

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MARCH 11, 2010 @ 7:15 PM
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Joyce called the Council work session to order at 7:20 pm on March 11, 2010 in the Library Meeting Room.

B. ROLL CALL

Present for roll call were *Mayor Tim Joyce*, Council members *David Allison, Bret Bradford, EJ Cheshier, James Kacsh, James Kallander* and *David Reggiani*. Council member *Robert Henrichs* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Mark Lynch* and City Clerk *Lila Koplín*.

C. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS

1. Audience comments regarding agenda items.

Gus Arvidson, Observation Ave., stated that the City took out the sodium lights, and now they wanted to remove one of the current lights. He thinks the light should remain. Furthermore, one of the lights that is currently in place does not light up the walkway for his neighbors who now have to use flashlights. He also stated that there have been burglaries in the area in the past. He would like to keep the light on.

Paul Saunders stated that he would like the light near his place to stay on because it is right on a dangerous curve on the road. There are also bears. He also thinks that the lights need to be managed better by shutting off lights when it is already light outside.

Sheri Stramecki, Observation Ave., stated that it was really dark on Observation Ave., and also scary when the bears were out and she only had a flashlight to see with. She would like the lights to stay.

Paul Saunders stated that he had talked with Mike and Joan Jackson, and they would like the lights near their place to remain on, as well as Bill Webber.

Jason Devin, Observation Ave., stated that Observation is really dark now with the new lights. He thinks that more lights should be put in.

Jason Borer, Observation Ave., agreed with everything that had been said about Observation Ave. He also thinks that the light at Sawmill Rd. near his property needs to be kept on.

Jim Nygaard, Superintendent of Schools, stated that he is working at getting more lights put around the schools. He asked the Council to consider putting a light on the opposite side of the street at Mt. Eccles to remove the shadows when parents are dropping their kids off.

Robert Beedle, 609 Spruce St., stated that a light near his house was set to be disconnected, and he would like it to remain on. He also suggested disconnecting the lights four months out of the year when it's light.

D. WORK SESSION TOPIC

2. Discussion of street light disconnections

Kacsh explained the criteria used to disconnect lights: Dangerous curves, intersections, public safety, and protection of City property. Protection of private property was the responsibility of the owner. He stated that some of the lights were questionable, and they thought that if people wanted them to stay on, the people would come forward and request it. He stated that he had no problem keeping the lights on that people wanted. He thought that the lights in question on Railroad Row, the one on Observations, the Webbers, and the one on Spruce should be kept on. *Bradford* agreed with *Kacsh*, and thought that the three lights on the 5 mile loop, with the two that illuminate the avalanche gates should also be kept on.

Tom Cohenour passed out a worksheet illustrating which lights he thought should be left on. *Kacsh* thought that they should have the DOT pay for the lights at 5 mile loop on the Copper River Highway. *Cheshier* stated that if the DOT did not take over those lights, the City should still keep them on. *Cohenour* stated that the DOT was paying for the two end lights, but not the three in the middle. *Kallander* asked for Council concurrence to direct staff to write a letter to the DOT to take over payment for all the lights on 5 mile loop. When the avalanche gates are down, all the traffic goes through that loop. *Kallander* also suggested that the City request the State to pay for the lights on all State roads other than the ones downtown. If they refuse, then the City could re-evaluate those ones later. The *Council* concurred.

The *Council* went through *Cohenour's* spreadsheet to direct him on which lights should remain on. *Cheshier* stated that he thought that they should drive around, and look at the lights at night. *Allison* agreed with *Cheshier*, but thought that only a few people needed to go. The *Council* decided to inspect each light with a committee composed of *Kacsh*, *Bradford*, *Beedle*, *Cohenour* and a Clerk.

Cohenour asked if the committee should discuss the Mt. Eccles light also. *Kacsh* stated that he had no problem discussing. *Mayor Joyce* stated that they needed to take into consideration the snow dump.

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

F. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kallander and *Cheshier* thanked Cohenour.

G. ADJOURNMENT

M/Bradford S/Reggiani to adjourn the work session.

With no objections, *Mayor Joyce* adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Approved: May 5, 2010

Attest: *Erika Empey*
Erika Empey, Deputy City Clerk

