

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

February 14, 2023

Mayor Carl Florea called the February 14, 2023 Study Session to order at 5:31PM.

Council Present: Mayor Carl Florea, Sharon Waters, Clint Strand, Jason Lundgren, Anne Hessburg, Zeke Reister, Marco Aurilio and Tibor Lak.

Staff Present: Matthew "Selby", Chantell Steiner, Tom Wachholder, Christie Voos and Andrea Fischer.

1. Chamber Report

Executive Director Troy Campbell from the Chamber of Commerce reported that on Thursdays in February the Chamber is running a promotion when you spend over \$50 you have the chance to win a Boulder Bend glass heart if you complete the phrase "I love Leavenworth because...". The Chamber will hold a retreat meeting on March 2, 2023 this will be an extended meeting to go over the goals for this year and on March 22, 2023 the Chamber will hold their Banquet from 5-8 PM at the Enzian Inn. It is open to all Chamber members in good standing and the cost to attend is \$40. Director Campbell stated that the month of January was exceptional with close to 900,000 footfalls recorded for the month versus 556,000 last year. Kevin Rieke, the Chamber President, was on hand to answer questions from the Council. President Rieke stated this Chamber Banquet will be the first one since the pandemic and because of that, there will not be an auction, but instead it will be a time to be together and enjoy, music and great food. Due to having less occupancy, he feels the tickets for the Chamber Banquet will sell fast.

2. Leavenworth Composting Procurement Ordinance Discussion

City Administrator Selby stated that in December 2022 our City Attorney contacted the City saying that this law is coming, and since the City accepts organic material more than 26 weeks out of the year, we need to establish a composting procurement ordinance which will require the City to purchase compost to use in our planting around Leavenworth. Robette Schmidt, from Winton Manufacturing (The City's composting partner) figured out, based on how much organic waste we are diverting into composting, that we would need to purchase \$1,500 worth of compost to fulfill our obligation. We would be able to use the compost in our flower baskets and other planting we do around the City.

The City Council questioned how much we are paying Winton to take our organic waste, and if the Government is subsidizing Winton to start this process? Administrator Selby stated that it costs us \$45/ton for us to drop it off, and Ms. Schmidt agreed that Winton isn't receiving any subsidies for what they do. It was also discussed whether the golf course would be required to compost their grass clippings. Administrator Selby stated he would negotiate that in the next contract with the Golf Course. The Council asked what the cost savings is for keeping the organic material out of the solid waste stream. Finance Director Steiner commented it is roughly a 50% savings to take our organic material to Winton versus the land fill. Mayor Florea stated that prior to taking our organic waste to Winton we would burn it.

3. Annual Council Retreat Meeting Topics

City Administrator Selby began by establishing the date for the retreat which was decided to be on May 19, 2023 and will be held at the Enzian Inn. He invited the Council to talk about what they would like to discuss at the retreat. The various topics were:

- Strategic Planning using the new Mission, Vision and Values
- Affordable Housing Strategies
- Building the new pool and how to pay for it and how to sell it to the public
- Land Use Planning 101

Administrator Selby stated if the Council comes up with anything else to discuss at the retreat, please contact him.

4. Review of Snow and Ice Maintenance Policy Redlines

Public Works Director Tom Wachholder stated in the Snow and Ice Maintenance policy redlines, he added a four-phase plan for snow removal after a snow event. Phase one is to open up Priority I and Priority II routes. Phase two is continued plowing and adding salt or sand on streets with steep inclines, curves or intersections on Priority I and Priority II streets. Phase three is plowing and adding salt or sand to Priority III routes. Phase four is the continuation of widening the street for safe travels and to prepare for the next snowstorm. Director Wachholder stated that there are many roads that are narrow with very little snow storage. He stated that we may have to look at parking restrictions on those streets at another time. The Sheriff has the responsibility to tow cars out of the road that are blocking streets, but during busy times such as festivals, it may take up to two hours to get a tow truck here.

Director Wachholder stated that right now, the City's biggest handicap is lack of equipment, but the City will be getting some new equipment in time for next year and it will be an improvement, however he would like to make the policy realistic for the crew to accomplish in order to provide the best level of service they can. There was much discussion about forming a metric to clear intersections so they all have the same standard, to be cleared and provide a clear view triangle. It was brought up that perhaps the intersections should be where we use the snow removal contract. The ice berms were brought up in discussion, as they were getting high and people can't shovel them out. Perhaps the City should bill the residents for berm removal to pay for it. The sidewalks aren't being cleared in the residential areas, and maybe this could be included in what the City bills as well. It was also brought up by Communications Analyst Christie Voos that on the website there is a complaint form residents can use to report snow incidents and will go to the correct department. The direction that was given to Director Wachholder is to look at raising the level service to remove snow off of the sidewalks in order to offer walkers a safe way to walk through the residential and commercial areas without having to walk in the street.

5. Council Open Discussion

The Council continued the discussion on the Snow and Ice Maintenance Policy Redlines.

Study Session adjourned at 6:53 PM.

APPROVED



Carl Florea
Mayor

ATTEST



Andrea Fischer
City Clerk