

City Council

Study Session Summary

**November 12, 2024
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:00 PM**

Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

City Council Present: Mayor Chris Leh
Mayor Pro Tem Caleb Dickinson
Councilmember Tim Bierman
Councilmember Deborah Fahey
Councilmember Barbara Hamlington
Councilmember Judi Kern

Absent: Councilmember Dietrich Hoefner

Boulder County Commissioners: Ashley Stolzmann
Claire Levy
Marta Loachamin

Staff Present: Samma Fox, Interim City Manager
Meredyth Muth, Interim Deputy City Manager
Rob Zuccaro, Community Development Director
Jana Peterson, Boulder County Administrator

DINNER WITH BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Councilmembers and the Commissioners discussed various issues of mutual interest.

Members discussed housing and homelessness issues in the region. Commissioner Loachamin noted the recent change dividing the health and human services department into two separate departments, one for housing and one for human services. She noted recent work to make the Boulder County Housing Authority more financially sustainable and reported on regional work on homelessness.

She reported on the Boulder County housing tax that was passed in 2023 and recent meetings on how that money might be spent. The housing tax is for capital projects and there will be a process on how to determine what projects the money is used for.

The group discussed housing needs and what the priorities might be for the limited funding. There was an understanding that multiple funding sources will be necessary to make much of a dent in the current housing needs in the region.

The group discussed wildfire mitigation. Commissioner Stolzmann reported the County is working on how to implement wildfire mitigation across many communities and many different types of lands. The County has money available for education and as an incentive for people to prepare themselves. They have seen good results from the homes that have completed the Wildfire Partners work. She added that the County has leveraged state and federal money to do more mitigation in the forested areas to help maintain water quality. The County has now hired someone to work on wildfire mitigation specifically related to irrigation ditches and that person is in the process of scoping that mitigation work.

Commissioner Levy reported on transportation issues including regional funding processes, the county's dedicated transportation tax, and the list of projects the tax will be funding for the next few years. She reviewed some of the work of the NW Mayors/Commissioners coalition; grant funding for safety improvements on Hwy 287; the Boulder/Erie bikeway; and the US 36 bikeway from Boulder to Lyons. The focus is safety improvements and multimodal options more than increasing capacity.

Levy reported on the two rail ideas currently being considered for this corridor. Members discussed rail stops and the possibility of Louisville getting one.

Members discussed human services and what types of services are provided to Louisville residents.

BOULDER HOUSING DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Susana Lopez-Baker and Bill Cole of the Boulder Housing Department noted the recent changes separating the Housing Department from the Human Services Department. The Housing Department includes the Boulder County Housing Authority and their mission. She reviewed the specific goals of the department and partnerships that will be needed to make those happen. She also noted their housing unit creation goal and the focus on land acquisition and future development.

Bill Cole reviewed the Homeless Systems and Coordinated Response Division and its plan to impact homelessness. This is a regional approach using the principal of housing first. He reviewed Louisville homelessness numbers and those residents in Louisville seeking services from Boulder County and Longmont.

Lopez-Baker reviewed the Supportive Housing Unit's work to create housing stability for county residents including families and youth. She noted their team supports 346 units in Louisville. 131 of which are set aside for those aged 55 and older. They also oversee

102 vouchers for Louisville residents. In addition, they have a rental assistance program.

She reviewed the Boulder County Housing Authority's role in the department. BCHA oversees 1100 units county wide. She noted recent work regarding the three undeveloped lots at Kestrel. She reviewed recent upgrades on BCHA's Louisville properties.

Cole reviewed the work of the Regional Housing Partnership and the coordination across the County. He noted the 12% goal for deed restricted affordable housing that has been adopted across the region. He reviewed the Mobile Home Communities program and how it supports those living in these communities.

They reviewed other programs the department supports including repair help, transitional housing, housing for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and various sources they look to for additional funding. They noted the recent work on the new housing tax and how that long-term program might work.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.