



WESTMINSTER

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, COLORADO MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MAY 13, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McNally led City Council, Staff, and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor McNally, Mayor Pro Tem Nurmela, Councillors Carmelia, DeMott, Ezeadi, Hott, and Ireland were present at roll call. Also present were City Manager Mark Freitag, Deputy City Manager Jody Andrews, City Attorney Dave Frankel, and City Clerk Abby Fitch.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

DeMott moved to approve the minutes of May 6, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Nurmela, and the motion passed **(7-0)**.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of Employee Service Awards

City Council presented service pins and certificates of appreciation to employees celebrating 20 or more years of service with the City and in five-year increments thereafter. Employees with 20, 25, and 40 years of service were celebrated.

B. Proclamation for Older Americans Month

DeMott presented a proclamation for Older Americans Month to a representative of the Senior Resources Center.

C. Proclamation for Maternal Mental Health Awareness

Ezeadi presented a proclamation for Maternal Mental Health Awareness.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Powell, Traci Hagi, Jim Murphy, Aubrey Hix, Tami Kramer, Cindy Staudt, Laura Kanopkin, Debra Austin, Jordan Figere, Andrew Guthrie, Tonya Yost, Sean Sharpless, Dan Allen, Shari Griffin, Jennifer Caracciolo, Kirsta Treichel, Heather Dubin, and Gibson Cassion all came to the City Council to discuss the Westminster Hills Open Space (WHOS) and the dog park. They expressed the need to not reduce the size of the dog park, emphasized the importance of the dog park for mental health, and raised concerns about the Community Action Team (CAT) process. They pointed out the diversity of the Dog Park Guardians and their involvement in the community, expressed worry that the process catered to cyclists, and suggested that the City might profit from closing the dog park. Additionally, they stated that the environmental concerns are not valid, mentioned issues with City Staff, discussed the potential economic impact of closing the dog park, recommended forming a long-term advisory board, and highlighted concerns with the short timeline.

Bruce Baker talked about issues with the downtown consultant and opposed hiring a consultant for the airport. He also mentioned the trash on the Holtzclaw property and inquired if Knox Court had been sold.

Charlene Willey urged public inclusion in the study session regarding the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) and talked about the dangers of the airport.

Alan Farb criticized the money spent on golf carts and suggested it should be allocated to helping the homeless.

Tom Lampo offered a prayer for the City.

John Palmer inquired about the status of Knox Court, expressed dissatisfaction with the cleanup of the Holzclaw property, filed a complaint against Faith Winter, and raised concerns about expired plates and the water main break at 73rd and Lowell. He also emphasized the importance of protecting home rule status.

Dino Valente criticized PRL, expressed frustration that the park was renamed administratively, and voiced dissatisfaction with the lawn project.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Freitag provided a brief update during which he mentioned Westy Wins and upcoming meetings and events. Freitag also described next steps for the Westminster Hills Open Space Community Action Team (WHOS CAT). There was one information-only item: Strategic Partnership with Servicios de la Raza.

DeMott asked about the WHOS CAT and emphasized the need for a recommendation that considers leaving the park as is, along with the associated costs. Nurmela also requested that the Dog Park Guardians' plan be included and suggested that options be presented a la carte to allow for combining solutions if necessary. Additionally, she wants a recommendation that includes a volunteer group.

Ezeadi requested an update on England Park. Lance Johnson, Parks, Golf, and Open Space Manager, provided the update, stating that a contractor has been secured for the design and gave an estimated timeline. Ezeadi also asked for updates on Knox Court. Frankel stated that the Sheriff's sale is scheduled for May 30, and if no one outbids the City, the City would own the land due to existing liens. Ezeadi then inquired about Semper Gardens and the open space stewardship plan, questioning why it isn't being followed. Freitag explained that the open space was purchased without adequate planning for people and funding, and promised a more thorough answer. Ezeadi wants the stewardship plan update included in the WHOS recommendations.

Ireland asked if the dog park, if left as is, needs to be rezoned. Freitag mentioned that the use might have to change, while Frankel reiterated that it is designated as open space. Ireland expressed her frustration that the park was administratively renamed and stated she wants to file an ethics violation against Faith Winter.

Carmelia asked for clarification on the WHOS CAT recommendations process, and Freitag outlined the next steps. She also wants the Guardians' recommendation to be included in the final recommendations.

