



City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

ATTENDING: Mayor Ren Hatt, Council Members Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster; Planning Commission Members; Stephanie Crabtree, Kim McFarlane, Gayna Salinas, Genna Brown; Employees; Edward Bennett, Julie Spadafora, David Wilson, Janet Smoak, Candice Cravens, Bryan Meadows; Citizens: Julie Steuer, Lance Erwin, Scott Ryan, Dylan Keele, Tammy Ekker, Kathy Ryan, Ed Korycan, Chritine Sheeter; El Charro Loco; Ema Hernandez, