



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Brett Hales	Council Chair
Dave Nicponski	Council Member
D. Blair Camp	Council Member
Diane Turner	Council Member
 Jim Brass	 Excused

Others in Attendance:

Ted Eyre	Mayor	Frank Nakamura	City Attorney
Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator	Justin Zollinger	Finance Director
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Doug Hill	Public Service Director
Jennifer Kennedy	Recorder	Janet Towers	Exec. Asst. to Mayor
Jan Wells	Chief Administrative Officer	Tim Tingey	ADS Director
Rep. Johnny Anderson	Legislature	Scott Stallings	Resident/Realtor
David Stewart	Lobbyist		

Chairman Hales called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hales asked for approval on minutes from the Council Initiative Workshop (CIW) on February 4, 2014. Ms. Turner moved approval on the minutes and Mr. Camp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chairman Hales asked for approval on Committee of the Whole minutes from March 4, 2014 and March 18, 2014. Mr. Camp moved approval on those minutes and Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chairman Hales asked for approval on minutes from the Open House held on March 25, 2014. Ms. Turner moved approval and Mr. Camp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business Item #1

2014 Legislative Session Review- David Stewart

Mr. Stewart introduced Representative Johnny Anderson who was in attendance also. Mr. Stewart stated that the Legislative session had adjourned and election preparations had begun.

Mr. Stewart thanked Representative Anderson for his support in the Jordan River mitigation. Representative Anderson stated that they met with the Natural Resources Appropriation Committee to obtain a specific line item for this issue. They approached the Committee and told them this money could prevent casualties and future expensive law suits. The Committee was able to attain funds from the Forestry budget and the Sovereign Lands fund to help with the mitigation. Mr. Stewart said the amount received was \$350,000, which represents about half the estimated amount; the other half would be split between the City and the County. Mr. Stewart joined with Representative Anderson and had initially approached transportation funding groups, but UDOT and others said this wasn't a transportation issue and directed them towards the Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Stewart mentioned that John Mathis and Mike McKell were both very helpful in obtaining these funds, and also helped protect future appropriations.

Mr. Nicponski asked about any actions with the canals. Representative Anderson replied that a canal safety bill was passed. This bill would get money to DNR (Department of Natural Resources) for mapping and data collection. It would also give support to the canal companies to provide technical assistance to become compliant with the two existing canal laws. Canal companies should have a maintenance plan in place and provide alignment data to the local counties. Some companies are currently in compliance and some are not, noted Representative Anderson. This law is a first step in having a more comprehensive, state wide canal safety plan, similar to the dam safety plan. Canals are a big part of the water infrastructure, but are becoming aged.

Mr. Stewart said that the billboard legislation went away this year because both sides had conflicting issues.

Mr. Stewart stated that another issue is the adjustment of sales tax distribution. A few years ago, the Main Street Fairness Act was initiated. He has heard that there is a 50% chance that the internet sales and Main Street Fairness Act would be addressed later in the year. If that happens, there was a previous bill passed that puts the state portion into a restricted account and the local portion in another account; then the redistribution formula could be adjusted. The goal would be to try and hold harmless and not create losers due to this bill. The driving factor would be when Congress acts on the bill. The amount could be around \$100 million, and Murray City would want to be engaged in that process.

Mr. Stewart said he is happy to answer any questions about other issues. He noticed that the interlocal with the County had been finalized giving another \$200,000 to Murray City for roads.

He also said that the next session may have the quarter of a quarter tax and bonds would be paid off, so some cash would be freed up for needed projects, possibly in the \$1 million to \$3 million range. He believes there will be some money available in the next session, either for the County or the State to prioritize. He complimented Representative Anderson on his knowledge in the transportation area. Those funds are unique and are local sales tax dollars that should remain with local roads. Last year, there wasn't really an appetite or money for roads, but he is hoping for a different position next year.

Representative Anderson stated that there is an ongoing two year study of transportation, but believes this year will be important. He encouraged participation with the League of Cities and Towns. He noted that there needs to be a good discussion about what the needs are. Representative Anderson stated that they would look at the 70/30 split and try to find a more equitable option with new money coming in. It could be additional sales tax, gasoline tax, registration fees, or other avenues that will be evaluated for transit dollars, he noted. There is an \$11.3 billion shortfall over the next twenty five years, and he appreciates any other perspectives. There has to be a balance in tax competitiveness with the surrounding western states. Utah is the third highest in the intermountain west for gasoline tax, basically tied with Idaho, and only behind Nevada. Raising the gasoline tax could put the retailers, especially on the borders at a competitive disadvantage.

Mr. Stewart said that UTOPIA related bills were an issue and the goal was to keep all the options open; that was successful in remaining status quo. Mr. Hales asked if those issues would come back again next year. Mr. Stewart said he believes they will, with Senator Valentine. Senator Valentine had agreed to a compromise with some language but ultimately sent the bill back to rules, which eventually killed it. Some of the UTOPIA cities involved felt like they could solve the problem on their own, and didn't need State involvement.

Chairman Hales thanked Representative Anderson and Mr. Stewart for their efforts.

Business Item #2

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Presentation- Justin Zollinger

Mr. Zollinger said he appreciates the work of the CIP committee. He stated the committee consists of Council Members, Administration, and Department Heads. The committee tries to prioritize projects and repairs in the City.

