

Pleasant Grove City Council Minutes
Friday, January 28, 2011
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor:

Bruce W. Call

Council Members:

Cindy Boyd

Val Danklef

Lee Jensen

Kim Robinson

Jeff Wilson

City Recorder:

Kathy T. Kresser

Others:

Scott Darrington, City Administrator

Dean Lundell, Finance Director

Tina Petersen, City Attorney

Lynn Walker, Public Works Director

Richard Bradford, Economic Consultant

Degen Lewis, City Engineer

Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief

Ken Young, Comm. Dev. Director

Deon Giles, Leisure Services Director

Tom Paul, Public Safety Chief

The City Council and staff met at the Fox Hollow Golf Course 1400 North 200 East, American Fork, Utah

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Call called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. He then called roll for the Council and noted that Council Members Boyd, Danklef, Jensen, Robinson and Wilson were present. The Mayor then turned the time over to City Administrator Scott Darrington.

AGENDA

3:00 p.m. Year in review

Administrator Darrington did a slideshow presentation showing what has been accomplished through the year 2010. Below are some of the highlights of the discussion.

- Blue Energy
 - i. Consolidated team members – it was determined who will be on the committee and what direction the City will go with this.

- ii. Sought funds/matching requirement – we spent most of the year trying to get the funds and working on the matching requirements and we are still in the process with this.
- Murdock Canal
 - i. Enclosure – The payments for the enclosure will be done through assessments to determine how much water will be going through the pipes.
 - ii. Utility Relocation – The first number that the Canal Company gave the City was about six million dollars to relocate the utilities, but we have that price down to about four hundred fifty thousand dollars. The canal company is finding out that they aren't having to move as many utilities as they thought they would have so we are just waiting for them for a “not to exceed” number so we can put that number in the budget.
 - iii. Trail System – The cost for the trail was going to be four hundred thousand dollars that the City was going to have to pay but MAG (Mountainland Association of Governments) came up with the money to cover that. We will still have a maintenance cost that will we have to pay.
- Civic Center Project
 - i. The City hired VCBO to do the study for the Civic Center but that has been put on hold for a while but will discuss this at the meeting on Saturday.
- Worked with residents on a sinkhole issue
 - i. We had a meeting with the residents that had a sinkhole in their yard and it was determined that it was a private drain and the City couldn't do anymore to help them with it.
- Increased Utility Rates
 - i. The City held 3 public hearing for the rate increase
 - ii. Adopted low-income utility relief
 - iii. Secured financial future for the City infrastructure – If the rate increase wouldn't have been passed then the City would be in big trouble for the future.

Administrator Darrington said that he felt that passing the utility increase was the most important thing that was accomplished in the year. He then asked if there were any other projects that had been completed that were not on the list.

Director Walker commented that the secondary water system had been completed. We also have secured property for the Fugal well.

Administrator Darrington then said that in his experience this is three times more than what had been accomplished in the other Cities that he has worked for and everyone in this room deserves the credit for moving forward and providing good service to our citizens.

Administrator Darrington then moved on to the section where he had each director turn in a list of programs or services that the City provides.

He started with the Recreation Department. He indicated that he would not read each item line by line but wanted to point out some of the points that he found interesting.

In Youth Sports overall there were five thousand one hundred one participants in the sports leagues and camps. This is slightly down from last year by only thirty nine participants. In the

Library programs; the young adult programs were up in attendance by eight point eight percent, the children's program attendance was up four point five percent and there is also an increase in the internet use by fifty percent. At the meeting tomorrow we can discuss the possibility of adding more computers for the public.

The next item discussed was the rec center. There was increase of fifty one thousand participants from 2009 to 2010. Administrator Darrington then asked Director Giles to explain what the Admittance Analysis Pass Holder is. Director Giles replied that that is the number of people that hold a pass and comes in and swipes it. This total does not include the people that come in to watch basketball. He then said that there has also been an increase in the daily passes. Administrator Darrington asked Director Giles why he thinks there has been an increase. We haven't been doing anymore advertising have we? Director Giles said that he thinks that because of the economy people haven't been renewing their memberships at the gyms and have been coming to the rec center because it's cheaper for a year pass.

