

Coffee with the Mayor notes  
Open Discussion  
July 23, 2007

The Mayor opened the meeting by soliciting resident's opinion about the July 19, 2007 study session topic.

Q. The mayor posed the question, "Would residents be interested in extending the ½ cent sales tax scheduled to expire next year to fund an infrastructure plan and to use current surplus dollars to design and define a plan of major infrastructure needs?"

A resident expressed his concern that the City needs a few cents here and there and how it becomes a slippery slope with the City's needs continually met with tax increases and service fees.

Another resident requested a clear definition of the meaning of the word "design" in the development of a maintenance and infrastructure plan.

A resident commented that the City continues to implement new aesthetic initiatives like the Recreation Center and 104<sup>th</sup> Trail project and now a revamped recycling/trash initiative while it ignores the mundane maintenance of the City. He commented, "It's where you put the money versus how you spend it. Councilmember Garner is just itching to spend the \$10 million reserve."

Another resident said they did not consider the 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue project to be an aesthetic improvement. Sidewalks and trail repairs are a needed improvement.

Another concern was that the City does a lot of design work for various projects; however, that's as far as it goes. No work proceeds after all the planning.

Q. A resident pointed to an article published in the Denver Post about Northglenn having the highest property-tax rate of \$9.20 per 1,000 valuation (cost to owner of a \$250,000 home) and wanted more information about the article.

A. The news reporter who wrote the article was contacted and he extrapolated the information from a presentation made by the City and County of Denver. Denver was contacted to gain an understanding of how this data was generated and we are waiting for Denver's response.

Q. Next a resident asked, "How many City projects come in on time and within budget? It appears as though most projects require a supplemental appropriation.

A. The Mayor responded by asking the audience if they could recall any of the City's recent major projects. She then pointed to the fact that the Community Center Bridge came in under budget and before the projected timeline.

Q. A resident pointed to the wastewater treatment facility as an example of over budget.

A. The Mayor explained that additional costs were related to the change in scope of the project or improvements to the design of the facility.

Q. Resident responded that people vote on and approve projects based upon study sessions, newsletter information and City hosted and staff driven engagement processes. Why isn't the public invited to speak at study session to share their thoughts?

A. Mayor responded by saying that if every decision made required public input that would hamper any decision-making in the City. Often, the public is not interested in the issues even though they are invited to participate. People typically come out when they are upset.

A. Another resident added, "That is the role of City Council. We elect them to make decisions. That's why we elected them.

Q. Last year, the City identified a 4 million budget overage and City Council was asked at a meeting what can we do with this excess. All agreed to invest in Huron Street. Yet, to date we do not see anything occurring. What happened to the money?

Q. Resident offered the following comment on the spending of taxpayer's money. Staff recommends money issues and yet they don't even live in the City. There is nothing more arrogant than Civil Service. All top-level employees should be required to live in the City. We can't afford to try and keep up with larger neighboring cities that have more financial resources than us.

A. The mayor responded in saying, "It would be difficult to find the skills needed for the wide variety of City jobs from within the City. Most cities do not require employees to live in their City. Denver had a residency requirement and changed that requirement several years ago because of the challenges it presented to the organization."

Q. Rights of Way (ROW) ----Why doesn't the City take care of its own property? The area surrounding the new location of Vitamin Cottage is a mess along with Washington Street. Why aren't businesses complying with Code Enforcement?

A. Mayor responded that we would look into the areas and let code enforcement know of the concern.

Q. Who maintains the (ROW) on 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Pecos Street? That area looks good why don't other City ROW's look similar.

A. The mayor responded that a development agreement between the City and the developer provide for the maintenance of that area.