

Mayor Ed Sisson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Also present were Councilmembers Bill Raley, Ron Austin, Gerald Roberts and Christopher Ryan, along with City Manager David Torgler. A meeting notice was posted in the south window at City Hall at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution #7, 2016; Application for a Transportation Alternative Program Grant**RESOLUTION #7, 2016**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DELTA SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR US HIGHWAY 50 BRIDGE UNDERPASS TRAIL AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LOCAL FUNDING FOR TWENTY PERCENT OF GRANT ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

was read by the Clerk.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Wilam Erven stated that during the Region 10 and City of Delta's economic development assessment study with Better City, a development of the Gunnison River was considered as a project to assist the community with tourism and property development. The RiverResortation group that was chosen to do a River Corridor study, designated a US 50 Underpass Trail, as a portion of the whole River Corridor trail project, that would connect the west and east sides of the trail under US Highway 50.

At this time, staff is requesting approval to submit a grant application to the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant for the underpass trail project. The CDOT TAP grant is an 80% CDOT funded program that happens every three years and 2016 is one of the years that CDOT is accepting applications. The TAP grant application deadline is July 29, 2016 and a local resolution demonstrating a financial commitment by the City is one of the grant requirements. The next round of TAP grants will be three years from now.

Staff and the RiverResortation group chose the US Highway 50 Bridge Underpass Trail as the project that would meet the grant criteria by extending the existing Confluence Park trail, be immediately beneficial to residents living north of the Gunnison River seeking to access Confluence Park and shops such as Ace Hardware and City Market, and will be a segment of the trail system that can be easily extended into the future Gateway, hotel and conference center project. The US 50 Highway Bridge underpass section of the river trail is also one of the more expensive sections to build. Should the City receive the TAP grant, monies for engineering and construction cannot be used until after July 1, 2017 and the project must be completed by June 30, 2020.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$500,000. The project consists of the completion of the design engineering and acquiring all of the construction documents in second half of 2017 with a financial commit from the City of approximately \$20,000 cash. The second portion of the project would be the actual construction of the project in 2018 with the City's commitment of approximately \$80,000 cash. In-kind contributions are not considered as matching funds for the TAP grant. It is recommended that the City work with DURA so that this financial commitment of \$100,000 will be repaid to the City when DURA borrows money to complete future capital projects.

Councilmember Austin questioned if the underpass trail would tie into possible future trails along the river and if that would be a separate cost.

Ms. Erven reported that the trails could tie into each and that those trails would be a separate project.

Councilmember Raley presented concerns regarding the cost of the project and the existing needs within the city.

There was discussion regarding the purpose of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and how URA would help with projects.

Special Meeting, Delta City Council, July 28, 2016 (cont.)

Resolution #7, 2016; Application for a Transportation Alternative Program Grant

Councilmember Roberts questioned where the \$100,000 would come from out of the budget.

City Manager David Torgler explained that the monies, at this time, would have to come out of the general fund since DURA does not have any income yet. He also explained the tax increment financing that he is recommending Council consider.

Manager Torgler answered questions regarding the recommendation from Better City regarding the river project.

There were comments regarding Delta being a pass through community and trying to change Delta to be a destination stop.

Councilmember Austin stated that he believes Council needs to present to citizens a viable proposal in the long range that will create jobs and tax revenue. He doesn't feel Council can just sit back and do nothing because it hasn't been done in the past. It's not going to help this community. He also believes this river project would be an asset to this community.

Councilmember Raley stated that there is a lot of planning and thought that needs to be put into a project like this. He feels that rushing into this meeting tonight because the deadline for the application is on July 29th, 2016 is not a good idea.

Councilmember Rayn agreed that the city needs to proceed cautiously; however, he believes the river project has to take place. He stated that great efforts have been made in the past and we need to continue forward.

Mary Cooper, 854 1550 Road, commented that the city may be putting the cart before the horse. There is more work that needs to be completed before the river project can move forward. This trail could become a trail to nowhere. The project is going to cost money that the city doesn't have.

Councilmember Roberts questioned if there is any information as to how much the total project could cost.

Manager Torgler stated that the estimated cost is \$14 million; however, that would be spread out over several years. This is the first step in this project.

There were questions regarding the process completing this project. Staff explained that there will be several stages of the project and several agencies involved as well as property owners.

Councilmember Ryan stated that given the phased nature of the project, there comes a point when things can move quickly and not moving quickly is not going to accomplish anything. This project will be a benefit to the city.

Councilmember Roberts commented on the pedestrian tunnel near the recreation center. He has concerns that this underpass trail could become a similar situation.

It was moved by Councilmember Austin and seconded by Councilmember Ryan to adopt Resolution #7, 2016. Roll call vote: Councilmembers Raley, nay; Roberts, nay; Austin, aye; Ryan aye and Sisson aye. Motion carried.

Consideration to Hire Public Finance Attorney Services for Urban Renewal Activities

It was moved by Councilmember Ryan and seconded by Councilmember Austin to table this item until August 2, 2016. Motion carried.

There was consensus amongst Council to hold a work session on July 28, 2016 at 4:00pm.

Councilmember Ryan requested the following items for the work session:

1. Any existing records regarding the Delta Urban Renewal Authority.
2. 2013-2017 General Fund budgets.
3. All unbudgeted items approved by City Council in 2015 and 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Jolene E. Nelson, CMC, City Clerk