needs to grow well beyond what it is now.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked each Department represented tonight to prioritize and explain their requests. Chief Sabransky expressed needs for the Police Division include two in-car videos, three vehicles, four tasers with video, four ballistic vests, and three duty weapons. Chief Huber stated their CIP, minus the fire truck, is close to their annual requests. For 2009 they request the upgrade of a City truck with Class A Foam, replacement of small fire equipment, two Broselow pediatric systems and one ALS child mannequin, replacement of two scoop stretchers on City ambulances, upgrades to software programs to run mapping and other programs, building improvements to allow technological advances

required to access additional computer training programs, replacement of a pickup truck and one car, an increase in their training budget, and green initiatives proposed to cut operating budgets by going to flex fuel upgrades for fire apparatus and tankless water heaters in fire stations. Chief Huber explained the request for the fire truck is only six months ahead of the schedule to order the truck in about a year. With new regulations coming online next year, placing the order in 2009 would require the purchase of an \$18,000 muffler and approximately \$28,000 for a black box. State bids are also due for a 3% increase in October and another 3% in January 2009 so ordering the truck now will show a significant savings, though the truck will not be delivered until the spring of 2009. Discussion ensued on Symmes Township's purchases, green initiatives, use of video tasers, and replacement of trash and recycling receptacles in City parks. Mr. Wisby prioritized Public Works requests as follows: an additional salt truck, a replacement mower, traffic signal battery backup systems, a fleet tracking GPS device, new filing cabinets, a small sweeper truck for use in subdivisions, and a storm water Jet-Vac. Discussion ensued on use of the storm water Jet-Vac and it being a component of the Clean Water Act requirements, the need for improving the vehicle replacement schedule for financing purposes, which City funds would be utilized for certain Police requests, and use of the video equipment for prosecution purposes.

In addition to the recreation improvements discussed tonight, Mr. Carroll stated he will recommend \$50,000 be designated for the White Pillars homestead curatorship funded through White Pillars recreation impact fees. If Council wants to improve the Nisbet Park shelter with these impact fee funds, which he doesn't believe should be done, he asked that they advise him now so the budget can be prepared accordingly. Vice Mayor Bednar stated the Recreation Board unanimously approved a recommendation that \$52,000 be designated for improvements to Lever Park, as indicated by Mr. Carroll this evening, and to upgrade and replace the shelter at Nisbet Park, particularly since it has been devoid of maintenance lately and the improvement was on their five-year plan. He feels that if the City is going to finance the project eventually, it should be done now instead of extending the five-years to eight years. He also pointed out their recommended improvements to Lever was reduced to \$52,000 from \$135,000 and borrowing the additional amount for Nisbet would cost the City an additional \$7,000 per year; green initiatives and other savings could probably cover that cost. Discussion continued on other revenues streams to help fund these improvements. Mr. Carroll explained residents and the White Pillars Homestead Advisory Board feel there's a need for a White Pillars carriage house/garage to be used during the remodel and the need for a kitchen. The resident curator would have access to a \$50,000 line of credit, which the City would borrow and pay through impact fees, for the carriage house/garage and interior expenditures would be the curator's contribution.

Mr. Carroll explained the 2009-2013 CIP schedule will need to be reconciled with the budget he's preparing to submit to the Finance Committee and Council next month. Staff's recommendations submitted tonight have not been prioritized and additional cuts will be necessary, but the purpose of tonight's meeting is to get Council's input. He's heard the importance of Nisbet Park improvements; at this time he's not planning on submitting that in the budget, but if funding is available, he will.

At the conclusion of the work session, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn; so moved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Elliott. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council