Nurmela and DeMott called for a community meeting before any decisions are made regarding Knox Court.

McNally provided an update on the WHOS CAT, stating that another meeting should have been held. She explained the mapping exercise and how it was conducted.

The City Council wants to hold a community meeting before making any decisions about Knox Court. Hott, Nurmela, McNally, DeMott, Carmelia, and Ezeadi do not support filing an ethics violation against Faith Winter, whereas Ireland does want to file an ethics violation.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

DeMott was impressed with how many solutions the Westminster Guardians proposed. He also expressed his displeasure that the park naming happened administratively. Additionally, he reminded everyone that Thursday is his Policy and Pilsner event.

Ezeadi discussed the comments made about the dog parks, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the next steps are done correctly. He assured the public that the City Council is listening and respects their input.

Hott acknowledged that people felt the WHOS CAT process was ineffective and expressed hope that future community engagement processes will be better managed. They also want the Guardians' recommendations included in the proposal brought before the Council. Hott addressed comments made by Alan Farb, highlighting the need to prioritize the homeless and advocating against penny-pinching when it comes to social services.

Carmelia asked Freitag to clarify public participation in study sessions. Freitag explained that there is no public comment during these sessions. Carmelia also inquired about the timeline for ordering and receiving golf carts. Johnson explained the funding process for the golf carts, noting that the City is ahead of the budget because of the long lead time.

Ireland believes that prioritizing the water mains should be part of the budget. She has not analyzed the golf issues but acknowledged that golf brings in revenue from outside the City, similar to the dog park.

McNally stated that the City needs a new policy for dog park poop and suggested involving Animal Management. She noted that dog waste is an issue throughout the City and advocated for hefty fines to address it. Additionally, she provided some history about the park.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented on the consent agenda for City Council's action: Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendments with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. and McDade-Woodcock, Inc. for the Big Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility Electrical Systems Repair and Replacement Project; Resolution No. 10 Re: Intergovernmental Agreement between Adams County, City of Commerce City, and the City of Thornton for the HOME Investment Partnership Program Consortium; and Resolution No. 11 Authorizing Additional Expenditure from the Utility Capital Improvement Fund to the Water Treatment Plant Project Related to Land Purchase.

****Clerk's note:** City Council asked that item 8B, Authorize Special Legal Counsel Contract for Aviation Legal Advice, be removed from the consent agenda.

DeMott moved, seconded by Nurmela, to approve the consent agenda, Items 8A, and 8C- 8D for May 13, 2024. The motion passed on a **(7-0)** roll call vote.

DeMott moved, seconded by Nurmela to authorize Special Legal Counsel Contract for Aviation Legal Advice. The motion passed on a **(7-0)** roll call vote.

9. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

There were no appointments or resignations this evening.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading of Councillors Bill No. 15 Re: Creating the Wards Advisory Committee

DeMott moved, seconded by Nurmela to pass Councillors Bill No. 15 creating the Wards Advisory Committee to evaluate and advise on the establishment of a wards system. The motion passed on a **(6-1)** roll call vote, with Nurmela voting no citing the concern for rushing the process.

B. Authorization of a Purchase Contract with Colorado Golf and Turf, Inc. for the 2025 New Golf Cart Fleet

DeMott moved, seconded by Nurmela to pass Councillor's Bill No. 16 on first reading providing for a supplemental appropriation of funds in the amount of \$370,000 for the Cart Replacement Project to the adopted 2024 budget of the Golf Course Enterprise Fund. The motion passed on a **(6-1)** roll call vote with Ezeadi voting no citing the need to funnel funding elsewhere.

DeMott moved, seconded by Nurmela, contingent upon approval of Councillor's Bill No. 16 on second reading, to authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase of the 2025 golf cart fleet with Colorado Golf & Turf, Inc. in the amount of \$1,317,902.55 plus a three percent contingency of \$44,060 for the purchase of Club Car golf carts, player assistant carts, range utility carts, and beverage service carts for Legacy Ridge Golf Course and Walnut Creek Golf Preserve, including a trade in allowance for the current fleet purchased in 2021. The motion passed on a **(6-1)** roll call vote with Ezeadi voting no citing the need to funnel funding elsewhere.

11. OLD BUSINESS AND PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING

There was no old business this evening.

12. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk