

# MANITOU SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

## COUNCIL HAS JAM PACKED SESSION, WRANGLES OVER BUDGET

### MANITOU SPRINGS BUDGET NOTES

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Finance Director Mike Leslie laid out some of the salient points of the 64-page budget document at its first reading Tuesday evening. At the beginning of the discussion, Leslie said the current document:

- maintained the current level of employee benefits in 2010
- did not defer the purchase of fire department bunker gear until 2010
- included a \$110,000 improvement to the swimming pool weight room
- did not cut anything from economic development groups
- did not include an increase for the city prosecutor
- included hiring a city administrator at an annual salary of \$96,000 starting in July.
- included hiring a code enforcement officer at \$34,000 starting January 1
- included hiring a city clerk in mid-February

Councilman Matt Carpenter said he thought July was too late in the year to hire a city administrator.

"I'd like to have him start earlier, in April," Carpenter said. "To do that, we need more money. I am proposing that we look at our discretionary funding for city promotion of economic development."

Carpenter proposed that both the Economic Development Council and the Chamber of Commerce take 20 percent reductions in order to fund the hiring of a city administrator in April. That would leave the Chamber with \$189,600 and the EDC with \$69,478 and free up \$24,769 for the administrator position.

Councilman Snyder seconded Carpenter's suggestion, saying, "What we're talking about is essentially a revenue-neutral activity: moving money from our contribution to economic development to a city administrator."

Snyder suggested hiring the city administrator on May 1, leaving \$17,769 from the \$24,769. He said that would allow \$1,500 for recruitment of a city administrator, \$1,200 for an increase in pay for the city prosecutor, \$1,500 added to the Chamber's budget to invest in the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR), and still leave \$4,769 to add to the general reserve.

Snyder, with the support of Matt Carpenter, Aimee Cox and Donna Ford, asked that the changes be reflected in the budget by the second reading on December 8.

Council members also said they would like to see more evidence that \$110,000 for the swimming pool weight room was a prudent investment.

## **MANITOU SPRINGS MEETING NOTES**

Manitou Springs City Council's Tuesday night meeting was jam packed. Here are the highlights:

### **Public Comment**

L'Aura Montgomery and Wayne Williams of Manitou Environmental Citizen Action (MECA) announced that the El Paso County Board of Commissioners had voted to accept the donation of Rainbow Falls to El Paso County as public land.

### **Deputy City Administrator's report**

Finance Director Mike Leslie introduced American Legion Commander Ron LaCroix who presented the city with two checks, one for employees and one for volunteers. The donation came from the membership account of American Legion Post 39 and will go toward hosting a holiday party/barbecue for city employees and volunteers.

### **Consent Calendar**

Council voted in one motion to approve:

- the Oct. 20 meeting minutes,
- waiving fees for the use of Memorial Hall for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day dinners provided by Salvation Army and Westside Springs Foundation
- and approving the appointment of Anne Hyde to the Historic Preservation Commission

### **Hearings**

- Council approved a conditional use request for Jennifer Shurley to open a tattoo shop, called ManiTattoo Body Arts, at 1007A Manitou Avenue. It was approved on three conditions:

The studio will operate between the hours of 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The operator will maintain a valid County Health Department License for a Body Art Establishment

The operator will sign a consent form from each customer

### **New Business**

- Council approved a Resolution of Appreciation for Robert "Okie" Rutherford. Rutherford, who worked for the Public Works Department since 1985, received a standing ovation from council for his 24 years of service.

- Council approved a request to erect a flag pole just inside the main gate at Crystal Valley Cemetery. The cost will be covered by the American Legion. The flag pole will be 25 to 30 feet tall, fly United States and P.O.W. flags, be lit by solar power at night and will feature flowers or plants at its base.

- Council considered a request for approval to erect a model of a hydro-powered invention in Fountain Creek by engineer Donald Sternitzke and C.J. Anderson. The proposed site for the device is just below a small waterfall, or "drop structure" beside Adams Mountain Cafe. Nancy Wilson, representing the Fountain Creek Restoration Committee, expressed concern with multiple aspects of the structure, including the necessity for sand bags to be placed in the creek, its aesthetic impact in a prominent public space and whether fish would be harmed by the structure.

Council moved to postpone voting on the request until December 1 to give Sternitzke and Anderson time to go over these concerns with the Fountain Creek Restoration Committee, as well as inquire about the necessity of permitting for the device.

- Mike Hussey of Downtown Colorado, Inc. made a presentation asking for city sponsorship of an event in April that would bring approximately 50 people to town for one of the organization's quarterly conferences.

Manitou was chosen as a good spot because of its success with downtown revitalization. The only catch is that Downtown Colorado, Inc. needs a \$1,000 commitment from the city. Cog Railway owner Spencer Wren suggested he could work with other partners to help defray some of the cost. Council postponed voting until Dec. 1.

- Council authorized a request for the Mayor to sign a letter of support for a Colorado Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Grant, El Paso Creekwalk Connector and Footbridge Replacement. The city hopes to use the money to repair the "Indiana Jones bridge" near the Masonic Lodge on El Paso Blvd. The money would also go toward improving two crosswalks - one for the elementary, one for the middle school - as well as adding a sidewalk on the west side of El Monte Place.

- Council approved a credit agreement with Colorado Conservation Trust for the purchase of the Lee Open Space parcel under the condition that some language and dates were corrected before it is signed by the mayor.

- Council approved a contract with Echo Architecture LLC for bidding and construction administration services for Phase I of the Rehabilitation of the Manitou Springs Carnegie Library in the amount of \$4,620.

- Council approved a contract with A-Reliable Roofing Co., inc. to re-roof the Schryver Park bathroom building for \$2,500.

- Council voted to postpone approving a revocable license agreement between Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities regarding the Barr Trail Parking Area until the December 1 meeting. Mayor Eric Drummond still felt there were some "grammatical and substantive issues" that needed to be corrected.

- Council voted to deny a request from the Shady Dell Motel property owner to allow a single family home and a storage building to remain standing. The three motel buildings on the property have already been demolished. Planning Director Dan Folke said the owner would like to move a full-time tenant into the remaining building to keep an eye on the place. Council members were skeptical. Councilman Ed Klingman said, "I'm going to vote to demolish it. I'm not swayed by his argument. The fact is it's a residential property that's been abandoned, an eyesore and a detriment to the community. I say take it down. It's got better uses."

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