

AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 17, 2023
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

Bradley J. Frost	Mayor
Kevin Barnes	Council Member
Staci Carroll	Council Member
Clark Taylor	Council Member

Members Absent:

Ryan Hunter	Council Member
Rob Shelton	Council Member

Staff Present:

Camden Bird	Assistant City Administrator
Terilyn Lurker	City Recorder
Anna Montoya	Finance Officer
Stuart Fore	Police Lieutenant
Dawna Whiting	Victim's Advocate
Suzanne Nordin	Victim's Advocate

Also present: Denise Davenport, Cory Maloy, Kay Kristofferson, Val Peterson, Tim Holley, and Ernie John.

The City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the City Administration Conference Room, located at 51 East Main Street, commencing at 4:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The purpose of the City Work Sessions is to prepare the City Council for upcoming agenda items for future City Council Meetings. The Work Session is not an action item meeting. No one attending the meeting should rely on any discussion or any perceived consensus as action or authorization. These come only from the City Council Meeting.

1. Discussion with the city's state legislative representatives.

Mayor Frost explained the city has invited the state representatives to this work session to go over issues the city would like to bring to their attention, as well as receive their comments back. Those present introduced themselves: Denise Davenport (MAG), Kay Christofferson (District 53), Cory Maloy (District 52) and Val Peterson (District 56).

Transportation

Road Utility Fee. There was a brief discussion on road utility fees and if municipalities had that option. It was noted that when challenged, it was found that municipalities could

have a road utility fee, which was a financing mechanism for transportation needs within the city. There may be legislation upcoming that could potentially state what those fees could be used for, so those funds could not be used for anything other than roads. The road utility fee was based on usage, the definition of which would be up to the municipality now. It was noted this would be like the B & C Road funds the city receives.

FrontRunner Station. Mayor Frost brought up where the funding for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) went. It was explained the Senate and the House of Representatives each have two EISs per year, and Santaquin City received funding and American Fork did not. There may be additional ways to obtain funding to get started on the process, but they would have to look at that. Ms. Davenport explained how transportation funding had two aspects, planning and programming/funding. She noted MAG will work with UDOT to make sure that all Phase I projects are put forward into the financial pot that UDOT uses to fund projects. The American Fork FrontRunner Station was difficult to get to, but to complete projects to benefit that area, and EIS would need to be funded.

An open house had been held a few months prior to this work session, and several comments had been made about relocating the station closer to Mill Pond Road. However, the city knows the landowners would not be interested in that. The placement of the FrontRunner Station had been made without consulting with the city, but the city has had to deal with the good as well as the bad that comes with that decision. Citizens from Eagle Mountain, Saratoga Springs, and Lehi all traverse along 200 South to get to the FrontRunner station. The city was currently working on obtaining the ROW necessary to widen the road; the funding was in place and engineering completed.

When asked what the revenue projections looked like for the upcoming year, it was noted they were anticipating between \$100 and \$150 million less than what was expected. The representatives would know more in December when projections were completed, but there would not be surplus funds.

There was a discussion on the development in the area of the FrontRunner station, which was developed specifically because of the station. They needed to be thoughtful, at this point, if they were to move the station as a lot of money has been spent on high density housing. People have located in that area specifically because of the station.

There has been talk in the past regarding a flyover that connects Pacific Drive to 1020 West, which would connect both sides of the freeway. This has been discussed for several years, and the property owner was willing to preserve the corridor on Pacific Drive to assist with that. This flyover would help with connectivity and be beneficial to American Fork as well as surrounding communities. In addition to the flyover, the Pony Express and Vineyard Connector will affect the station and the flow of traffic to the station.

Ms. Davenport brought up the HTRZ tool was brought up, which could help with funding. They could have a gap analysis done to see if the increment would be worth it.

Ms. Davenport also noted the revenues from the 5th Quarter sales tax would start in October, which the city would receive revenues from to help with transportation issues. Road maintenance has been a struggle for all cities, and this would be funding for that.

Revitalizing Main Street. This has and always will be a topic of conversation. It is unique in that State Street is a state road, and when there is an accident on the freeway, it becomes a parking lot. It would be counterproductive to develop Main Street like Provo.

