Moab City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: March 15, 2020
Title: Cancelling Design and Construction of the Downtown Parking Structure
Submitted: March 4, 2020
Presenter(s): Karen Guzman-Newton and Mike Duncan, Councilmembers

Attachments:

- A presentation for Council, staff and public hearing audience discussing relevant issues
- RESOLUTION NO. xx-2020, A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE DOWNTOWN PARKING STRUCTURE PROJECT AND DIRECTING COORDINATION WITH GRAND COUNTY TO PURSUE DIFFERENT PROJECTS FOR HOPSPOT FUNDING

Recommended Motion: Approve. This item is scheduled for public hearing at the regular City Council meeting March 10, 2020. A vote is scheduled for that meeting subsequent to the public hearing.

Background/Summary:
In 2017, UDOT issued $10M of “Hotspot” (areas impacted by recreation and tourism activity) funding to Moab for transportation improvements. In late 2017 a committee of business people and local government officials proposed a Downtown Parking Structure (DPS). $8.3M was scheduled for its design and construction. In late Oct 2019, the City entered a $850K contract for DPS design with Kimley-Horn, a design consultant. At this time, a minority of those contract funds have been spent for on-going design.

Since that time, dissatisfaction with DPS has grown even as its design has progressed: loss of original motivation (to replace Main St. parking), a reduction in number of parking stalls provided, an inability to accommodate over-sized vehicles, a growth in height blocking the viewshed, cost overruns, changes in structural design to lower construction cost at the expense of higher future maintenance costs, complaints that it would not help Main St. congestion and complaints that its localized nature provided singular benefits to a few businesses rather than a broad spectrum of the community.

For these reasons, and the observation that the great bulk of Hotspot funds remain unspent and that UDOT is receptive to alternative uses as long as they meet the Hotspot funding criteria, alternative uses of DPS funds have recently been suggested: namely a regional transit/shuttle/
bus system which incorporates dispersed surface parking lots (a goal of the original Hotspot study).

This resolution directs staff to stop Kimley-Horn work, then terminate the UDOT and Kimley-Horn contracts in a manner that minimizes financial risk to the city.

The resolution also creates a city/county board which serves as a point of contact with UDOT for purposes of the Hotspot Funding Program.