



2A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Agenda

2-4 PM, May 21, 2020

Meeting Held Remotely

Terry Schooler called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Previous meeting minutes approved after a motion from Councilman Strand and a second from Shannon Anderson.

Quarter 1 Financial Overview presented by Brenda Roy and Richard Mullydy. Brenda provided an explanation of the current budget, prior year rollover, as well as funds expensed and contracted. The majority of remaining balance is salary and benefits. The enterprise is "right on track for the first quarter," she said.

In addition, \$3.2 million was carryover from last year and allocated to capital improvement projects. This is not additional funding, but was dedicated last year and is part of the planned/contracted programs. The rollover was only recently completed. The total budget is \$12.1 million.

Extensive discussion held on the impact/potential impact of COVID-19. The City has not seen the full potential COVID impact, but we are monitoring as best as we can, said Richard Mullydy. Even after April collections, we are at 95 percent collected, and we have identified potential budget reductions if we need to do that in the future. In addition, the City is on a hiring freeze, and we are reviewing potential project delays. We are continuing to pursue grant funding.

Mayor Suthers asked what percentage of the billing CSU handles, versus the City's third-party billing company. Ninety percent of the accounts have been moved to CSU. The remaining ten percent of the accounts are billed through CLA. Although 10 percent of the accounts are billed by the City through CLA, it is 48 percent of the total revenue. Mayor Suthers asked if we are still happy with CLA as our billing service, and Richard said yes, overall. Mayor Suthers asked if we straightened out our issues with the Air Force. Richard said their lawyers agreed to pay. Mayor Suthers said he would have some conversations about this offline.

Councilman Strand asked on behalf of Councilman Knight why we were expecting a decline in revenue.

Richard said that we are not sure what will happen in the future, especially because there might be businesses going out of business that would not be able to pay their bills. He stated that the enterprise wants to plan ahead and have these plans in place, if or when these drops in revenue are realized. However, and fortunately, we are only down one percent so far and we want to have a responsible plan if needed.

Mayor Suthers asked how fast new properties start receiving bills. Richard said every six months the list updates, but we are delaying 30 days to give people some breathing room during COVID-19. The Committee informally voted that they are okay with the delay, but all properties need to receive regular bills by the end of the summer. Mayor Suthers suggested taking that 30 day “delay” and sending the new companies notices about future bills. Brenda stated that normally companies receive a courtesy notice to let them know fees will be changing or increasing.

Mayor Suthers asked how many new properties have been added over the last year. Brenda said we do not have final numbers but we can send it out once they are finalized. We have added a couple hundred commercial properties.

Councilman Knight asked if it is potentially damaging to allow a delay during high construction season. Richard said that no, the enterprise always runs 6-9 months in arrears for expenditures relating to capital work. This is because of the time it takes to design, permit, and build large capital projects. Therefore, a small delay in collection of revenue will not result in a negative impact to the delivery of such projects.

Mayor Suthers stated that he expects to see less decline in the enterprise than in the general budget overall. However, we have a plan in case numbers fall dramatically, Richard said.

Terry School asked about a potential reduction in staff; how would that affect our ability to do projects? Richard said we are required to do our projects, so we will not make cuts that lead to noncompliance. The majority of our outside projects are contracted, so they are not City employees. We do very little in-house design work in an effort to keep staff numbers minimal.

Tim Biolchini provided a projects update. He gave a report on the grants received over the last several years, and spoke about that process.

Discussion of North Douglas Creek project; Kelly Johnson property/condemnation/needs further offline discussion.

2018 FEMA applications were awarded, and we received two grants. Contracts went out on both of them last week.

For the 2019 FEMA grants, we applied for three grants. The City of Colorado Springs was the only submitter for these from the state of Colorado. We expect to find out in the next month if FEMA will put them under further consideration.

Councilman Strand asked if COVID will have any impact on 2019 grants. Tim said he is not sure yet and does not believe the federal government would dip into that funding source to cover COVID-related needs.

Tim told the committee that we submitted our annual report. We are coming up on the first five-year requirements from the IGA with Pueblo, and all requirements have been met.

Terry Schooler asked what are we seeing as far as construction cost and availability of labor. Tim said we are getting good prices from our small contractors. People want to stay employed. We have been able to do more projects than we had planned and able to give more work to our on-call contractors whenever we can.

Tim presented an overview of the improvements to the Pine Creek channel, which is an “engineered natural channel” as it is neither build totally of hardened stabilization (concrete) nor natural stabilization (logs and plants). The detention pond is above the infrastructure, so flows can be slow enough to flow into such a channel.

Tim gave an overview of why improvements are needed and what they will be within: Cottonwood Creek Channel, Bear Creek, and Cowpoke and Tutt project. These are the three major projects applied for with FEMA grants for 2019.

Project updates provides on the Tutt Bridge, Citadel Mall and Santa Rosa, and Somerlyn Hills. Many more small-scale community projects have also been completed.

Discussion of LID Manual; we negotiated with Pueblo to include development of the LID manual as an IGA project.

Richard Mulledy spoke: We have struggled as a city to suggest implementing LID when we have no guidelines or guidance. Our idea was to develop a manual that would show guidelines and guidance that are specific to Colorado Springs.

The problem with many cities is that groups copy them from other cities, and manuals do not work the same in every city. We wanted ours to be entirely area-specific. We would provide this to the community for use and if we every decided to implement standards in any way, that would be the guidance for how to meet them.

Terry Schooler stated that he hopes we will involve development, planners, and engineers so they have buy-in from the start, including the design process. “If you include them in the deign process, I think it will be much more readily acceptable,” he said.

Richard agreed and said we are prepared to start thinking about that. We are going to start to assemble our list of stakeholders. We will be reaching out through a robust public process to talk about what would go into the manual and how we would put it together.

Christine Lowenberg asked if we might include other communities. Richard said yes, and that that is part of reaching out to the stakeholders. First step is determining who else should help develop the LID Manual. Ask the SAC. As El Paso County, neighboring communities. The committee agrees that LID only truly works if it is implemented regional. Developers are saying they want more green space and wondering how they do this without increasing cost. The City wants to have better answers and information to guide them forward in this process.

Meeting adjourned 3:30 p.m.