The Community Development report shows that there has been a decrease in the housing. In the years 2003-2006 the building was very good but has dropped off considerably because of the economy.

The Economic Development report indicated that there have been several new businesses that have come to the downtown area. Administrator Darrington commented that a couple of business that has been looking at the City has been getting their information off of the web site and they complimented us for the friendliness of the web site.

The report from the Fire Department was next. Administrator Darrington said that he was impressed that there has been close to five thousand people that visit the fire department. Fire Chief Sanderson said that he would like to point out that the calls for service has dropped because of the separation of services from Lindon. He also said that there has been an income of three hundred thirty six thousand three hundred twenty six dollars from grants that has been awarded.

The report from the Police Department shows that there has been a decrease in traffic stops and citations because of the separation of services from Lindon.

Discussion on programs and services

Administrator Darrington then directed the Council back to the page that is labeled Programs and Services for discussion. He said that he had the directors create a list of services/programs and the cost of that service and then he put it in survey form and sent it out to Council to score as to what they think is the most important on down. This spreadsheet shows the result of that survey.

He also said that in the cost of some of these services does not include the cost of personnel because if we included that cost of personnel for snow plowing then the cost would be quite significant and if Council decided that they didn't want to discontinue that service then we would have to lay off the entire street department. He then said that this is a tool to determine what is important to the City Council on a scale of one to twenty

Administrator Darrington then started to review the list. He indicated that he would not discuss every item on the list.

- Manila/Discovery Park – This Park costs the City six eight thousand dollars to maintain. Police Chief Paul indicated that the personnel costs that are shown do not include the cost of the police personnel when they are called out to the park.
- Library – The Library shows revenue of fifty thousand four hundred twenty seven dollars which comes mostly from fines, nonresident fees and grants. The funds for the Library come out of the General Fund balance. It is also huge expense to the City and the reason that this is being brought up is because during the utility rate discussion the Library kept coming up as a huge expense and some people didn't want the City to continue to fund it.
- Strawberry Days – The cost of sixteen thousand dollars is mostly overtime costs for the Parks Department. There is also a cost for the float and the pageant. So the total cost for Strawberry Days adding them all together is around forty thousand dollars. Council Member Jensen asked if there was a reason that we don't roll back the expenditures to the Strawberry Days committee. If the City didn't fund these amenities then the committee would have to go through a private sponsor. Administrator Darrington said that his guess would be that that is the City's contribution. Council Member Danklef commented that the thought the cost of Strawberry Days is minuscule compared to some of the other expenses that we have. Council Member Jensen then asked about the carnival. What does that cost the City. Attorney Petersen replied that the carnival is under contract with the City and they pay to come into the City. Council Member Jensen then said that he would like to see the real cost to the City and not just the overtime cost for the Parks. Director Giles responded that the Parks and Public Works Departments start two months prior to Strawberry Days getting the parks and streets ready for the event. Chief Sanderson said that it is starting right now. There is a meeting for the Strawberry Days committee next week, so you really can't calculate the time that goes into it. Police Chief Paul said that as far as the police officers go, half of the officers are on duty anyway, but with them spending their time at the rodeo or carnival then you have to send other officers somewhere else when they are needed. Council Member Jensen said that he would like to see the real cost because if we are spending a couple thousand dollars then is it worth it. Administrator Darrington replied that if we don't spend the money on Strawberry Days then we won't be saving a couple thousand dollars because the employees will be doing something else. The only thing that we will save is the sixteen thousand in overtime. He then said that he would like to sit down with the Strawberry Days committee to see where they are exactly with their budget and make them account for everything. Director Walker interjected that if the City back charges the committee for everything then they wouldn't have any money to make improvements to the rodeo grounds.
- Dispatch – The City does receive 911 monies for this through the telephone tax but it does not pay for the full amount to provide this service so the City does subsidies it at two hundred thousand dollars a year.
- Business Licenses- The business licenses bring in seventy thousand dollars but it cost the City one hundred thirteen thousand dollars. Mayor Call questioned if this needs to be looked at. Administrator Darrington replied that we should. Attorney Petersen commented that we have to be careful about raising the business license rates. There has to be a study done because the license fee is not to generate revenue it is suppose to cover the actual cost of reviewing the application, any follow up inspections and issuing the license. A long time ago there was a labor calculation done on how many hours that it would take to process the license, so we could go by that to see if our rates are still in

line. Administrator Darrington stated that he has made note to look at the business license fees.

