

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 via an Electronic meeting, starting at 6:00 P.M. Those in attendance were as follows:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Dr. Mark Rinne, Chairman; Rocky Case, Bryan Cook, Ken Esquibel, Pete Laybourn, Mike Luna, Dicky Shanor and Jeff White. Absent: Scott Roybal.

**CITY STAFF:** Jason Sanchez, Community Recreation & Events Deputy Director; Teresa Moore, Community Recreation & Events Director; Vicki Nemecek, Public Works Director; Charles Bloom, Planning & Development Director; Robin Lockman, City Treasurer; Darrin Hass, Human Resources Director; Alessandra McCoy-Fakelman, Deputy City Attorney; Chief Greg Hoggatt and Theron Haws, Fire & Rescue Department; Kris Jones, City Clerk; Brad Brooks, Board of Public Utilities (BOPU) Director; Joe Chenchar, Assistant City Attorney; Chief Brian Kozak and Captain Nate Buseck, Cheyenne Police Department; Eric Fountain, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Jay Sullivan, Director of Youth Alternatives; Mary Salas, Administrative Assistant City Council; Lisa Pafford, Planning and Development Deputy Director; Tom Cobb, City Engineer; Amanda Leventis, Account Analyst; Brenda Moureaux, Deputy City Treasurer; Kathy Emmons, City/County Health Department Director; Kylie Soden, Deputy City Clerk; Mike O'Donnell, City Attorney; Michael Skinner, Public Information Officer; Stephanie Lowe, Cheyenne Public Employees Association; Tony Ross, Senior Municipal Court Judge; Tyler Nelson, IT Administrator; and Amy Gorbey, Civic Center Vendor Coordinator.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Marian Orr; Margaret Austin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle; Susan Castaneda, Chloe Illoway and Richard Mincer, Cheyenne Animal Shelter; Amber Ash, Executive Director DDA; Erin LaBlanc, Director of Senior Services/Laramie County Senior Activity Center; Gail Young; Glen Garrett; Gunner Malm, Laramie County Commissioner; Heidi McNeil, Alcohol Receiving Center; Joe Forscher; Larry Jones; Lynn Huyler, Safe Harbor; Mike Fawcett; Jordan Evens, Laramie County GIS; Joe Dougherty, Resident of Ward II; and Jeanine West, Emergency Management Agency Director.

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### **AGENDA ITEMS**

11. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING –** Appropriating moneys for the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming for various purposes in conducting the municipal government of said City and fixing the amount of general and special taxes as part of the revenue required to meet the said appropriation, all for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. (SPONSOR – DR. RINNE)

Mr. White moved to approve on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, seconded by Mr. Case.

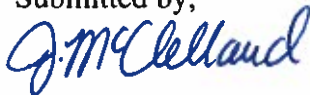
Mr. Shanor moved to postpone until June 8, 2020, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. (Mr. Laybourn was not present during the vote on this item.)

