



WESTMINSTER

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, COLORADO MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 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, and Councillors Carmelia, DeMott, Ezeadi, Hott, and Ireland were present at roll call. Also present were City Manager Jody Andrews, Deputy City Attorney Greg Graham, and City Clerk Abby Fitch.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

DeMott moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, City Council Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Nurmela, and the motion passed **(7-0)**.

4. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Koss, a resident of Westminster's Countryside neighborhood, expressed frustration over unaddressed traffic, noise, and parking issues caused by the Westminster Hills dog park. Despite numerous efforts over nearly a decade she stated that residents' concerns have been dismissed and that dog owners' needs have been prioritized over those of nearby residents.

Jim Fenimore expressed support for the 88th to Zuni connection project, emphasizing its importance for community safety and emergency response.

Karen Kalavity criticized the Uplands project and their failure to produce a walkable, transit-oriented development due to the lack of subsidies for commercial space. She also voiced frustration over ongoing housing developments that destroy wildlife habitats and disregard natural ecosystems.

Nancy Collins expressed frustration over ongoing issues with street racing and fireworks in Westminster. Despite widespread awareness, she believes authorities have failed to take meaningful action.

Art Dubus, a former firefighter and emergency medical technician, emphasized the importance of collaboration between cities in emergency response. He advocated for connecting 88th Avenue to Zuni and urged the City to work with Federal Heights and Adams County to make the connection a priority for the safety of residents and first responders.

Craig Russell expressed displeasure with the City's billing practices and failure to prorate sewer charges. He urged the City to correct the issue in future billing cycles.

John Palmer raised concerns about water waste at the Uplands development. He also criticized Uplands for mismanaging public notifications regarding the evening's public hearing, pointing out errors in contractors' signage and urged Council to postpone the hearing until proper notice is given.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Andrews provided a brief update, mentioning ongoing projects, upcoming agenda items, and upcoming meetings and events.

There were two information-only items: Community Development Block Grant Five-Year Consolidated Plan Summary and Community Engagement Plan; and Official City Positions Taken on Legislation Being Considered by the Colorado General Assembly.

Nurmela asked Andrews if public commenters from UNE and the Atrium would be informed of the March 3 Study Session topics and if translation assistance would be provided.

Andrews stated that those who previously spoke at meetings will be informed about the meeting and that translators will be pre-arranged and available on-site.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Nurmela requested an update on parking management in the Countryside neighborhood, particularly in relation to Westminster Hills Dog Park. She also acknowledged the resident who provided security fencing around wetlands and inquired about potential reimbursement for the expense. Additionally, she asked for clarification on year-end billing for water and sewer services. Nurmela emphasized that Council and Staff are a team and requested that concerns about specific staff members be directed to the city manager rather than being publicly singled out.

Ireland expressed frustration over ongoing issues with projects by Uplands, criticizing poor execution and lack of project management and questioned whether residents' concerns are being taken seriously.

Ezeadi requested clarification on the issue with the sewer rate proration. Andrews stated that Staff would investigate the situation, report back to Council, and take any identified corrective actions. Ezeadi emphasized the urgency of addressing parking issues at the dog park, noting frustration over delays in the maintenance plan. He suggested accelerating the parking discussion and asked Andrews if this can be expedited. Andrews outlined a plan to address concerns including taking immediate parking measures and ensuring input from the neighborhood. Ezeadi asked if there were issues with fireworks currently. Andrews stated that the police chief would be available at the next meeting to answer questions about the current frequency of calls reporting fireworks. Ezeadi stated that he would be prepared to ask the police chief questions about fireworks as well as street racing and speeding which is a significant and growing problem.

Carmelia requested a study session on speeding and the Mayor shared the official reporting method for speeding issues is reportstreetracing.com. Carmelia expressed appreciation for public speakers and mentioned an area management plan expected to take action in spring. She also asked about that 88th and Zuni connection and asked for the City's plan surrounding the issue.

Andrews stated that Staff is looking at moving the 88th and Zuni connection forward.

Carmelia reiterated the comment about looking into the prorated sewer rates. She also raised the importance of responsible development, and assured residents that protected land cannot be developed and that decisions about housing are made carefully to balance the needs of the community and local wildlife.

McNally acknowledged concerns about parking issues near Simms and the dog park and assured residents that the city is aware of the problem and is considering potential solutions, including designated parking permits. She also addressed ongoing street racing concerns, explaining that while law enforcement is actively responding, the issue persists across multiple areas. She highlighted the challenges officers face when dealing with large gatherings of racers and emphasized the importance of community reporting to help law enforcement coordinate responses effectively.

DeMott reiterated the importance of enforcing parking regulations near the dog park, emphasizing that parking was specifically added in response to early discussions on the issue. He stressed the need for ticketing violations to ensure compliance, particularly as warmer weather increases park usage, and suggested reevaluating the management plan to ensure long-term solutions.

Ireland asked city attorney Graham about implications of signage for the Uplands hearing.

Graham recommended postponing the public hearing so that concerns with signage could be addressed.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the consent agenda this evening.

9. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

There were no appointments or resignations this evening.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

DeMott moved, seconded by Ireland, to table the public hearing until public notice and signage issues are corrected. The motion passed **(7-0)**.

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this evening.

12. OLD BUSINESS AND PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING

There was no old business this evening.

13. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Mayor

Deputy City Clerk