

DATE: March 22, 2011

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Pre-taped staff presentation: none

WORK SESSION ITEM FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

City Council End-of-Term Report 2009-2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every two years, staff and City Council take an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of the City Council during its two-year term. This work session will review Council's achievements and celebrate the progress the community has made on achieving its seven key priorities and desired outcomes.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What additional accomplishments would Council like to highlight for the community?
2. What other ongoing issues or projects do Councilmembers wish to underscore for the next Council to be seated in April?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

In 2009, the newly seated City Council identified the seven key priorities and outcomes it wished to work on during the upcoming two-year Council term. These outcomes were the foundation for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 City budgets and have served as a focal point for the many accomplishments achieved over the past two years.

City Council identified seven priorities and desired outcomes for the 2009-2011 Council term:

1. **Culture, Parks and Recreation:** Fort Collins provides diverse parks, cultural, and recreational amenities.
2. **Economic Health:** Fort Collins has a healthy, sustainable economy reflecting the values of our unique community in a changing world.
3. **Environmental Health:** Fort Collins promotes, protects and enhances a healthy and sustainable environment.
4. **High Performing Government:** Fort Collins exemplifies an efficient, innovative, transparent, effective and collaborative city government.

5. **Neighborhood Livability:** Fort Collins fosters and supports a variety of quality neighborhoods.
6. **Safe Community:** Fort Collins provides a safe place to live, work, learn and play.
7. **Transportation:** Fort Collins provides for safe and reliable multi-modal travel to, from, and throughout the City.

As this two-year term comes to a close, we appreciate this opportunity to share highlights of the achievements and accomplishments that have come about under Council's direction. Citizens recognize these efforts at providing high quality services and gave the City high approval ratings in the recent 2010 Citizen Survey. Over three-quarters of residents felt the overall quality of services was "very good" or "good" with especially high marks for the environment, recreation programs and the overall safety of the community.

Voter approval of the *Keep Fort Collins Great* ballot measure was both a vote of confidence in the City and a fine example of the Council and staff working with the community to set priorities and secure the resources needed for the community's future success. The ballot language specified how revenue from the .85% sales tax increase will be spent. The additional funding, totaling over \$18.7 million per year, will fund key community priorities including:

- 33% for street maintenance and repair
- 17% for other street and transportation needs
- 17% for police services
- 11% for fire protection and other emergency services
- 11% for parks maintenance and recreation services
- 11% for community priorities other than those listed above, as determined by City Council

Below is a summary of some of the most significant achievements for each of the organization's result areas.

1. **Cultural and Recreational Opportunities**

Our community's parks, recreational programs and cultural opportunities continue to be essential components of the quality of life in Fort Collins. Residents continue to cite these programs as being a reason for their high opinion of the community. Achievements in this area over the past two years include:

- 2011 Governor's Arts Award
- The new Fort Collins Museum of Discovery facility is under construction and the staff is working to blend the institutions within the new state of the art facility in the northwest corner of Downtown. Building on Basics (BOB) provided \$6 million of funding for the new facility.
- Significant renovation of the Lincoln Center is underway, with a projected reopening date in August 2011. BOB funds provided \$5.49 million for the project, with the remaining funding coming from private donations, grants and the DDA.
- Phase 1 of the Downtown Alley Enhancements is nearly completed.
- The Art in Public Places Program has continued, following Council's review of the

program's policy.

- The City has continued to support Beet Street.
- The Gardens on Spring Creek opened both the Garden of Eatin' and the Outdoor Teaching Kitchen.

2. Economic Health

City Council and the City organization have continued to focus on economic health over the past two years. Our efforts to retain, help expand and attract new business to Fort Collins is consistent with our economic vision. These efforts will yield long-term results both for our residents and the City's financial future. The naming of Fort Collins as the second "Best Place for Business and Careers" in the United States by Forbes.com is validation that the work the City, together with our economic partners, has done over the past years is paying off. While the current economy is challenging for everyone, we believe that we are in a position meet those challenges in a positive way.

Economic Health accomplishments over the past two years include:

- In early 2011, City Council adopted three updated Plans: City Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and the Pedestrian Plan. These three Plans, considered in the Plan Fort Collins process, will guide future development and policy decisions for many years to come.
- Mountain Vista Subarea Plan was adopted by City Council in September 2009.
- In September 2010, the City completed the Midtown Commercial Corridor Redevelopment Study which will help guide the redevelopment of this key economic area of the community.
- Council approved a funding strategy to support the development of the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative (RMI2) facility. The facility held its Grand Opening in December 2010.
- Southwest Enclave Annexation has continued with implementation of Phase 3 in 2009.
- The City secured a FortZED grant from the Department of Energy for \$6.3 million for the Zero Energy District.
- The City has enhanced its role as a leader in the economic health of the community through participation in a variety of innovative and forward-thinking projects:
 - Colorado Water Innovation Cluster
 - UniverCity Connections
 - Colorado Clean Energy Cluster
 - Northern Colorado Bioscience Cluster
 - Rocky Mountain Innosphere
 - Mayor and City Manager Primary Employer Visits
 - International Clean Tech Network

3. Environmental Health

Stewardship of our environment continues to be a core community value that has been reflected in a number of City Council's actions over the past two years:

- The 21,978 acre Soapstone Prairie Natural Area opened in 2009 with over 40 miles of trails, plus shelters, kiosks, interpretive signs and other visitor amenities.
- 2010 marked the 10th year of the ClimateWise program with over 230 business partners

actively working to avoid carbon dioxide emissions, reduce water, gas and electric usage and diverting significant amounts of material from landfills.