Union Pacific Railroad. Mayor Frost brought up Union Pacific Railroad and the difficulties the city has faced when trying to work with them. Before UPR would even discuss issues with the city, there is a fee that must be paid. It was noted the city could now bill UPR for any maintenance the city has to do on the railroad crossings. UPR understands the need to mend relationships with the cities. The council was told that if there were specific issues they have had, they can mention that with the legislators. There were also two lobbyists the city could reach out to, Frank P and Dan Hemmert.

Other Topics

Accessory Dwelling Units. Council Member Carroll asked if there were any issues going before the legislature regarding accessory dwelling units, as she understands affordable housing is a hot topic. She explained the city has worked on affordable housing, and she asked that they talk to the cities to get information on what has already been done. There was a brief discussion on how ADSs affect the infrastructure and the collection of impact fees to offset that. There may be legislation that will come up this next year that deals with that issue.

Other. A few other topics that were brought up were growth and water. With the emergency at the Great Salt Lake, the water issue has been brought to light. Utah Lake has some of the same issues, but not as obvious.

Utah Lake Authority. The Utah Lake Authority received \$30 million for a building, but the council felt that money could have been better directed elsewhere. Mayor Frost expressed his opinion that the cities that border the lake should have representation on the board.

Theft of Copper. American Fork City has been the victim of theft, where copper wire has been stolen from a couple of areas of town. The cost is approximately \$100,000. They asked the representatives to consider legislation that would tighten up the penalty for theft or profit from the theft of wire. The city needed to keep the state involved, where the state may be able to track where the theft is occurring and assist the cities.

The council expressed their appreciation for the representatives taking the time to come to the city for this discussion and to listen to the concerns and frustrations of the council.

2. Annual report by Dawna Whiting on the American Fork Victim's Assistance program.
Dawna Whiting and Suzanne Nordin presented the bi-annual report as required by the Victims of Crime Act grant.

Ms. Whiting explained that since 2018, the number of services/assists has doubled. She noted that along with herself and Suzanne Nordin, there were two volunteers who came in each week. The American Fork Victim's Assistance program provides post-crisis support to victims of all violent crime. They assess needs, provide referrals, assist with obtaining services, and provide victims with educational and preventative information while developing safety plans and goals. The Victim Advocates act as a liaison between the victim, police officers, investigators, prosecutors, and various agencies. They help with applications for Crime Victim Reparations and assess the need for and assist with obtaining protective orders and stalking injunctions. Additionally, they monitor perpetrator court appearances and provide the victim with updates and notifications, informing the victim of their rights. Their aim is to decrease recidivism, ensure victim safety, and hold the batterer accountable.

Ms. Nordin stated she has provided the council with a copy of the Rights of Crim Victims Act and the Bill of Rights, along with a copy of the handout officers give to victims. She commented that they follow up after the crime has been committed and are system-based advocates and are confidential with their communications with the victims.

Ms. Whiting explained their report lists the date from April-June and July-September 2023. In April-June, there were 351 victim contacts and 1594 total services/assists provided. Those numbers for July-September are 359 victim contacts and 1668 total services/assists. Those they serve are victims of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, adult sexual assault, assault, stalking/harassment, protective order violations, DUI, ID theft, child pornography, burglary/robbery, adults abused as children, sex trafficking, and kidnapping.

Mayor Frost asked if they have seen any trends that were leading to more victims. Ms. Whiting answered it was hard to say why, but with growth they do anticipate more victims. There was a difference between pre-COVID times and now, and they have noticed a change in the victims' attitudes toward the assistance they are given. The media, inflation, high-density housing, etc. can affect everyone.

Ms. Whiting explained they have been losing funding for the VOCA grant, but she has been able to cut out any extra expenses. She expressed her appreciation to the city and the police department, stating they do feel supported. Ms. Whiting commented that the relationship between the Victim's Advocates and the officers have been great.

The council expressed their appreciation to Ms. Whiting and Ms. Nordin for their work and all they do for the citizens of the community.

3. Adjourn.

The work session adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terilyn Lurker".

Terilyn Lurker, City Recorder