

### City of Salida Meeting Recap Week of March 18, 2019

At this week's Work Session, Council sat with the Historic Planning Commission and heard their request to allow them to resume authority over Major Certificates of Approval, which had been changed by Ordinance 2011-01. Council also heard a presentation from Deb Hinsvark of Ehlers, Inc. which provides municipal financial advisor services.

Another topic of discussion was draft changes to the SMC, identifying some of the critical areas on which the City Treasurer can have a greater impact. This includes monthly financial reporting as well as ensuring annual reports being filed and completed as required by Colorado Revised Statutes. Council and staff believe that these are responsible changes to take advantage of Salida's unique status of having an elected City Treasurer. In addition, the draft changes include some institutional changes to the "Audit" Committee. The proposed changes would authorize the City Treasurer to sit as the chair of a newly-defined "Finance Committee" that would oversee the development of both the annual budget as well as the annual audit. City staff, led by the City Administrator, would work with the Finance Committee to develop the financial analysis tools that the City Council and Treasurer should have when making critical expenditure and economic development decisions. Last, the draft changes include an increase to the compensation for the City Treasurer position that would take effect after the next regular election in November. The proposed change would bring the compensation to the same level as a City Councilor, which appears to be in line with the discussions the City Council was having prior to the special election in September of 2018.

Staff also presented the job description for the Parks and Recreation position, which will be open as of April 9, following Theresa Casey's retirement. Staff made changes to the duties and responsibilities of the position, to allow for greater oversight into parks and recreation and separating out the Art component as well as oversight of the Steamplant Event Center and Salida Creative District.

The Regular Meeting of City Council included a fairly lengthy Consent Agenda, with quite a number of special event permits as Salida ramps up for the busy summer season. The Fire Department, Recreation and Public Works had projects and/or purchases, previously outlined in this year's budget, on the Consent Agenda as well.

Donna Rhoads with SPOT presented a draft letter to Council asking if they would sign a letter of support for grant proposals to renovate the Valley View School and establish a potential new office and program center for GARNA..

Council had a lively discussion of the lease agreement for the KHEN building, with Leslie Matthews available to answer questions from Council regarding how an increase in rent would affect the radio station. As KHEN provides an invaluable public service for the community, Council decided that the current lease of \$200/month with a lease of ten years was very appropriate.

Perhaps the most crucial item on the agenda was Council's acknowledgement of the legal commitment inherent in a previous contract with past City Administrator Dara MacDonald, leading to approval of a severance award after previous Councils were unwilling to do so. This move is expected to demonstrate Salida's responsibility to employee commitments and contractual responsibilities.