

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

ATTENDING: Mayor Ren Hatt, Council Members Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan, and Ben Lehnhoff; Employees; Tyler Hunt, Loni Meadows, Julie Spadafora; Citizens Christine Sheeter, Gayna Salinas, Daniel Salinas, Wendy Lechleiter, Craig Lechleiter, Kelly Quinn, Anne Elliot, Randy Erwin, Chris Dunham, Kelly Quinn, Olive Dunham, Julie Steuer, Guy Webster, Ben Coomer, John Weisheit; A-1 Lithium; Paul Chamberlin, Jeff Wickenheiser; Black Stone Minerals; Michael Swensen and Scott Emery.

CONDUCTING: Mayor Ren Hatt, the meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Black Stone Minerals

Michael Swensen is here today to familiarize Green River with Black Stone Minerals and A-1 Lithium. These companies have purchased land on the east side of the Green River, south of the railroad river bridge, they are wanting to develop two separate lithium projects. They are working in an area near Moab called Paradox Basin, where they have found deep formations, 6,000 to 10,000 feet down which contain brine, salty water, it then has the properties to be converted into Lithium Sulfate and then upgraded to Lithium Carbonate, which is used in lithium batteries for electric vehicles. This brine is uniquely different, by being deep in pressurize layers, it floats to the surface largely on its own. Very little energy is used getting it out of the ground, this is a huge benefit to them. They are using a new technology where brine is ran through something similar to a water softener unit and then through a series of resin beds. The resin attracts the lithium, and it is then put through a process to rinse the resin and pull the lithium into an alley way where the lithium is suspended in water, concentrated, dried, and then it ends up as a crystal product called lithium carbonate. They are not using drying ponds, which take up land space. It will be processed through an indoor physical and chemical process, to extract the lithium, far more environmentally safe. No lithium is the same, not all brine is the same. They have discovered a brine and are currently drilling a well by Moab, where lithium has been processed from their actual brine. They are interested in the confluence of infrastructure in Green River, something not even available in Moab. The river water, interstate, and the available work force is a great benefit, and they feel these are very attractive opportunities. Michael Swensen said he heard a rumor that A-1 Lithium is trying to take Green River City's water from them, which is not true. They have their own water; they are in good shape and have purchased it. Others have said, you're moving it from Wayne County, that isn't true. Wayne County Conservatory District does own one of the water rights, but they are leasing it from them. The water rights are already here in this drainage area. They expressed how excited they are to take an old Uranium site or Brownfield site and make it into a viable thriving business. They were asked by Ben Coomer, where do they put the brine water after extraction? Michael Swensen answered, right back in the same hole, pretty much the same as they found it. There are geological surveys done to make sure this is done safely. The deposits are thousands of feet below any source of drinking water, and it will be constantly monitored throughout the life of the project, they feel strongly that is critical for the United States to develop its own critical mineral. There is a big push is to develop and process the lithium here within the United States. Chris Dunham asked, with your extraction what kind of foot print would that involve? How big of an area would you be extracting lithium from? The relative area

would be quite small. When they are done, the well heads are about 20 x 20 feet. The visual impact is next to nothing. Daniel Salinas asked, how many building and how tall would they be? Michael Swensen answered, all extraction is contained in a building. It will look like a warehouse building with infrastructure inside. People will never see. There foot print will be 17 to 18 acres they will consider visual impact. Anne Elliot asked, is it in Emery County or Grand County? They will be building in phases and right now the first phase is planned to stay in Green River City limits. There are plans on how to keep it all with in Emery County. Anne Elliot spoke, she is concerned about the taxes going to Grand County when we are providing the services. Ben Coomer asked, what is the projected number of employees that will be employed? What is the education or technical ability of the employees needed? Will there be a head of household jobs and housing? Michael Swensen answered, while the project is being built, there will be around 300 full time construction jobs for a three-year average span, then at full production, the lithium plant will be running around 50 to 70 employees. He said he could say for sure about the education needed. Some will be technical and some at entry level. He does know what the average income would be, but it will for sure be a lot more than workers in Moab. Housing is in the for front of their minds as the project gets closer. How they will find housing for construction workers temporarily. He is hopeful that local developers will help out with that. The company is talking about it and are aware of the problem. Randy Erwin spoke, are there lists of chemicals used in the process? Mike Swensen answered, he doesn't have an exact list. Paul Chamberlin answered, they will be using some hydrochloric acid, sodium carbonate. Randy Erwin asked how much of this chemical will be coming into Green River and how is it going to be delivered? Michael Swensen commented, he doesn't know for sure. Most of it will be railed in and out. They are still working on the full scale, and no one knows how much quite yet. They want to be the greenest energy on earth. Gayna Dunham asked how will the brine water brought in? Michael Swensen spoke, they expect to have it as close to the project as they casn get it. Randy Erwin spoke, is there another bi product produce other than what is returned back into the ground? Michael Swensen commented, there is no waste. They put the brine in, they take the lithium out and put the brine right back in the ground. Not a messy process at all. He is not aware of any hazardous materials, and everything will be regulated. Daniel Salinas questioned, what will the environmental impact on the river be? Any toxic materials going into the river? Michael Swensen said the water must be very clear and clean so they will process the water before using it, nothing goes back in to the river. Christine Sheeter asked, where is the point of diversion for the water? Michael Swensen answered, there are diversion rights right next door to their property, but they need to tie their larger water rights of diversion. They have an application in right now with the Division of Water Rights as we speak for an area around Browns Wash and I-70. Gayna Salinas asked, will the project bring any kind of smells to the environment? Micheal Swensen answered, everything is contained in a building, and they will have to get an air quality permit for this project and anything that would be omitted into the air. Chris Dunham asked, he assumes lithium in and of itself outside of a battery does not purpose any kind of explosion risk. Michael Swensen commented, no it does not. Chris Dunham commented, will there be trucks running to the railroad all day? Michael Swensen said, there is no way to know until they get to that point.

2. Discuss/Approve/Deny recommendation letter for Black Stone Minerals' project
MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to approve recommendation for Black Stone Minerals' project. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan, and Ben Lehnhoff voted aye. The motion carried.

MOTION: Bo Harrison made a motion to adjourn. Kent Nelson seconded the motion.
VOTE: Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan, and Ben Lehnhoff voted aye. The motion carried.

3. Adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Ren Hatt, Mayor

Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: December 12, 2023