

**City of Westminster City Council Study Session
January 30, 2006**

Mayor McNally called the Study Session to order at 6:39 PM. All Council was in attendance.

City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Brent McFall; Assistant City Manager Steve Smithers; City Attorney Marty McCullough; Judge John Stipech; Director of Public Works and Utilities Jim Arndt; Director of Community Development John Carpenter; Park Services Manager Rich Dahl; Landscape Architect II Brad Chronowski; City Engineer Dave Downing; Open Space Coordinator Ruth Becker; Chief Building Official Dave Horras; Special Projects Coordinator Ron Hellbusch; Public Information Specialist Carol Jones; and Administrative Secretary Kim Farin.

The guests in attendance were Evie Hemphill with the Westminster Window; 24 citizens interested in hearing the Prairie Dog Management Policy; members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; Michael Wedermyer with the Department of Wildlife; and Dean Rundle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Municipal Court 2005 Year-End Report

Brent McFall introduced Judge John Stipech who gave Council an update on the Court's activities during 2005. The Judge discussed the court case load; the probation section; programs, including mock trials and moot court, the Jury Shadowing Program, mediation-dispute resolution, and the Generous Juror Program; security, jail space, diversion programs/assessment centers; customer service; the past year's projects and accomplishments; and staffing.

Prairie Dog Management Policy Update

Brent McFall introduced Rich Dahl, who, with Brad Chronowski, gave a presentation to Council outlining the process used to manage the prairie dog populations on City-owned properties. Michael Wedermyer, with the Department of Wildlife, and Westminster Police Officer Eric Knopinski also assisted with the presentation.

Council concurred with Staff to continue implementing the existing Prairie Dog Management Policy.

Rocky Flats Update on Closure, Transition and Wildlife Refuge

Brent McFall introduced Ron Hellbusch who gave an overview and history of Rocky Flats and discussed a proposed IGA to officially establish the new post-closure oversight organization that will be known as the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (RFSC). The IGA will also terminate the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments (RFCLOG) and authorize \$1000 to be spent annually to supplement the DOE funds for the RFSC.

Dean Rundle, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discussed the National Wildlife Refuge at Rocky Flats including the Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Council concurred with Staff's recommendations and Staff will prepare the final version of the IGA for consideration at the Feb 13 City council meeting.

Individual Lot Grading

Brent McFall introduced Dave Downing who led a discussion on whether the City should impose a new fee on home builder paying for the review and inspection of the grading of residential lots. Due to a lack of resources, Staff has previously performed very little inspection of individual residential lot grading prior to the CO being issued. With the current trend toward smaller lots and reduced building setbacks from property lines, the opportunity for inadvertent drainage problems has increased. Staff believes that a need exists to perform enhanced review and inspection services for appropriate lot grading.

Council concurred with Staff's recommendation to impose a \$400 per lot charge for review and inspection to the homebuilder and to contract with Borne Engineering to perform lot grading review and inspection services on all new residential subdivisions in the City.

Mayor McNally adjourned the Study Session at 9:15 PM. There was no Executive Session following this meeting.