

# ***City Council***

## ***Study Session Summary***

**October 22, 2024**  
**Library Meeting Room**  
**951 Spruce Street**  
**6:00 PM**

Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Present: Mayor Chris Leh  
Mayor Pro Tem Caleb Dickinson  
Councilmember Deborah Fahey  
Councilmember Barbara Hamlington  
Councilmember Dietrich Hoefner

Absent: Councilmember Tim Bierman  
Councilmember Judi Kern

Staff Present: Meredyth Muth, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Adam Blackmore, Director of Parks, Recreation & Open Space  
David Dean, Golf Course Superintendent  
Abby McNeal, Parks Superintendent  
Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent  
Genny Kline, Interim City Clerk

### **PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & GOLF DEPARTMENT ENCROACHMENT UPDATE**

Director Blackmore stated this is meant to be an informational item about how the department handles encroachment on City property. He noted staff tries to be as non adversarial as possible when working with residents and a simple discussion is often all that is required for people to remedy the situation.

Rebuilding after the Marshall Fire has led to a lot of reengagement on this issue as homes and fence lines are rebuilt. He reviewed the definition of encroachment and noted it includes leaving and disposing of personal property on open space; damage to natural resources; and digging or disturbing on City property.

Staff uses a simple permit to allow access to homes via open space or parks for construction. The permit requires the applicant to restore the land if any damage is done. Staff also uses revocable license agreements (RLAs) when it makes sense for both

parties. Staff approaches these issues assuming people did not understand the property line and they try to work with people to address the issues.

Blackmore reviewed some examples of what they encounter including dumping; mowing; landscaping; damaging resources; and storing items on City property.

David Dean, Golf Course Superintendent, reviewed some of the encroachment issues the course has. He noted some people adjacent to the course have been encroaching for a long time and it has never been addressed; others then see that and follow along. Staff has begun using RLAs to address some issues. Often times staff will have to identify where the property line is and what the impacts are before people will address the issue.

Abby McNeal, Parks Superintendent, stated in the rebuild process the Parks staff noticed many areas where construction was expanding beyond property lines and damaging parks and rights of way. Another common issue is residents taking it upon themselves to plant or landscape in parks that are adjacent to their homes. Another issue is contractors who work in rights-of-way without getting a permit. She did not that they have had successes working with homeowners during the rebuild.

Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent, stated the personal outreach of staff to residents goes a long way with residents. On Open Space staff sometimes finds people planting into Open Space or people removing plants they don't like. They have seen everything from furniture, games, fire pits, and even science projects on Open Space.

She reviewed the 2018 outreach campaign and how the rangers enforce the rules, but noted the real goal is for citizens to understand why they need to protect the land. After the 2018 campaign they had a 99% compliance rate with only three cases going to municipal court.

Director Blackmore reviewed next steps including additional mapping, clean ups, and continued monitoring, with a primary focus on the golf course in the next year.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Leh stated he has learned from the City Manager recruiter that the residency requirement is a sticking point and Council should have a discussion about this. He asked this be a discussion item on a future agenda. Everyone agreed.

*Adjourned at 7:25 pm.*