- Crossing Guards – Attorney Petersen said that the requirements for street crossings leading to schools are defined in state statute but once the spot is designated then the municipality has to pay for the crossing guard to service that formal school crossing. City Engineer Lewis commented that the schools are under legal obligation to meet UDOT standards for the safe sidewalk crossings. Attorney Petersen said although this is a cost to the City we cannot do away with it because it is mandated by the State. Administrator Darrington commented that there is a school crossing on 600 West that is for the school on 1300 West and we are required to have a crossing guard for a school that is seven blocks away. Engineer Lewis said that the standard for a crossing is 10 students, so if you have ten students that will cross a road then you can have a cross walk with crossing guards.
- Credit Cards (ability for residents to pay with a credit card) – The forty eight thousand dollars comes from the fees that the credit card companies charge the City for the residents to use their credit card for payments. Mayor Call asked if we could charge a fee to those that use their credit cards for payments. Director Lundell replied that we could look into that. Consultant Bradford commented that West Valley looked into this and had their Attorney Nicole Cottle investigate it and her findings were that giving away the service of using the credit card is unfair to the regular rate payers because they were having to subsidize those who pay for a credit card. Attorney Petersen asked what did they do? Consultant Bradford replied that they started charging a fee to those who use their credit card. Administrator Darrington said that we will look into this and create a policy. He also said that we need to set limits on how much we will let people charge. We have had a request to use the credit card to pay for a ten thousand dollar building permit; we told them no, but if we charge a percentage of what the amount is then it might be beneficial for the City to do that.
- Swimming Pool – The revenue for the pool is about two hundred seventy thousand dollars but it costs about four hundred twenty two thousand dollars to operate, this amount includes personnel. Director Giles commented that the first couple of years the pool actually made money but because of the age of the pool the maintenance cost has increased. He also said that the weather the last couple of years has played a part of the revenues going down. Council Member Jensen said that there is a new business in town called Rock Bottom Dive Shop and they are going to want to use the pool for their diving lessons, is the pool extensively used in the summer where an organization like this could rent the pool? Director Giles said generally during the summer we start classes at 6:00 a.m. and they go up until the time for the pool to open for public use, but they could probably do a night rental.
- Cemetery – The revenue coming in for the cemetery is not close to what the expense it. Administrator Darrington was wondering when the last time that the cemetery fees were looked at. Director Giles responded that they were looked at just a couple of years ago and we are in line with the other cities in the area for cost. The only thing that we are not in line with is interment. He then said that part of the cost is that we still water the cemetery by hand from 100 East to 100 West. We plug the sprinklers in and those sections are watered every ten days. Director Giles went on to say that the roads need to be redone and we need to look at using niches because within 5 years we could be out of property. Administrator Darrington asked about charging for perpetual care. Attorney

Petersen said that she would have to look into the state statute for that to see if we can do that.

At this point the Council took a 15 minute break. 4:40 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.

Council and Staff continued with the Programs and Services Survey.

