

City Council Achievements November 2007 – 2011

Policy Decisions

1. Fix the structural problem with the budget without negatively affecting safety, health or welfare
 - a. For the 2011 budget, this required cutting \$2.4 million, approximately 4%, from the 2010 budget. This followed 2 years of rigorous cost-containment measures overseen by the City Manager.
 - b. City Council directed the City Manager to submit a 2012 budget with expenditures equaling revenues.
2. Stop collecting water tap fees, close the Water Fund, move it into the Special Projects Fund & use the money on capital projects, including expansion & renovation of City Center to address the acute space needs of the Police Department. (Note: The Water Fund had been mandated to help fund Two Forks Dam, 20 years ago, but the project did not receive Federal approval.)
 - a. The \$6 million Police facility project was paid with cash – compared to the \$24 million financed cost of a facility proposed by the 2004 Council; voters rejected that proposal in November 2004.
 - b. Chief Coogan says the expansion & renovation of Police facilities, completed in April 2011, should serve police needs for at least 20 years.
3. Create a code inspection program for multi-family units – the program ensures the safety of renters in multi-family units (2010). Code enforcement preserves property values, and attracts & retains residents & businesses.
4. Sell the Sternberg Building (next to the Court House on Littleton Blvd), which had been vacant & unusable for many years. The building was sold for \$179,000, with the understanding that the historically significant façade would be preserved. The renovation is a significant investment at the gateway to downtown.
5. Continue to support the nationally acclaimed Economic Gardening program that the City Manager & Director of Business/Industry affairs created more than 20 years ago – the program is now being emulated in cities & states in this country & elsewhere in the world. The program has helped Littleton thrive & weather several recessions.
<http://www.littletongov.org/bia/economicgardening/default.asp>
6. Decriminalized many traffic offenses to improve the efficiency of the municipal court system, including reducing costs (2009).
7. Authorized a collection agency to collect unpaid fines, costs, fees & restitution which have been assessed by the municipal court (2011). This will improve the efficiency of the municipal court system & facilitate the timely closure of municipal court cases, which otherwise may take several years to close.
8. Created (2010) an Open Space & Parks Task Force to evaluate parcels of land & prioritize them using a system that addresses both the benefits & potential negative impacts of particular projects (with representatives from Arapahoe County, SSPR, The Trust for Public Land, Littleton City Staff, South Metro Land Conservancy, & a Developer/Commercial Real Estate Broker, & 2 members of City Council). It is the expectation that City Council members will use the Task Force recommendations as a framework document for future policy decisions on land use, economic development strategy, & budget allocations.
9. Continue to work with other jurisdictions formally (Intergovernmental Agreements) & informally to improve efficiency & effectiveness. The City currently has more than 100 IGAs. Following are some of the one-time or ongoing IGAs.
 - a. Littleton is partnering to create a trail along the historic City Ditch, with nearly \$1 million in grants so far, from GOCO & Arapahoe County Open Space. The trail will greatly expand recreational & biking-to-work opportunities along the South Platte corridor, it will attract new people to Historic downtown Littleton's events, restaurants & shops.
 - b. In 2010, Littleton partnered with South Suburban Parks & Recreation, Arapahoe County & Great Outdoors Colorado to leverage \$1.7 million of City open space money into a \$7.9 million investment in Littleton. (Parks, trails & open space help improve the quality of life & increase property values.)

- c. In 2009, Littleton cooperated with the City of Centennial to pave a significant portion of Broadway, from Fremont Ave. to Weaver. The city's share was approximately \$140,000.
 - d. Since 1974, Littleton has used funds from our storm drainage fee to match funding from the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District to accomplish over \$15 million of flood reduction improvements throughout Littleton. The City's share of projects is typically 50%.
 - e. Littleton cooperated with the Colorado Department of Highways (CDOT), to widen & improve lighting on Santa Fe Drive from ACC to County Line Road. The City put up \$1 million for engineering & design, & CDOT authorized \$12 million for the actual improvements.
 - f. For more than 20 years, Littleton has had an IGA agreement with Arapahoe County to fund the Shopping Cart service.
 - g. "The Littleton Streets Department cooperates with the City of Englewood Streets Department for specialized work such as rotomilling, paving, paint striping & concrete work. We co-own some equipment & loan each other employees for certain projects."
 - h. Littleton, Englewood, & Denver have a joint agreement to coordinate traffic signal timing & operation on Santa Fe Drive from I-25 to C-470. Littleton also participates in a DRCOG program to coordinate traffic signals on Broadway, Belleview, County Line Road, & Mineral Avenue.
 - i. Littleton is a member of the Arapahoe County E-911 Authority, which shares funding for the purchase of equipment for police & fire dispatch centers.
 - j. Littleton is a member of the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), which provides pooled insurance coverage to 232 cities & counties throughout the state for property & liability coverage.
 - k. Littleton has two partners in providing fire/rescue service.
 - l. Littleton & Englewood co-host the 4th of July fireworks celebration.
 - m. Littleton usually has partners in acquiring property for parks & open space; & contracts with SSPR to maintain Littleton's parks.
 - n. Littleton & Englewood jointly own the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which also serves many sewer districts in the region.
10. Renegotiated the City contract with Denver Water (to facilitate regional & state-wide planning for long-term water needs). The revised contract was approved in 2011 at a benefit of more than \$2 million to Littleton. The contract does not restrict Littleton's right to annex.
11. Acquire strategic pieces of property for parks, trails & open space, & make other improvements that support & advance the broader goals of the city, such as buffering the South Platte Park & enhancing the fish habitat & recreational opportunities along Littleton's stretch of the South Platte River, including expanding trails, trail access & connections to east-west trails. (The City has partnered with the South Platte Working Group, the Highline Canal Working Group, South Suburban Parks & Recreation, Great Outdoors Colorado, & others to leverage its investment in additional open space, trails & parks.) For example,
- a. Superchi property (20 acres)
 - b. Ensor property (7.8 acres)
 - c. Murray II property (2 acres)
 - d. Lee Gulch (at its confluence with the South Platte)
 - e. Ackerman property (approximately .35 acres), Belleview near Santa Fe
 - f. first & second phases of the historic City Ditch Trail
12. Establish a policy for minimum reserves in City funds (completed 2011):
- a. the General Fund (8-18%, providing 3% for declared emergencies as required by TABOR & at least 5% for economic downturns),
 - b. TABOR (3% required by Colorado Constitution),
 - c. Fleet Maintenance Fund (8%),
 - d. Insurance Fund (several separate funds with differing required reserves),
 - e. Special Projects Fund (no minimum required, but desired minimum should be the subsequent year's annual required lease payment),

