



Work Session Minutes

Planning Commission and City Council

September 27, 2021

PC MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brendan Kennealy, Susan Rosenberg, and Brett Stursa

PC MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Kathryn Quam, Commissioners James Rudolph and Bryan Pynn.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez; Mary Supple; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Simon Trautmann

STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Nellie Jerome, Assistant Planner; Katie Rodriguez, City Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: none.

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

ITEM #1 Electric vehicle charging standards:

Staff will review current charging standards and options. Commissioners and Council Members will consider the number or percentage of chargers that could be required for new residential, commercial, and other developments.

Assistant Planner Nellie Jerome presented the discussion topic on electric vehicle (EV) charging. Council Member Mary Supple spoke in favor of charging standards and asked about retrofitting existing developments. Assistant Director Poehlman noted that there are some State and County programs to help install EV infrastructure and that many developers are already planning for future EV charging equipment. Council member Whalen was also in support of requiring EV infrastructure and supported working with partners to help fund it. Council member Hayford Oleary advocated for parking reductions tied to EV charging installations, to help reduce the cost for multifamily development. Commissioner Kennealy and Mayor Regan Gonzalez were in favor of prioritizing EV infrastructure at commercial locations over gas stations, and were both open to requiring a higher amount of EV chargers if possible. Council Member Whalen felt that the DC (fast) charger would be appropriate for gas stations because they are already well-known spots for fueling vehicles.

ITEM #2 Bicycle parking standards:

Staff will review standards in Richfield and in neighboring cities. Commissioners and Council members will consider the number or percentage of bike racks that could be required for residential, commercial, and other developments.

Assistant Planner Nellie Jerome presented the discussion topic. Commissioner Rosenberg noted that it was good that the City is taking on this policy work. As the city's bike infrastructure has greatly improved over the years, Council member Hayford Oleary stated that he was supportive of more bike parking and wanted to push for bike storage rooms that are accessible and do not require that all users lift bikes up onto racks. Commissioner Kennealy hoped that the required bike parking would be tied to building square footage rather than to required car parking. Council member Whalen spoke in favor of reducing car parking requirements for new developments if bike infrastructure is provided and if bike paths are nearby. Council member