- Sidewalk maintenance – Director Walker commented that before we set up the ordinances that we have, if the sidewalk was damaged that we could tie back to the homeowner, like a tree root getting under the sidewalk, then the home owner is responsible for the broken sidewalk. If there was random damage like the sidewalk buckling from the temperature difference we will go in and do up to fifty percent of the work. He then said that the eighteen thousand is held to help with these repairs. Administrator Darrington confirmed that this is not a new sidewalk it is just maintenance of the old.
- Contract Engineering Services (Horrocks and JUB) – The City has discussed in the past about bringing in another in-house engineer. The antidote answer was we would be better off to continue contracting. Administrator Darrington asked if the Council would still like to look into this or just remain status quo. Council Member Boyd replied that she would still like to have that looked into. Administrator Darrington replied that we could list the pros and cons of having an in-house engineer and then look into it. Engineer Degen stated that the problem with having an in house engineer is the overhead cost of equipment and the expertise of having a firm doing the plan reviews. Mayor Call interjected and said that he would like to see the cost to bring it all in-house and then decide at what point do we bring an in house engineer in.
- Utah League of Cities and Towns – The expenditure for this is the League to be on Capitol Hill representing the cities in keeping our tax revenues in the cities pockets instead of the states pockets. Instead of each city hiring their own lobbyists we rely on them. Mayor Call indicated that the big issue this year at the State Legislature is the immigration law and if the law passes then we will have to increase our police to enforce the law and the League is there to lobby for us so we won't have to pay for an unfunded manual.
- Fox Hollow Golf Course – The Fox Hollow cost is the net cost. We don't have an amount on what revenues come in or what the total expenses are. The two hundred two thousand dollars includes the bond payment that we are committed too for the next fifteen years, and the land payment. The best we can do is to work Fox Hollow to make sure they keep their expenditures in line.
- Spring Clean-up – Administrator Darrington asked Director Walker to explain the expenditure on this. Director Walker said that as a City we had out free dump passes, we furnish all the dumpsters and then we supply personnel to supervise the dumpsters. Administrator Darrington clarified that there is a cost to rent the dumpsters, a cost for the tipping the dumpsters and then passes that are handed out to the residents and then when they go and dump it is kept track of and we pay for each pass that is used. Director Walker indicated that the City hands out about seven thousand passes.
- Fingerprinting – Police Chief Paul commented that the City does not charge for residents to come in and have fingerprints take. We do charge twenty five dollars for non-residents to have their fingerprints done. He would like to charge for residential prints because personnel have to take time out of their schedule to do this. He went on to say that there

is a cost for maintenance and the cost would help offset the maintenance cost. It was decided that there will be a ten dollar fee added to this service for residents.

- Chrisville Park – Chief Sanderson asked what the benefit is to have the park that the City owns in the middle of a subdivision. Director Giles replied that there isn't any. The playground equipment is old and it is becoming a liability for the City. After discussion it was determined that Staff will look into doing away with the park and sell the portions of the property to the individual owners that abut the park.
- Aerial Photos – Administrator Darrington stated that about every two years we update our aerial photos. He said that he uses the aerial photos in his office all the time and it is beneficial to have updated photos. Engineer Lewis said that the photos at the rec center are always being looked at. He went on to say that part of the reason for the cost is the picture is a six inch resolution so when looking at it on the computer he can get in so close to see anything in the yard. It is also called orthographically correct, so the picture mathematically adjusts so when he bring in utility information or property line information the aerial fits all that information on the picture. The aerial photos are available to developers and the public but to get them on the website would take up a tremendous amount of space on the web and it would take a long time to download the file. He said that he could give someone a file on just a certain area of the City if that is what they wanted. Police Chief Paul asked if he could download a copy on a hard drive for Public Safety to use. Engineer Lewis said that he could do that. Administrator Darrington indicated that in the budget there is an election budget so when there is not an election the money is there to use for the photos that is why we do it every two years.

Administrator Darrington said that now would be a good time to stop because the rest of the items on the list will tie in with what we will discuss tomorrow on the budget.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Call called for a motion to adjourn.

ACTION: At 5:45 p.m. Council Member Wilson moved to adjourn. Council Member Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Council Members Wilson, Jensen, Robinson, Boyd and Danklef voting "Aye."

6:00 p.m. Dinner

This certifies that the City Council minutes from the Budget Retreat Workshop at the January 28, 2011 meeting, were approved by the City Council on March 1, 2011.

Kathy T. Kresser, City Recorder