- f. Sewer Utility Fund (the amount required by bond covenants &/or loan agreements, plus recommended 8% operating reserve, based on operating expenditures,
 - g. South Metro Communications Center Fund, Emergency Medical Transport Fund, Fire Plan Permit Fee Fund, Storm Drainage Utility Fund (8% operating reserve, based on operating expenditures).
13. Annex the Hyundai Dealership (in cooperation with Centennial).
14. Address needs & interests of Littleton's diverse population
- a. All citizens:
 - i. Encourage energy-efficiency: "Effective May 1, 2008, no building permit fee, plan review fee or use tax shall be collected for any solar hot water & photovoltaic systems installed on an existing single-family residence, for which a building permit is required."
 - ii. Encourage home improvements & spur employment & the economy – temporarily waived building permit fees for selected home improvement projects that did not require an extensive plan review, such as sheds, decks, patio covers, detached garages, electric service changes, water heaters, furnace & air conditioner replacement, re-roofing & siding permits (October 15 to November 16, 2009). The permits were good for one year.
 - iii. continue to fund the Library (to serve the needs/interests of job seekers, students, pre-school children developing skills necessary for pre-school & kindergarten, adults of all ages)
 - iv. continue to fund the Museum
 - v. approved ordinance allowing beehives on almost all properties
 - vi. approved ordinance allowing up to 4 hens on almost all properties
 - b. Children, Youth & Families
 - 1. Continue to fund the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI), which was created in response to the Columbine tragedy. a strategic approach to enhance the development of young people and to prevent youth violence, to reduce the factors that contributed to the Columbine tragedy & that can also lead to increased demands on police, courts & jails, by providing effective resources to community children, youth & families:
 - 2. Blueprint Programs: evidence-based programs (addressing prenatal care for first-time pregnant single teens, early childhood development, aggression, adolescent violent crime, substance use & abuse, school delinquency & expulsion, & family-conflict issues)
 - 3. suicide prevention & intervention programs
 - 4. other cutting-edge programs & important research that may be of benefit to community youth (for example, brain development)
 - c. Senior citizens
 - i. Rezoned property at South Broadway (near Sterne Parkway) for an assisted living center to help increase the options for senior citizens (When the recession hit, the developer put the project on hold.)
 - ii. Continue to fund Omnibus & Shopping Cart
 - d. Immigrant Population
 - i. Incorporated the Immigrant Integration Initiative into the Library, as part of the Immigrant Resources Program (to continue helping legal immigrants contribute positively to the community)
15. Capital Improvements & Infrastructure (These help retain & attract businesses & residents.)
16. Expanded the Police facility & renovated the existing facility
17. Rebuilt Rio Grande, which had significant drainage issues (finished on time & under budget)
18. Took over Bowles Avenue from the State (The state paid the City more than \$1 million, which we put into a fund for transportation projects.)
19. Took over S Broadway from Rafferty Gardens to Littleton Blvd, which the City already maintained (The state paid the City \$500,000, which we put into a fund for transportation projects.)

20. Rental Inspection Program of Multi-family units (ensures safety, health & welfare of residents; helps protect neighborhood property values; helps attract & retain businesses)
21. Maintaining City streets
22. Improving City sidewalks
 - a. sidewalk program (curb cuts for drives, etc.)
 - b. sidewalk improvement using Community Development Block Grants (these Federal funds, which are allocated by Arapahoe County, must be used in areas with relatively low incomes.)
23. Creation of a pea patch in the Northeast neighborhood, in addition to continuing the pea patch in the Sterne Park area