**DISCUSSION:** Robin Lockman, City Treasurer, provided a staff report and advised the COVID-19 pandemic will decrease the City's largest revenue source, Sale Tax, by approximately 25%. Ms. Lockman reported that many other revenues will also be significantly lower which has caused a structural budget deficit. Ms. Lockman advised that the proposed budget is presented with a 13% of overall general fund cuts were made including: A reduction in force of 17 positions, 3 positions were not budgeted for, 15 positions will remain vacant, 6 positions were temporarily moved out of the general fund and longevity pay was eliminated for FY 2021. Ms. Lockman advised that following approval of this budget, data will be available on the economic downturn of the revenues which will likely require a reevaluation of the FY 2021 budget. Upon inquiry, Ms. Lockman advised on the use of reserves and replenishing of reserves. Heidi McNeil, Alcohol Receiving Center, expressed concerns that no funding has been allocated for the program which proves a no cost detox program to the community. Upon inquiry, Ms. McNeil advised that the City's support is 47% of the programs total budget. Lynn Huyler, Safe Harbor, expressed concerns that no funding has been allocated for the child advocate program and explained the devastating effects of the cut including the inability to provide forensic interviewing for the law enforcement community. Mr. Cook voiced the importance of forensic interviewing and suggested this cut should be reconsidered. Upon inquiry, Ms. Huyler advised the City's support is 20% of the programs total budget and generally is used as grant match funding. Erin LaBlanc, Director of Senior Services/Laramie County Senior Activity Center, expressed concerns that no funding has been allocated for the Senior Service Program which includes employing a nutritionist and providing meals 7 days a week (approximately 3500 meals per month) to senior citizens in the community. Upon inquiry, Ms. LaBlanc advised the City's support is 10% of the programs total budget which is generally used as grant match money and explained differences between senior meal programs. Amber Ash, Executive Director DDA, made herself available for questions. Joe Dougherty, Resident of Ward II, voiced concern with spending over the last 3 years and responsibility of the amount of pay increases awarded to City employees. Dr. Rinne proceeded to review the budget by each department or fund. Upon inquiry, Ms. Lockman explained split of the Mayor's Chief of Staff Salary between the Mayor's office and the Compliance Department. Upon inquiry, Eric Fountain, Mayor's Chief of Staff, further explained the duties of the Compliance Department staff members, advised on savings by the department and reported that there was no reduction in staff however, adjustments to salaries were made as staff received new job status certifications. Michael O'Donnell, City Attorney, advised on the reorganization of his office to include additional support staff and advised on the increase of dues and subscriptions to be for the office legal research tool. Mayor Orr advised on a potential move of the Public Defender line item from Municipal Court to the Mayor's Office budget. Jay Sullivan, Director of Youth Alternatives, reported that there would be no impact on services or staff with the proposed budget decreases. Vicki Nemecek, Public Works Director, advised there would be no reduction in services due to the reduction in force of facility staff, those services would be contracted out to a private entity and explained the reduction in overtime in Street and Alley. Upon inquiry, Chief Brian Kozak, Cheyenne Police Department, advised that he supports the collaboration that the Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) MOU provides and explained that no funds were allocated within the budget for the MOU. Chief Kozak reported that jail expenditures have been reduced due to COVID-19. Chief Greg Hoggatt, Fire & Rescue Department, explained the reduction in training and the possibilities for future training. Upon inquiry, Chief Hoggatt advised on items within the Labor Contract including: Longevity pay, clothing costs, equipment costs, and grant funding. Mr. Shanor noted that the Fire Budget is a

threshold question as contractual items are not funded within the proposed budget and advised re-negotiations are necessary to come to an agreement prior to any amendments to the proposed budget. Upon inquiry, Teresa Moore, Community Recreation & Events Director, explained the refund policy in relation to revenue and the proposed budget. Upon inquiry, Tom Cobb, City Engineer, advised that the professional services line item would primarily be used for surveyor services. Robin Lockman, City Treasurer, explained the Miscellaneous Fund, and the proposed line items including the potential for hiring outside counsel. Upon inquiry, Ms. Lockman advised on the Civic Center subsidy and overhead costs. Mayor Marian Orr advised on use of employees who are unable to work in their normal capacity working in another capacity and on the City's responsibility to maintain a level of service. Susan Castaneda, Cheyenne Animal Shelter, advised it is anticipated that a reduction in services will be realized to reflect the reduction in funding. Kathy Emmons, City/County Health Department Director, advised the proposed budget cuts will be offset with reserves and CARES Act funds. Upon inquiry, Ms. Lockman advised on reversions, the need for funds to balance the budget (from the General Fund) due to lack of revenue, carry over accounts, and anticipated expenditures for the month of May and June. Mayor Orr provided guidance for CARES Act funds and gave some examples of possible uses of funding. Councilmembers expressed interest in additional information on the CARES Act and uses of funds. Mr. Shanor moved to postpone due to uncertainty with the Fire Fighter Union Contract and CARES Act fund usage. Kris Jones, City Clerk, requested clarification from the City Attorney's office with regards to the scheduling of the FY 2021 budget Public Hearing.

There being no further items for the agenda to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Submitted by,



Jennifer McClelland

Executive Assistant to the City Council