



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2012 – 8:30 work session
To: Mayor Stephens and City Council
From: Dara MacDonald
RE: General items

We have a number of items for discussion during the work session. In light of the lengthy list, I am providing this memo highlighting items I will be bringing to Council's attention on Tuesday morning.

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| I. Review agenda for 6:00 pm regular meeting | VII. Geothermal update |
| II. Monarch Spur Trail fencing | VIII. Fire consolidation discussion |
| III. Loyal Duke Dog Park | IX. SGM office in Salida |
| IV. Union Pacific update | X. Council Retreat |
| V. Bridge as Art proposals | XI. Budget – Draft Sept 18 th |
| VI. NEC code update | XII. 10:00 – Planning Commission |
| | XIII. Upcoming meetings |

I. Review agenda for 6:00 pm regular meeting

II. Monarch Spur Trail fencing

During the August 21st City Council meeting Rob Treat expressed his concerns that cows are routinely leaving his family's fields along the Monarch Spur and Milk Run Trails. It was staff's impression after that meeting that there was something insufficient with the fencing recently installed by the City along the Milk Run Trail. That is not the case. Mr. Treat's concern is with the older fencing along the Monarch Spur Trail. Photos of some of the problem areas are attached. Mr. Treat has stated that he feels the City is responsible for the maintenance of this fence because Colorado is a 'fence out state'. Rob is planning to attend the morning work session to discuss the situation with the City Council.

III. Loyal Duke Dog Park

The dog park may have become a victim of their own success. When the dog park was established a few years ago, the dog club agreed to take on responsibility for insurance, maintenance and management of the park. Now that the park is up and running, membership in the club has wavered and the club is having difficulty raising funds to cover their expenses. The club pays in excess of \$700 per year for insurance and also pays for someone to weed and clean-up the park.

One solution may be for the City to accept the location as a City park and absorb the insurance expense. This would be a negligible increase under the CIRSA policy.

This would free up funds from the dog club to continue with maintenance efforts at the park. If Council is amenable to this solution, staff will investigate whether amendments are necessary to the MOU with the school district or agreement with the dog club.

IV. Union Pacific update

As Council is aware, the Union Pacific came back to the City last week with a proposal to support local efforts towards an expanded parking area at the end of F Street. In addition to considering the lease, they also stated they may be able to not protest an application with the Public Utilities Commission for an at-grade crossing for non-motorized traffic. They are also considering including the areas up and down river from F Street in the lease to be used for trail and river access. This proposal is moving up through the Union Pacific organization. At this point, it appears that the necessary people in the Denver offices are on board and it is now being considered in Omaha. Their public relations/legal staff thinks we should have an official response from the railroad in the next two weeks.

V. Bridge as Art proposals

Staff has reviewed the submittal for the pedestrian bridge by the SteamPlant. There are three proposals that we suggest the Council consider. Would the Council like to hear from the artists directly prior to making a decision? If so, should we schedule those brief presentations during the next work session or set aside a special meeting of the full Council or a subcommittee?

VI. NEC code update

Last year the City adopted the 2008 National Electrical Code. You may recall that with the passage of HB 10-1225, effective July 1, 2010, C.R.S. 12-23-104 now requires that local jurisdictions adopt or adhere to the minimum standards of the Colorado State Electrical Board within one (1) year of their adoption of regulations.

In March 2011 the State Electrical Board adopted the NEC 2011, effective July 1, 2011. The City had until July 1, 2012 to adopt that version of the code. Adoption of that version was not recommended immediately due to uncertainty about some of the requirements on the part of the building official as well as local electrical contractors. Staff is working with the building department and local contractors to understand the changes in the latest version of the code. You can expect the adoption ordinance to be considered in an upcoming Council meeting.

VII. Geothermal

I have had a couple of recent conversations with Hank, Fred and Councilman Jay Moore about possible next steps at the hot springs site. In the spirit of proceeding cautiously, I think we agree that drilling some deeper thermal gradient wells is a logical next step. As you may recall the magnetotelluric testing identified areas of high resistivity which could be caused by the presence of either clay or water. The proposed thermal gradient wells could confirm the presence of water if they reveal the appropriate increase in heat. This type of drilling presents a very low risk to Salida's water source. Both Gerry Hutterer (the City's consultant) and Dr. Paul Morgan concur that this would be a good, cautious, next step.

It seems preferred to drill two of these wells, one at each of the locations of highest resistivity identified in the magnetotelluric study. These locations would best be accessed from property belonging to the Town of Poncha Springs and the Farrow family. Current estimates put the cost of the wells at \$25,000 - \$45,000 each. Fred & Hank will be refining costs for drilling and testing and will have a budget for consideration in the next week or so. I believe there is a grant opportunity through DOLA that could cover a portion of the costs; however, we would need to provide a significant match to any grant application.

Salida is in a slightly awkward position with this proposal as it looks as though the best locations to drill at this point are not on municipal property; however, the plumbing below ground is likely interconnected. And, of course, there is our water source to be concerned with. If, after this discussion, all parties decide to proceed, we will need to start looking at the parameters of an agreement among the property owners. I have extended an invitation to the Farrow family and the Town of Poncha Springs to meet on Sept 18th to discuss this further.

