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WORK SESSION

July 12, 2011

6 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Update on the Economic Health Strategic Planning Process with the City's Consultant Team and Staff. (staff: Josh Birks, Mike Freeman; 45 minute discussion)

The City of Fort Collins' Economic Action Plan was first developed in 2005 and has been updated annually as part of the Budgeting for Outcomes process. Now, more than five years later, it is time to re-evaluate the Economic Action Plan and develop a revised Economic Health Strategic Plan. City Council approved \$150,000 in one-time funding from the Keep Fort Collins Great funding allocation for this project in 2011.

TIP Strategies from Austin, TX was selected to lead this process. TIP staff was present at the May 10, 2011 Work Session to present their overall scope of services and have an initial conversation with the City Council about the project. At that time, it was decided that it would be helpful and important to the process to have an early check in with the City Council. The scope of work outlined by the consultants includes three primary phases: (1) Discovery, (2) Opportunity, and (3) Implementation. This work session comes near the end of the first phase. The conversation with City Council is to present

the findings from the assessment, discuss the draft “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats” (SWOT) chart, and brainstorm benchmark communities for the opportunity phase.

3. Allocation of Building Community Choices Surplus and Other Resources for Current Capital Needs. (staff: Diane Jones, Mike Freeman; 45 minute discussion)

Staff will present Council with process options to allocate the remaining surplus Building Community Choices (BCC) funds and other resources for capital project needs. This is a continuation of the conversation that began at the April 26 Work Session.

4. Modernizing Water and Electric Infrastructure. (staff: Brian Janonis, Steve Catanach, Kraig Bader; 1 hour discussion)

The objective of this work session item is to provide City Council with an update on the Advanced Meter Fort Collins project. The project involves the upgrade of all of the electrical and water meters within the City utilities service territories. The project will improve current operations within Utilities, help meet the goals established in the Energy Policy, enhance our ability to serve customers, and ensure that Utilities is well positioned to support the current evolution of the traditional electric utility.

The opportunities available to customers surrounding involve their energy choices are growing. Looking towards the future, industry predictions suggest that the life-cycle cost of installing solar panels will be the same as, or less than, electrical prices from the utility within the decade. In addition, consumers have expressed a strong interest in the adoption of electric vehicles. In response, manufacturers are investing heavily in the development of electric vehicles; there are currently 34 all-electric vehicle manufacturers in the United States. A recent report from the Department of Energy addressing the progress toward the President’s goal of “One Million Electric Vehicles By 2015” indicates that the manufacturing capability already exists and the next necessary step is educating and supporting the consumer.

The installation of advanced metering technology provides a foundation that will enable Fort Collins Light & Power to support, inform and empower our community by providing energy choices while maintaining the same level of quality service and high reliability provided to customers today. The key benefits defined include:

- use information and technology to maintain high system reliability
- make utility operations even more cost-effective
- provide more timely customer service
- prepare the utility and the community for emerging technologies.

5. Meeting the Colorado Renewable Energy Standard. (staff: Steve Catanach; 30 minute discussion)

Currently, the State of Colorado Renewable Energy Standard requires that 3% of the energy sold by the City of Fort Collins is generated from renewable resources. The state requirement is currently being met by a portfolio of resources purchased on behalf of the City by Platte River Power Authority. In 2015, the requirement increases to 6% and by 2020 the requirement is 10%.

In order to meet the 2015 requirement, construction of additional renewable resources will be necessary. Staff is examining two different opportunities for local development of renewable energy projects.

6. Other Business.

7. Adjournment.