Mr. Zollinger said this year there was \$8.5 million in requests, and \$2.6 million of funding available. Of the \$2.6 million available, \$1.5 million came from department savings, as a result of the Council Budget Savings program. That is a great program that allows departments to buy needed things, and put the rest into savings to be used for upcoming CIP projects. Another \$200,000 came from prior years CIP savings, and money from equipment that was sold was also rolled back into the funding mechanism.

Streets

As a committee, the goal was to put 20% of CIP money towards roads; that amount equated to \$457,000, on top of the \$1.4 million received from Class C money. Doug Hill and his staff helped determine the roads that are highest on the list:

1. Elm Street, a rebuild overlay. (\$15,000)
2. 5985 South, 5935 South and 1320 East overlay, (\$83,000)
3. Chevy Chase and Wesley area rebuild (\$300,000).
4. 1865 East and Zenda Way overlay (\$30,000)

An additional \$29,000 would go towards road maintenance. A bobtail dump truck/salter/plow was also approved for \$210,000.

Revenues came in a little higher this year, as well as the savings by the departments and accounted for an increased amount of funding. The previous year, the amount was \$1.8 million for CIP, comparably \$2.6 million was a substantial increase.

The specialized focus on different departments will rotate year by year. Public Services received a little extra funding this year.

ADS

A new central switch will be purchased this year. This switch will allow the City financial software to work more efficiently. (\$100,000)

Citrix Net Scalier is a product that will be purchased. It is a virtual desktop and moves programs from old laptops over to the new laptops, and will ease computer transition, especially in the Police Department.

A small pickup truck will be purchased for the meter readers.

There was also \$50,000 approved for the second year of the General Plan update.

Engineering

There will be an increased amount of money spent on radar speed signs. Engineering/Inspections will also receive a pickup truck.

Shops

There was \$5,000 approved for SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans) improvements. This will prevent water coming from the salt area and feeding into the Jordan River. This will be funded in conjunction with funds from Water and Waste Water.

Heritage Center

The Heritage Center will receive a new transportation vehicle for its visitors. This passenger van will be used to transport seniors to the various outings (\$70,000). Mr.

Hales asked if donations of vehicles ever occur and if that is a possibility. Mr. Zollinger said that would be possible, and a grant may be possible also, and will pass the information along to the grant writer.

Parks & Recreation

Willow Ponds soccer fields will receive new soccer goals. (\$15,000) Those were rusted and ready for replacement, as were two utility vehicles in the Parks Department. (\$20,000).

The asphalt on the Jordan River Parkway in Murray will be repaired and replaced. (\$150,000) Mr. Camp commented that would be appreciated by the cycling community.

Cemetery

The cemetery will receive an upgrade on the sprinkler system. The system is old and needs to be repaired. (\$300,000)

Cultural Arts

Amphitheater construction plans to renovate the amphitheater will cost \$50,000.

Police Department

Mr. Zollinger remarked that this was the first year that the Police Department had set aside funds for future use. They saved approximately \$50,000. The plan is to replace the remaining vehicles this year, so that all the vehicles were replaced, similar to a lease program, but were paid for with no debt service. Mr. Zollinger commented that ten more vehicles would be replaced this year. He said that Chief Burnett has evaluated the vehicles that need to be replaced.

Also, the type of tasers the Police Department uses are being phased out; \$25,500 has been allocated to purchase new tasers, and will allow the older ones to be cycled out.

There was a request for forensic photo and diagram crime scene equipment and Chief Burnett suggested collaborating with other agencies and sharing the equipment. It was decided that item did not need to be purchased at this time.

Another item that the Police Department requested was new audio/video interview recording software. The current system is really old and can cause problems when collecting evidence. There was \$25,000 allocated for a new portable system that can be relocated to the New City Hall.

Fire Department

A bariatric ambulance will be purchased in the amount of \$234,000. This ambulance is substantially more expensive due to the equipment on it.

There will be six defibrillators replaced; three for the ambulances and three for the engines. (\$183,000)

A roof will be replaced in the annex part of the station, (\$12,000), and a staff vehicle will be replaced (\$35,000). The department is looking into purchasing a hybrid vehicle. New radios will also be purchased for the Fire Department (\$20,000).

The Fire Department set aside \$70,000 for next year to hopefully purchase an apparatus truck.

Mr. Camp asked about the new software purchase. Mr. Zollinger replied that a budget opening was previously done for that in this year's budget. Staff is currently interviewing software companies to try and find the right system.

Ms. Turner asked if any of the replacement service vehicles are alternative fuel vehicles. Mr. Zollinger said that the different departments have been advised to look into alternative fuel vehicles.

Ms. Lopez asked Mr. Zollinger to explain the savings program that the Council established to the new Council Members. Mr. Zollinger stated that the departments try to save money throughout the year, and any money saved at the end is put into the CIP projects fund. It reduces the sentiment that the money would be lost and has to be spent by the end of the year. The program doesn't affect the amount of budget allowed for different items either. Mr. Zollinger commented that the money stays within the department and has been a great program.

The departments prioritized their needs and the City was able to fund all priority one projects this year.

Mr. Camp expressed his appreciation to Mr. Zollinger for his work on the CIP budget.

Announcements

Ms. Lopez announced that the budget binders had been prepared and were ready for Council Members to take home. The budget meeting will be held on April 22nd beginning at 8:00 am and lasting until approximately 4:30 pm.

Ms. Lopez asked for responses to the IPA meeting that includes lunch on Monday April 28th.

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting.

Kellie Challburg
Council Office Administrator