VIII. Fire Consolidation discussion

Each of the affected entities has agreed that we should meet to discuss possible outcomes from the ESCI recommendations. A date has tentatively been set for Sept 6th for the initial discussion.

IX. SGM office in Salida

SGM is expanding their business and opening an office in Salida. Matt Hudson will be moving to Salida at the end of September with his family to open the office. SGM has been providing the City with engineering services for the past several years and this move should enhance the level of service they provide the City.

X. Budget – Sept 18th

The department heads have begun working with Jan and I to draft the 2013 budget. We are planning to bring a first draft to the City Council for discussion at the September 18th work session.

XI. Council Retreat

The Council held a retreat on August 24th to discuss vision, goals and priorities for the coming year. Attached is a summary from that meeting. These goals and priorities are being considered by staff as the 2013 budget is being drafted.

XII. 10:00 am – Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be joining the Council at 10:00 during the work session to discuss the pending updates to the Land Use Code. See the attached memo for the two particular discussion items.

XIII. Upcoming meetings

September 5, 5:30 – Elephant Rock/CO Springs dinner at the SteamPlant
September 13th 4:00 – 8:00 pm – CML meeting in Silvercliff
September 21st 1:00 – 7:00 pm – Employee Appreciation golf tournament and dinner
October 9th 6:00 pm – Sam Mamet, President of the Colorado Municipal League, presentation about Home Rule, at the High School Auditorium













MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2012
To: Elected Officials and Department Heads
From: Dara MacDonald, City Administrator
RE: Council Retreat

The following is a summary of the discussion from the August 24, 2012 retreat held at the Monarch Mountain Lodge. In attendance were all of the elected officials and department heads from the City. The goal of the meeting was to identify or affirm the vision, goals and priorities for the City. This information is intended to be used in creating the 2013 budget and department work plans, and in evaluating ideas that arise over the coming year.

Vision from draft comprehensive plan:

“Salida recognizes the importance of conserving and enhancing its historic small town character and embraces a future that preserves the natural environment and offers its residents and visitors a multi-generational community with an eclectic range of housing, jobs, education, business, shopping and recreation opportunities.”

The Council had an interesting and engaging conversation about the vision statement. While the above statement was largely affirmed, there are some subtle changes that were proposed. Staff will draft a revised statement based on that discussion that will be presented to the Council with the draft comprehensive plan in the coming weeks.

2013 Overall Goals

Overarching goals should be reviewed and developed annually. These goals will be used to by the City Council, administrator and department heads to evaluate actions throughout the year. The following four goals are those identified for 2013.

1. Maintain and improve Salida’s existing assets
2. Do it right and make it last
3. Increase pride in the community and confidence in local government
4. Invest in employees

2013 Priorities:

The following items are those large projects and priorities which have been identified for 2013. Staff will incorporate these goals as we develop the 2013 budget and we will revisit them during the year to make sure we stay on track with Council’s intentions. Not all of these items will be completed in 2013 and they are not listed in order of importance.

1) Community Character

- a) Vending on public property
- b) Guidelines for special events

2) Land Use and Growth

- a) Downtown lighting
- b) Wayfinding and gateways
- c) Use of downtown sidewalks
- d) Building department

3) Economic Sustainability

- a) Creative district
- b) NRC – CPW & CSU
- c) Geothermal
- d) Broadband
- e) Being ready for emerging technology
- f) Workforce development – professional and vocational
- g) Access to UPRR property
- h) Supporting education
- i) Affordable housing
- j) Diversifying revenue/economic base
- k) Examine parking enforcement/necessity

4) Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- a) Chisholm Park
- b) Centennial Park improvements
- c) Scout Hut improvements
- d) Supporting events through infrastructure improvements
- e) Riverside playground upgrades
- f) Activities for seniors
- g) Explore creation of a recreation district
- h) Explore possibility for park expansions – Marvin & Centennial
- i) Installation of a second boat ramp to relieve congestion

5) Tourism

- a) Identify Salida's brand
- b) Develop & implement marketing plan
- c) Enhance shoulder seasons
- d) Improve look & feel of public spaces – flowers, sidewalks, shoveling, etc.
- e) Prepare for Christo – Over the River

6) Transportation

- a) Hwy 50 Phase III
- b) H Street rebuild
- c) Sidewalk maintenance and replacement
- d) Maintain bus service
- e) Cyclist, pedestrian & motorist education
- f) Market the airport
- g) Hwy 50 pedestrian crossings

7) Public Safety

- a) Fire/EMS consolidation
- b) Police software
- c) School resource officer
- d) Downtown patrol – foot & bike
- e) Restoration of 1911 engine

8) Community Services

- a) Home rule
- b) Comprehensive plan
- c) Improving communication with the public
- d) Software for finance department

9) Staff Development and Support

- a) Employee development
- b) Implementation of the pay plan
- c) Elected officials' pay