

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORK MEETING
MARCH 13, 2014, 4:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT:

**Mayor Jon Pike
Councilmember Gil Almquist - Absent
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall - Absent
Councilmember Joe Bowcutt
Councilmember Bette Arial
City Manager Gary Esplin
City Attorney Paula
Deputy City Recorder Annette Hansen**

OPENING:

Mayor Pike called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Jimmie Hughes and the invocation was offered by Jim Hetrick. Mayor Pike explained that he and the Council along with City Manager Gary Esplin had recently returned from the League of Cities and Towns convention in Washington DC where they were able to meet with people from different cities and discuss various issues pertaining to the many factions of running a city. He expressed his appreciation for our great city and its employees and citizens who are always willing to help and serve whenever needed and his gratitude for a community that works together in problem solving.

Discussion on Art around the Corner program by Stephanie Bevins –
Item was rescheduled for the March 27th Council meeting.

Presentation from St. George area Chamber of Commerce by Greg McArthur

St. George area Chamber of Commerce representative Greg McArthur made a PowerPoint presentation to the Council highlighting the many events and resources they provide for the business community and members of the Chamber. Mr. McArthur stated that the Chamber would like to expand to a different location that is more conducive to business and has meeting rooms and facilities to handle all the different amenities they provide for its members. His proposal was that they would restructure and renovate the old water conservancy district building for the approximate cost of \$50,000 to \$80,000 which would be paid for by the Chamber. The City would then lease the building to them for 5 years under the same type of agreement they currently have with the old Courthouse. He stated that he would also like to keep an area in the old Courthouse as well to maintain a visitor's center area and would like to add an action hub where a private business could rent space to book local activities and arrange ticket purchases for visitors to the city. Council discussed this option at length and felt that this was the best use of this facility and would be most beneficial in the continued support of local businesses and tourism. Mayor Pike asked that all the different options discussed be explored and a proposal be brought back to the Council for further discussion.

Presentation from Outlier Labs by Marc Mortensen

Marc Mortensen introduced Justin Jenkins, Ever Gonzales and Brad Campbell to the Council as owners of the newly formed business Outlier Labs. The owners made a presentation to

the Council explaining about their company and the services they provide to startup companies and small business owners where they provide a business location for these companies to work from as well as a professional environment to meet clients. They also provide business oriented lectures and other networking opportunities to help these businesses succeed and grow within our community. They are currently operating in partnership with Dixie State University and renting space from them. After they explained all of their provided services, they asked the Council to consider allowing their business to relocate to the Electric Theatre building complex and lease it from the City so as they would have the space to expand their services and help these small businesses as well as bring more economy to the downtown area. Council felt that this company was doing a great service for the City and commended their efforts and success. Council also believed that this was just the sort of business they envisioned for the downtown area, although the Electric Theatre building has already been designated for the various arts factions. Council suggested a few other possible opportunities in the area that might suit their needs as well and asked them to explore these options with City Manager Gary Esplin. Mayor Pike thanked them for the service they provide to new business owners and the community and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Presentation from St. George 70.3 Iron Man by Marc Mortensen

Marc Mortensen introduced Iron Man 70.3 race directors Paul Jewkes and Jeff Gardner to the Council. They thanked Council for the wonderful partnership this event has with the city and all the cooperation that they receive. They showed a brief promotional video for the event and explained that this has become a race that all the top professional athletes attend. This year's race is scheduled for May 3rd and is projected to have 2500 participants. The current 5 year contract ends this year and they are awaiting the final draft of the next 5 year contract to be brought before the Council for approval. Council discussed the great economic impact this event has had on the community and the wonderful exposure of this area to visitors throughout the country. They expressed their gratitude to the directors of this event and appreciated the professional way they handle this nationally renowned event.

Discussion on alternative for Sand Hollow wash crossing by Kent Perkins

Kent Perkins, Leisure Services Director and Jeff Peay Parks Planning Manager addressed the Council with a project plan to build an elevated boardwalk path crossing the Sand Hollow Wash from Tuweep Drive to Lava Flow Drive to allow safe passage for children walking to and from school. The proposed design and bridge were shown to the Council and the cost to complete the crossing was estimated to be \$172,000 and it was noted that only \$65,000 was allotted in this fiscal year's budget for this project. Council felt that this was a necessary improvement and discussed different budget options and funding solutions such as using existing impact fees and capital project funds to complete the project. Mayor Pike felt that this project merited immediate attention and asked that if possible it be completed for the beginning of the next school year so funding options would be looked at and a proposal would be brought before council when considering the next fiscal year's budget.

Report from Councilmembers

Councilmember Jimmie Hughes reported that he would be attending the upcoming Metro Planning Organization (MPO) meeting on the 19th. Mayor Pike mentioned that he had just

returned from welcoming the Utah Association of Airport Officers at the City's airport facilities.

Request a closed session

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Jimmie Hughes to convene into a closed session to discuss property issues.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joe Bowcutt.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes - aye
Councilmember Bowcutt - aye
Councilmember Arial - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Reconvene & Adjourn

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Jimmie Hughes to reconvene and adjourn.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joe Bowcutt.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a roll vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes - aye
Councilmember Bowcutt - aye
Councilmember Arial - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Annette Hansen, Deputy City Recorder