

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES 6 JUNE 22, 2015

Call Work Session to order at 8:05 p.m. by Mayor Thomas

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas, Council Members Osborn, McNeilly, Boder and Stieve-McPadden

ABSENT:

STAFF: City Administrator Ruch-Hammond, City Engineer Andrew Budde, Public Works Kuntz and Clerk Maetzold

ALSO PRESENT: Don Wachholz, Ivan Raconteur and Gordy Simanton

1. **Discussion with SolarStone:** Gordy Simanton of SolarStone appeared before the Council to review an Educational and Informational Community Solar Garden Value Analysis for the City of Mayer. The City could enter into a subscription or lease for land with no upfront costs. Discussion included the possibility of adding a solar garden to the 7 acres of decommissioned wastewater pond property. They would need the City to sign a data policy for SolarStone to do an analysis with Xcel billings for more accurate cost benefits.
2. **Joint Meeting with Park Board:** Additional Park Board members were not able to attend this meeting. Council Member Stieve-McPadden, a member of the Park Board brought questions to the work session. The Park Board is wondering if the City is at a point where we should have a separate Parks Department under Public Works. Should they be budgeting for lawn mowers and their replacements in their Park budget? The staffing issue for the Parks was discussed. There may be a need for more staff time in the summer with the various needs of the Parks. Administrator Ruch-Hammond will look at job descriptions for additional help and bring it back to a Council meeting before the budget meeting in July.
3. **Discussion on the Keeping of Honey Bees in the City:** Mayor Thomas brought this topic to the Council for discussion. Our current Ordinance does not allow for bee keeping in the City. Many large US cities do allow bees to be kept. Staff will review a few ordinances for the Council to evaluate.
4. **Discussion on Additional Parking lot on the North Side of the Water Plant Property:** The matter of additional parking for the downtown area will be reviewed for a few months. It was decided to add the construction of additional parking lot on the north side of Bluejay Park in the 2016 budget. Additional comments included the removal of the two trees at the north side to get a few more parking spaces. Several new trees could be added when the lot is completed.
5. **Electronic Devices:** Mayor Thomas reviewed three options for electronic devices for Council packets with the Council. After some discussion, he will try to bring a HP Stream touch screen laptop to the next meeting for the Council's inspection.
6. **Wetland discussion:** The City of Mayer has been working on a wetland restoration project east of Hwy 25 and south of the Dakota Rail trail for several years. Mayor Thomas would like to see the City move forward with the project even though the project may not pay for itself in the end. The benefit would be a completed storm water project that will improve

drainage through the Hidden Creek development. The project will need to be rebid before the City can proceed. Staff will see that the next step is taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald W. Thomas, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lois A. Maetzold, City Clerk