

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CREEDE, COLORADO – A TOWN
January 18, 2003**

REGULAR MEETING

The City Council of the City of Creede – a Town, County of Mineral, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the Creede Town Hall at the hour of 2:00 p.m. There being present at the call of the roll the following persons:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:	JB Alexander, Chuck Barnes, Gene Dooley, John Goss, Jennifer Homsher
ABSENT:	BJ Myers, Merle Knous

Mayor Pro-tem Barnes, presiding, declared a quorum present:
Those members of staff also present were as follows:
Sandra Wright, City Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

FINANCIALS AND CASH FLOW REPORT

City Manager Wright reported that while trying to finish up the December reconciliation, a \$34,000 out of balance amount was not located, and therefore, the financials and cash flow report was not available at this time.

VIRGINIA CHRISTENSEN FUNDING LETTER

The City received a letter from Mike Kolisch stating his disappointment in the City not having Virginia Christensen funding in 2003, that the Days of '92 would be funding but that his group of Tomahawk throwers would not be funded, and had several misconceptions about using the Virginia Christensen Trust principal. Several members of the Advisory Committee were present, and a letter from Steve Quiller, who could not attend, was presented to the Council.

The Advisory Committee told the Council that while Advisory Committee member Jim Basham had made the suggested during the November Committee meeting that he thought Virginia Christensen funds should be used for capital improvements for the City, that because of the lateness of the hour at that time, the Committee did not discuss this concept. Therefore, the Advisory Committee had not made a recommendation to the Council that the funds be used for the City's capital improvement agenda.

They also expressed concern that the public had not been advised in advance of the Council considering withholding funds in 2003, and that several people who may have been counting on applying for the funding were wondering what they were going to do. The Arts Council was one of the groups specifically mentioned.

There was a discussion among the Council and the Advisory Committee members present about the decision to fund the Days of '92, and it was reiterated that ongoing funding for this event had been committed a couple of years ago, that this event maintains the mining heritage of Creede and the events draws thousands of people to Creede. Some Council members felt the group should go back to getting their funding from business, but other Council members stood by the decision to continue funding this group.

There was a discussion regarding what should be included in the responding letter to Mike Kolisch, including an apology for no advance notice of the decision and clarifying the inaccuracies about using the Virginia Christensen principal. Councilman Dooley moved, and Councilman Goss seconded, to have Wright write the letter to Kolisch correcting the inaccuracy and making the apology, and to also write a press release with the same information to submit to Valley Publishing. Unanimous. Mayor Pro-tem Barnes declared the motion carried.

The members of the Advisory Committee present also told the Council that Lauren Sheldrake had returned about \$700 from the grant awarded to her at the spring funding round. Sheldrake had to cancel her plans for the Camp Champion because of unexpected surgery on her hand last summer. After a short discussion, it was felt by both the Advisory Committee and the Council that if Sheldrake was planning to reschedule the Camp for this summer, that the \$700 should be returned to her for that purpose. Councilman Goss moved, and Councilman Dooley seconded, to contact Sheldrake to determine if she is planning on having the Camp this summer, and offer to return the \$700 to her for that purpose. Unanimous. Mayor Pro-tem Barnes declared the motion carried.

MATCHING FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GRANT

Wright told the Council that DOLA regional representative Deb Downs had a meeting with Mayor Myers, Chamber Director Pat Richmond and grant writer Mary Jo DePriest. A grant application was submitted to DOLA for the entire amount of the building, and Downs expressed her concern that without other sources of funding being sought, there was little chance of the application being funded. Downs particularly suggested applying for grants from three or four organizations, and said that without matching funding from the City DOLA would more than likely take the attitude that if the visitor's center was not a priority for the City why should it be a priority for the DOLA? Downs' recommendation was \$10,000.

There was a discussion about this amount not being included in the 2003 budget, and where the funding would come from. It was pointed out that given the timing of the CDOT grant, the necessary negotiations for the property, that construction in all likelihood would not commence until 2004, giving plenty of time to budget for this matching funding. Councilman Alexander expressed his opinion that this was a Chamber project, and that the Chamber should be responsible for the needed funding, and that where he came from the Chamber was self-supporting. He also expressed his concern that the City already donates \$10,000 a year towards operating expenses.

Councilman Goss moved, and Councilwoman Homsher seconded, that given the fact that there was time to decide where the money would come from, that the City commit \$10,000 matching for the DOLA grant application. Councilman Alexander voted nay, all others voted yea. Mayor Pro-tem Barnes declared the motion carried.

RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION ARTICLE

The City received a copy of the Colorado Rural Water Association's newsletter today, and Bud Wilson, the representative who has been assisting Maintenance Supervisor Shaun Basham with water management over the past year, wrote an article regarding the October accident at the sewer lagoons. Wright read a portion of the article as follows: "The second incident regards someone driving into a sewage lagoon and drowning.

The reasons for his actions are not important to this dissertation. The reason for this part of the article is to show that proper procedures need to be followed.

Because the car was found with no one inside, it was not known whether or not the driver was able to escape the lagoon, or was the victim of a drowning. Later, it was determined that he could not be found anywhere so his body must still be in the lagoon.

The immediate reaction was to cut the dike around the lagoon to release the water. This was not necessary as there was a valve in place to drain the lagoon. Why do extreme damage to a facility if it is not necessary? The lagoon was drained slowly, avoiding any compliance issues with the NPDES permit standards, and the body was recovered.

An incident such as this should be reported to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and other regulatory agencies. The problem was that no one could be reached at the CDPHE. The accident happened on a three day weekend and everyone was 'out of town'. Many people including the plant operator, myself and others at Colorado Rural Water were unable to find telephone numbers for this circumstance. If you do not have emergency numbers available, obtain the ASAP, and have them posted in a convenient place for everyone to use as needed.

In summation, the operator stood his ground, drained the lagoon slowly, the body was recovered, the necessary testing was done on the water that was released, the permit standards were not violated, and the plant is in service without damage. The operator did a very good job and should be commended."

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Dooley said he had heard that the case against Shank had been sent to the State Land people. City Manager Wright corrected the mis-information, and advised that the case is being sent to the Surface Transportation Board for review. The Surface Transportation Board is a federal agency.

ADJOURN

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There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilman Dooley moved that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. Mayor Pro-tem Barnes declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by City Council

Sandra S. Wright, City Manager

Charles G. Barnes, Mayor Pro-tem