

**Pleasant Grove City Council Work Session Minutes**  
**October 28, 2008**  
**7 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Mayor:

Michael W. Daniels

City Council Members:

Mark K. Atwood

Cindy Boyd

Lee Jensen

Bruce Call

Jeffrey D. Wilson

Others:

Frank Mills, City Administrator

Tina Petersen, City Attorney

Gary Clay, Finance Director

Lynn Walker, Public Works Director

Deon Giles, Leis. Services Director

Richard Bradford, Ec. Dev. Director

Tom Paul, Police Chief

Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief

Degen Lewis, City Engineer

Libby Flegal, NAB Chair

The City Council Members met in the City Council Chambers at 86 East 100 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062 at 7 p.m.

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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Daniels called roll for the Council and noted that Council Members Atwood, Boyd, Call, Wilson and Jensen were present.

**2. Opening Remarks**

Opening Remarks were given by Engineer Degen Lewis.

**3. Department Report (Fire Department)**

Prior to their department presentation, Chief Sanderson said he would like to honor the three top finishers in the firemen's competition that took place in September (of this year) during the Heritage Festival in the downtown park. As he called their names, the firemen came forward. In first place, Fireman Stan Andreason had a time of 5.24. In second, Fireman Eric Campbell had a time of 4.40. In third, Fireman Kevin Dickerson had a time of 4.41. He said the competition took place with the firemen in their turn-outs and with full breathing apparatus on. The Mayor and Council congratulated the firemen for their good work.

Chief Sanderson next told the Council and Mayor that he had asked Deputy Chief Dave Thomas to explain to them about the recent ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating the fire department had been through.

Deputy Thomas then came forward and explained that the ISO rating given Pleasant Grove City was a “6.” He said last year’s rating was a five. This year’s six rating was actually considered a step down for the department. However, Chief Thomas said that the rating was a little more complicated than it first appeared. He indicated that the rating is about risks. He said information is collected from the community that is based on fire suppression as well as the department’s capabilities, etc. He added that insurance companies look at a City’s ISO rating when they set premiums for both private residences, as well as public and commercial buildings.

Mayor Daniels asked if the report recommended ways that the City can move up in the ratings. Deputy Chief Thomas said yes, there were ways, but that they would be fairly difficult for the City to accomplish at this time. He said he would next explain why.

Deputy Chief Thomas then told the Mayor and Council that the inspector for the ISO said that the City would need several upgrades in order to move up in the ratings. First, he said they needed automatic monitoring of the dispatching. He also said they would want the City to have better backup with the dispatching as far as emergency power.

Next, the rating agency said that the City would need to have three instead of two fire engines. He said that they require (on each run) that there are two engines that respond to every call—with one reserve engine to take additional calls. Also, he said when the agency was rating Pleasant Grove’s fire department; the Safer Grant for the current full-time employees had not quite come through as yet. Deputy Chief Thomas said the agency also suggested that for a higher rating, the City should actually have three engines; with an additional fourth engine being used as backup. He also said the rating requires a ladder truck, which Pleasant Grove currently does not have.

Council Member Call then asked if he understood correctly that the ISO rating was saying that the City needed to own three trucks, plus a back-up truck. Deputy Thomas said yes, that was correct. He said they require a reserve engine capacity in order to get the higher rating.

Next, he said that distribution was also used for the ratings. This would include the fact that the rating agency requires a station every 1.5 miles. In order to fix this, the City would have to build more fire stations.

He explained that since the Safer Grant had not quite come through when this evaluation took place, the City was being asked to obtain more full-time personnel for a higher rating. He said that the agency requires four full-time personnel per engine. He said if the City had the required three engines, they would require 12 full-time personnel.

Deputy Thomas said the last category the agency suggested the City work on was regarding training. He said the department is actually excellent with their on-going training. However, the problem has been precise record keeping. He said they will upgrade their reporting system for the training that was being done. He added that between 80 and 90% of the calls that they go out on are EMS calls. He also said they do structure training.

Regarding water supply, Deputy Thomas said that there have not (historically) been great inspections by the fire department (in the past) of the water hydrants and water supply. He said the ISO inspector checked a total of 51 hydrants. A total of 6 out of 79 were not usable. Deputy Thomas said he is working with Director Walker and Public Works to see that those hydrants that need work be brought up to the standard they need to be at. He said the firemen will work in cooperation with Public Works crews to inspect the fire hydrants in the future.

