

October 7, 2009

5:32 PM

Mayor Baader called the regular meeting of the City Council to order. Present were Council Brown, DiCamillo, Woods, Clerk Blevins, Administrator McPherson and Attorney Phillips. With Ledford being absent.

Minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator McPherson stated the Fire Department is in the process of doing the annual testing of fire hydrants. You will notice the tops of the hydrants are painted different colors this is to let the Fire Department know the water flow of each hydrant. This is a good time of year to check your fire extinguishers in your home and change the batteries in your smoke alarm. There will be discussion later in the meeting regarding curb and gutters. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk in front of their buildings. This includes snow removal as well as repairs. The Medical Plaza has ordered 100 flu vaccines as of now there are 90 people on the waiting list. The H1N1 vaccine should be here later in October; these will be given to first responders before any others. On Fourth Street where the pavement ends is the city limits, there are three houses beyond that point. 25 years ago they installed their own private waterline that is connected to the City's water. We have some folks who would like to tap into that water line, they have permission from the homeowners to do so. They do not want to proceed until they are assured by the City they will be allowed to have the water. Lois Woods asked who is responsible for the area between the fence and the street on the South side of Bennett. McPherson stated the City is.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Finance Director Harris stated there is no budget transfer or expenditure requests at this time.

**PLANNING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Development Director Manning stated the Heritage Center project for the Transportation building and Museum exhibit may need to be delayed until next spring since it is getting to be late in the year. CDOT has no issues with this delay. The Creek Restaurant is progressing. Jodi completed the fence on the north side of the Wildwood Casino.

**PLANNING COMMISSION BUSINESS – REQUEST OF APPROVAL OF REZONING REQUEST IN THE C-1 ZONE TO CHANGE TO C-2 ZONE TO ALLOW STORAGE FACILITIES AT 260 E. WARREN AVENUE (L57-60, B7 CR CK 1<sup>ST</sup> ADD WITH ½ ADJOINING ALLEY), 309 S. THIRD STREET (L5-8, L55-56, B7 CR CK 1<sup>ST</sup> ADD AND PT VAC. ALLEY), AND 324 HWY 67 (L9-13, & PT L45-47 LYING EAST OF HWY 67 & ALL L48-54, B7, CR CK 1<sup>ST</sup> ADD AND PT VAC. ALLEY),**

**Pioneer Group and John Bowman, Applicants:**

Development Director Manning stated applicants request approval of rezoning 10 lots owned by the Pioneer Group and 5 lots and parts of 3 others from C-1 to C-2 owned by Bowman. Staff recommends approval of the request with the condition that any improvements on the Pioneer parcel be required to have an approved development plan. There was no public comment. Motion by Woods to approve the Rezoning from a C-1 to C-2 Zone Second by Brown and motion carried with DiCamillo abstaining.

**DISCUSSION – OF IMPROVEMENT TO BENNETT AVENUE AND THE SAFETY HAZARDS, Chip Huffman and Bill McPherson:**

Administrator McPherson and Public Works Director Huffman presented to the Council a list of 20 areas of curb and gutter on Bennett Avenue in need of repair. Huffman proposed to temporarily repair the areas by cleaning, tacking and filling with asphalt. This will help get us through the winter and in the spring we can start replacing the areas. Mayor Baader instructed Huffman to move forward.

**RECOMMENDATION – FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR FUNDING FROM THE VACANT AND UNDER-MAINTAINED HISTORIC BUILDING PROGRAM, Womacks Casino, Applicant:**

Development Director Manning stated the applicant requests funding to restore the Palace Hotel projecting sign. The sign is designated a Landmark Sign in the sign ordinance. As such, the sign is allowed to continue to have neon and required to retain a historic appearance. The applicant is requesting 100% City funding at \$5,189.40. After considerable discussion the Commission moved to recommend approval of the request with the condition that the details of the restoration are worked out with staff. Milford Ashworth asked if the sign will be lit all the time, and what are the pros and cons of the old neon vs. the new neon? Manning stated they would like to keep the sign historic if feasible. Motion by DiCamillo to approve the request with staff recommendations Second by Woods and motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION – FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AND PAINTING AT 375 E. BENNETT AVENUE, Cripple Creek Elks Lodge, Applicant:**

Development Director Manning stated the applicant is requesting funding for repairs to the lower front façade and the upper level windows including painting. The applicant is requesting \$3,300.00 for this project. If the upper windows were eliminated the cost could be reduced to \$1,700.00. There was no public comment. Motion by DiCamillo to approve applicant request for \$3,300.00 Second by Brown and motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Brandie Larsen**, 135 W. Bennett Avenue, asked if the Council would consider getting proposals for cost to webcast the Council meetings. Mayor Baader told Brandie to proceed and get back to Administrator McPherson with the information. **Bill Arrick, Mary Barron, Michelle Koehn, Brent Kennedy, Nancy McDonald, Edie Smith, and Cindy Ritter** all spoke to Council regarding the Butte Opera House and the fact that it could be losing funding from the Council. Council was encouraged to try as many avenues as possible to find funding someplace to keep the Butte open. **Mayor Baader** stated the Council has no intentions of closing the Butte, but we do need to cut some of the funds and the Thin Air Theater Company may not be the ones producing the shows next year but it will be open. **Nancy S Hector-Ferry** stated she will do the research on grants for the Butte if someone will write them. **Mel Moser** thanked the previous Council and present Council for giving TATC the opportunity to produce the plays and melodramas for the last 3 years. **Lois Woods** stated this was possibly her last Council meeting as she would not be able to attend the next meeting and with the elections in November the new Council could be seated. Woods thanked the citizens for the privilege to serve on the Council and work with them. Woods stated she has come to realize in the last 8 years you cannot run the City as a business, there are venues you need to offer to the citizens such as the Butte, Special Events, and the Historic District that you will lose funding on. If we do not offer these our town will disappear. It is a privilege to have the gaming in Cripple Creek and we need to continue to support the casinos as well as the Historic tourism.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05PM

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

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Dan Baader, Mayor

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Debra Blevins, City Clerk