- In 2009, City Council adopted amendments to the City's pay-as-you-throw trash ordinances, including per unit pricing, a requirement that haulers provide a large, lidded recycling cart and every-other-week collection of recyclables.
- Land Conservation efforts continue through use of *Open Space, Yes!* tax revenues. Over the past two years 1,288 acres were acquired and 169 acres conserved by acquiring a conservation easement.
- The Green Building Program Code amendments will be considered on Second Reading on March 22, 2011.
- Climate Action Plan Status Report issued including data regarding community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions leveling off and reduced municipal greenhouse gas emissions.
- Construction was completed on the Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility.

4. High Performing Government

The City continues to strive to be a model of an entrepreneurial, high quality city government.

- The City's Budgeting for Outcomes process was utilized for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 Budgets, resulting in a transparent, focused budget for City services. The change in budget schedule to begin the two year cycle in the off-election year will further improve the effectiveness of the process.
- The Council Finance Committee and staff continue to work to ensure that the City maintains market alignment for employee pay and benefits.
- In the face of a challenging economy, the City has stayed within its adopted budget and kept expenditures within, and in many cases below, anticipated levels.
- The Finance Department has continued to improve accountability in revenue forecasting and financial reporting over the past two years. Staff has worked closely with the Council Finance Committee to ensure that this information is clear, reliable, understandable and timely. Implementation of the *Open Book* web based expenditure reporting tool has significantly enhanced fiscal transparency.
- Council and staff of the Legislative Review Committee have worked cooperatively to advocate for community interests at both the General Assembly and federal government level.
- The organization continues to reach out to citizens to engage them in meaningful civic involvement, including the use of the Citizen Survey and social media, among others.

5. Neighborhood Quality

Continuing recognition by national publications of Fort Collins as a world class community highlights the City Council and staff's efforts to ensure that our neighborhoods continue to be well maintained, friendly, safe places for residents.

- Adoption of the 2010-2014 Affordable Housing Strategic Plan helps establish the community's goals and implementation strategies for the City's affordable housing program.
- The 2010-2014 Five-Year Strategic Plan was adopted to ensure continued funding of the City's CDBG and Home programs.
- East Side and West Side Neighborhoods Design Study implementation ordinances were

approved by City Council, including a revised floor area ratio aimed at regulating the size of residences built or remodeled in these historic neighborhoods.

- Occupancy Ordinance enforcement improvements were adopted by City Council.

6. Community Safety

Protecting our community from crime and safely providing vital public utility services are critical services provided by the City. Accomplishments include:

- Medical Marijuana Business Licensing has been addressed by the City Council on several occasions as the City works to regulate this emerging business.
- Council provided funding to Crossroads Safehouse to help the organization reach its goal of opening a new shelter, enhancing safety in the community.
- Additional funding for police was approved both through the *Keep Fort Collins Great* ballot measure - which will fund 19 officers, 5 dispatchers and 3 investigative aides - and a partnership with the DDA to increase District One staffing.
- *Keep Fort Collins Great* funds will enable Poudre Fire Authority to implement the South Battalion, increase staffing at two stations, replace two firefighter positions and provide needed equipment and maintenance.
- Continued implementation of the *Utilities for the 21st Century* initiative will improve service, efficiency and reduce costs.
- The City was awarded a grant of \$15.6 million for advanced metering infrastructure, also known as smart metering.
- The last phase of the 5-year CIPO Drainage and Natural Area Improvement Project will be complete in 2011, reducing flooding, improving water quality and removing 175 homes from the floodplain.

7. Transportation

The community's transportation system provides an essential, core service that supports business, recreation and the daily activities of residents. A safe, efficient system continues to be an important focus for Mayor and City Council. Highlights of City Council's achievements toward these goals during the past two years include:

- The Transportation Master Plan update was adopted in 2011.
- The Mason Corridor project is in the final design phase, with construction to begin in the near future, using approximately 80% federal funding.
- Funding of the I-25/ Highway 392 Interchange was secured, in cooperation with Colorado Department of Transportation and the Town of Windsor.
- The North College Infrastructure Funding Plan was adopted to provide a prioritized list of North College infrastructure projects. Construction of key portions of the roadway will begin in fall 2011.
- The Railroad Quiet Zone Study continues in cooperation with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).
- Consensus was reached with City Council and downtown businesses to create regulations that allow placement of portable "sandwich board" style signs in downtown area rights-of-way.

In addition to working toward the seven core outcomes, the City also continues to build infrastructure that focuses on the community's future as a safe, attractive, appealing place to live work and play. Highlights of the capital construction projects undertaken during the past two years have included:

- Opening of Soapstone Natural Area
- College and Harmony Intersection and Roadway Improvements
- North College and Willox Lane Improvements at the Marketplace development
- Provincetown Neighborhood Park
- Fossil Creek Community Park water feature improvements
- Spring Canyon Community Park skate park
- Trail improvements
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery construction underway
- Lincoln Center renovations underway
- Mulberry Wastewater Treatment Facility Reconstruction

The information presented above represents just a snapshot of the many accomplishments and efforts undertaken over the course of the past two-year term. Councilmembers will likely wish to emphasize additional policies and projects, both past and for the coming years.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Titles of Ordinances and Resolutions considered - 2009-2011.
2. Work Session Topics - 2009-2011.