Deputy Thomas then said that in conclusion of his report, that he would suggest that the City does not, at this time, need to respond to most of the upgrades that are reported. He said that the inclusion of two more fire trucks and the building of more fire stations are probably not budgeted for at this time. This would be projects for the future, he suggested.

Mayor Daniels agreed. He said that the ideal is good, but that the real indicator of improved service is more the fact that the response time is now down two thirds. However, the Mayor did say that he would be curious if the ISO rating went from 6 to a 5, how it would impact residential fire insurance rates in the City. He also added that the department shouldn't worry about getting a #1 rating; but rather continue with saving lives and preventing fires.

Deputy Thomas said that Pleasant Grove falls in the middle of the state average for an ISO rating, which is between 5 and 6. Council Member Call asked how the rating might change since the Safer grant for additional full-time personnel came through prior to the ISO rating. Deputy Thomas said that the City might only be able to get three or four more points, at best.

Council Member Wilson said he was proud of the department. He also said he felt they were doing a great job at upgrading as a department. "You've come a long way," he said. Mayor Daniels agreed. He said that the department should be commended for doing such an excellent job.

Council Member Boyd then thanked the fire department personnel for supporting the Heritage Festival over the years by continuing to hold their competition in conjunction with the celebration. She also said she thought it was fun this year to see the fire/EMS personnel intermingling in the downtown park with residents.

#### **4. Budget Review**

Mayor Daniels said that he had asked Director Clay to address the Council regarding the budget. The Mayor said that there has been a lot of media coverage recently about local communities that are having to lay-off personnel due to budget cuts. Mayor Daniels said that he has also been hearing about problems in other cities in regard to budgets and finances in county meetings that he attends.

Director Clay then came forward. He told the Mayor and Council that the City is in, "good," shape, financially. He said that sales tax revenues are down about 2.3% from last year at this time. He said, however, that he anticipated this drop, and they budgeted accordingly. He also said that with 25% of the budget year gone, that only 23% of the General Fund budget had been expended. There was no problem with the enterprise fund, he noted.

Council Member Jensen asked if other quarters were more expensive during the year. Director Clay said yes, during the summer when the pool was open was an expensive quarter.

Council Member Call then observed that the numbers in the report (that Director Clay handed to the Council) looked good.

Director Clay then explained that the sales tax and franchise tax revenue reports are always two months behind. He said that at this time, there are no property taxes coming in, also.

Council Member Boyd asked if the monies go into an interest-bearing account. Director Clay said that Treasurer Bezzant sends the excess to the State Treasurer's office. He said the interest rate is better for the City, and monies, if needed, can be sent to the City in a few hours. He said Treasurer Bezzant is excellent in these matters. Director Clay explained that these funds can be used if revenues do come down a bit in paying those areas that might be a little short.

Director Clay then explained that the Council receives reports from his office each month. He said they are based on a comparison of the previous year's reports. He noted that the Mayor and Administrator Mills both go over the reports each month as well.

Council Member Boyd asked if the fact that gas prices are going down is helping with expenses for the City. Director Clay said that the gas tax revenues are a little down from last year. He explained that the tax monies are distributed throughout the state based on population.

Director Clay then told the Mayor and Council that when they look at the figures for the police department, he said that the overtime was up due to so many new hires participating in training that is required by the department

Mayor Daniels then noted that he is impressed that the City, with its own fire and police departments, and no longer receiving monies from Lindon, is operating in the black. Also, the City does not anticipate any layoffs. He said he is pleased the City is in such good shape.

Council Member Jensen then said that he feels that someone deserves a pat on the back. He said that one can't even pick up a paper without reading about other communities laying off personnel as well as cutting back on services. He then asked what Director Clay had set aside as far as expenses for Fox Hollow Golf Course this year. Director Clay said that he had budgeted \$165,000. He said Lehi City did the same thing. He said that so far, the City has helped to pay some revenue shortfalls for the Course.

Mayor Daniels reminded the Council that the financial report for the City is in their boxes in City Hall once a month. He also said if they had any questions, to please stop by Director Clay's office. Director Clay agreed, and told the Council they were welcomed to come by anytime.

