

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
MINUTES**

**January 26, 2015**

**6:01 P.M.** Mayor Vierra called the January 26, 2015 Study Session to order with the following in attendance:

**ROLL CALL** Council Members Durossette, Kline, Lane, Ryno, Mayor Vierra

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS** – None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Whitmore Mansion

City Manager, Toby Wells provided a brief summary of activities at the Mansion, and is looking for Council direction for 2015, keeping in mind that there are events scheduled through 2015.

Lisa Mantarro-Moore, Whitmore Mansion Foundation recognized Foundation Committee Members who were present: Shane Parson, Frank Alvarez, Susan Borges, Eric Ingwerson, Rocky Fisher and Randy Moore.

Ms. Mantarro-Moore presented the Council and City Manager copies of a cataloged inventory of everything inside the Mansion. She also provided an update of 2014 activities.

Mayor Vierra remarked that the Foundation has done an excellent job.

Mr. Wells stated that staff would like to know if Council is still interested in continuing this operation or would like to change direction. The second part, in considering some of the milestones we're looking at doing, Staff would like to see the Council's gauge, in terms of expending those funds; is that something Council wants to see built into the budget for Fiscal Year 2015/16. Some of the activities could be relatively expensive if we move forward with them in the short term. Staff's recommendation is to extend the contract for a year, but don't move forward with some of these costly items until we have a better feel for what the true long-term picture is for the facility.

After some Council discussion, the following direction was given.

**COUNCIL DIRECTION**

1. Continue with the Whitmore Mansion Foundation under the current agreement.

The public hearing was opened at 6:30 p.m.

- Eric Ingwerson, Foundation Committee Member

Mr. Ingwerson commented that as bookings increase, and word gets out about the affordability to hold an event at the Whitmore Mansion, the value is going to grow on that property. And if it ever is decided to liquidate just the house and a portion of the grounds, he feels confident that the City would be able to recapture their investment plus any expenses they've incurred.

- Rocky Fisher, Ceres Lions Club

Mr. Fisher stated that the Lyons Club is seriously considering putting in some bathrooms there, or an outdoor kitchen, but until they know where they stand, they don't want to proceed.

The public hearing was closed at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor Vierra responded to Mr. Fisher's comment, stating that the Council is committed to the project; doesn't see any reason why we would look to sell it. If the Lions Club wants to commit time and effort to that, Council is supportive.

**6:33 P.M.** There being no further business, Mayor Vierra adjourned the City Council Study Session.

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Chris Vierra, Mayor

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Ann Montgomery, Acting City Clerk