

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE BOND

As a city, we have been wrestling for years to meet argued public safety needs. It has been a difficult yet vindicating struggle as we watched the bond amounts, projected to only increase, diminish from \$19 million to \$16.9, \$14.9, \$12.67, and now \$9.5 million. We know the vast majority of citizens in Pleasant Grove want to see a solution to the needs of our public safety employees, but one that also respects the demands on family finances.

In an effort to bridge the emotional divide, a Public Safety Building Committee was created of citizens with drastically different views. One primary goal, as stated by its chosen spokesman, was that a solution be reached “in a responsible way that would restrain to the greatest extent possible the financial burden on the citizens of our city.” We are grateful for the Committee’s recognition of the taxpayer and acknowledge their monumental work, resulting in the current bond number, reflecting our shared desires for public safety solutions.

While the majority of the committee strongly felt the budget could be less, they recommended to the Council a bond number and a total budget for construction costs. The success or failure of the bond now rests with the Council. As citizens of Pleasant Grove we support fiscal conservatism, reasonable solutions, full accountability, and transparent government; therefore, citizens need assurances and specifics from the Council about the money they’re requesting . . . your money. The amount represents new money the city is asking for from residents at a time when major infrastructural issues remain to be addressed, including roads and water. The Council chooses to fund such needs through the citizenry; steadily raising our secondary and other water fees; proposing a new tax, called a road fee on each household and business’s utility bill to raise \$1 million annually for roads. With so many expensive projects to be funded by the citizenry in the near future, will the City Council rebuild trust with the citizens and:

- 1 Commit to “a budget set at \$11 million or less for construction costs”, as unanimously
- 2 recommended on 8/23/16?
- 3 Commit to work hard to reduce the costs of construction as discussed by the Committee?
- 4 Use private donations to actually lower the amount borrowed?
- 5 Specify a location for the buildings?
- 6 Preserve our beloved and historic Old Rec Center with its cultural and revenue generating
- 7 functions?
- 8 Practice open and transparent finances across the city?
- 9 Be inclusive, giving citizens regular updates on the progress of the buildings and budgets?
- 10 Allow meaningful ongoing citizen input?

To date, the Council has not addressed these concerns in writing, so we cannot recommend voting for the bond. We encourage citizens to ask these and other questions, seek hard evidence from elected officials and be confident in the answers received BEFORE you vote. Look for results, not rhetoric. It is our money they seek; it is your right to be secure in your vote.

Blaine Thatcher/Citizens Against Overspending

REBUTTAL

The opposition argument focuses on emotion not facts. It seeks to instill fear and mistrust rather than address the actual bond proposal. The tone is threatening rather than an objective evaluation of the merits of the bond proposal. IF the city council will meet all of the opposition's demands THEN they would support the bond. Some demands are not even related to the project. The elected body of Pleasant Grove does not make decisions based on threats and our community should not vote based on fear and the desire to create contention.

The facts are that this proposal is based upon professional studies requested by the citizen driven Public Safety Building Committee (PSB Committee) evaluating:

- Remodeling options
- Architectural and engineering costs
- Pricing related to various locations
- A thorough review of the space and functional needs of the project.

The citizens Committee unanimously recommended the \$9.5 million dollar bond amount as being adequate to meet the public need in a fiscally responsible manner.

This proposal is the result of an open, transparent, citizen initiated recommendation from the PSB committee that took over 16 months to study the issue and propose solutions. It is the result of a spirit of cooperation, transparency, and ingenuity by the PSB committee, the Mayor and city council, and staff to meet a dire need in our community with fiscally responsible solutions. This bond proposal has been developed through thorough research, and factual information. This proposal is principled, consistent, and affordable for the people of Pleasant Grove.