Mayor Daniels then asked the Council to continue to review the reports. He said that when the budget process begins in March 2009, they will be familiar with the budget due to the reports. He also reminded the Council that due to the City being in such good shape, the bond rating went up. He said that if the Council keeps up on the reports, they will find that they will be more helpful to the directors when they all start to meet in the Spring.

(Please Note: Council Member Atwood came into the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

Council Member Call said he would like to have Director Clay sum up why he thinks the City is in such good financial shape. Director Clay said that several of the cities in the county have been impacted by the fact that residential building is down. However, he said that the large hotel and convention center project is going to more than make up for any downturn the City might face with residential building applications. He also said that he and City management strive to not make outlandish goals. He said his many years of experience both for the City and the state have helped him to be able to pretty much be on target. He also noted that the City has been able to have money for future capital projects.

The Mayor and Council thanked Director Clay and his staff for their hard work.

#### **5. Discussion of items for the upcoming November 5, 2008 City Council meeting.**

Please Note: Administrator Mills approached the Mayor and Council and told them that there were no business items for the scheduled November 5, 2008 City Council meeting. He suggested that perhaps the meeting could be cancelled. The Mayor and Council agreed. Mayor Daniels then asked for a motion.

**ACTION:** Council Member Wilson moved to cancel the November 5, 2008 City Council meeting due to there being no business items scheduled for that meeting. Council Member Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Boyd, Wilson, Call, Jensen and Atwood voting, "Aye."

#### **5. Mayor, City Council and Staff business**

- NAB Chair Libby Flegal said that she would be canceling the NAB meeting for next Wednesday, since the Council meeting had been cancelled. Also, she said the process was progressing for the appointment of the new Mudhole chair and secretary.
- Engineer Lewis said that he would have a plat to be signed by the Mayor and Council in the next week. He said that since there was not a scheduled meeting the following week, he would work out a way to get together with the Council so they could sign the plat. He also said that he and Administrator Mills had noticed that available building lots were beginning to slowly sell throughout the county again.
- Director Giles said the parks crews would be starting the holiday lighting and decorations during the upcoming weeks. He invited anyone that was interested to swing by Shannon fields and see the changes that were taking place.
- Mayor Daniels said he and Attorney Petersen had met with a correspondent from CBS News that afternoon. He said that the interview will be shown on the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric doing the interview. Attorney Petersen said it would air on November 12, 2008. He said there had been an interview by the New York Times regarding the Supreme Court case, also.

- Council Member Jensen asked if the Council Meeting on November 5 had been cancelled, and there being no meeting on November 11, he wondered if he was correct in assuming that the next meeting with the Council would be on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. Mayor Daniels said that was correct. Council Member Jensen then told the Council that there would be an informational meeting at Fox Hollow Golf Course on Monday, November 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. Mayor Daniels said the meeting was being held to make sure the Mayors, Councils, Finance directors and representatives on the Golf Board were all on the same page as to the Board's responsibilities. Council Member Jensen also reminded everyone of the Lion's Club dinner on November 15, 2008.
- Council Member Boyd reminded everyone that the Eagles and downtown merchants were sponsoring a trunk or treat in the downtown park from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. She said that over 30 businesses had committed to supporting the trunk or treat. She also said that it was expected to be a great success again this year. The function had over 1,500 children show up last year.
- Council Member Atwood said he recently attended the Utah Lake Board meeting. He said that the carp that was to be harvested out of the lake was now on hold as the deal with a foreign country for the sale of the fish had fallen through. He added that some local mink farms have offered to buy the carp. He said that he can't really see the project being a success in taking all of the carp out of the lake due to the fact that only a small amount can be removed at a time.
- Mayor Daniels reminded everyone that the Horrock's Engineers Company's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be celebrated on Friday, October 31, 2008 from 3 to 7 p.m. He then said that the Arts Dinner on November 7, 2008 for the Council would need the RSVP's back as soon as possible. Next, he reminded everyone that several of the Council and staff would be leaving around November 11, 2008 for the Supreme Court hearing in Washington D.C. He said he would be back on November 17, 2008. He asked that Mayor Pro Tem Jensen function in his absence.

## **7. ADJOURN**

**ACTION:** At 7:55 p.m, Council Member Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Atwood seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Atwood, Wilson, Boyd, Call and Jensen voting, "Aye."

This certifies that the Work Session  
Minutes of October 28, 2008 are a true,  
full and correct copy as approved  
by the City Council on November 18, 2008.

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Mary Burgin, Deputy Recorder