

03-21-2023
BUILDING, ANNEXATION & ZONING
MEETING REPORT

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Hardig
Stefanie Hawk
David Voss
Kim Rohr
Tom Braun
Lindsey Jones
Brian Smyth

The BUILDING, ANNEXATION & ZONING COMMITTEE meeting on February 21st 2023, began at 8:00 pm. The meeting was called to get input and guidance from Law Director Kim Rohr in regards to implementing plans for community murals, branding and artwork in the City of Cheviot. In general the committee supports the implementation of this idea which originated within the Cheviot Business Alliance.

The law director was well prepared to discuss and advise the committee regarding legal issues surrounding the mural and branding project. Kim advised the committee that any legislative action be content neutral and clearly state the compelling interest the City has to regulate the mural or speech for example, traffic safety or to maintain aesthetics. Protections do exist for noncommercial speech however Commercial artwork is subject to Zoning rules. It is unclear if a particular mural is a commercial sign or a noncommercial art work. Essentially the committee can consider legislative action to help the mural and branding project move forward but the committee may NOT take any action to restrict content.

There are basically two areas of action that the committee may wish to consider:

- 1) Content neutral restrictions like size, placement, color and total number of murals within the district.
- 2) Implementation of a public art program involving an application and grant process to place murals throughout the city. This option would also likely require amending the sign ordinance.

The committee will plan to meet again to consider these two options on Tuesday April 18th following the regular Council Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of April, 2023.

John Hardig
Chairperson Building, Annexation & Zoning Committee
City of Cheviot City Council

John Hardig _____

Stefanie Hawk _____

David Voss _____

Amy Richter _____

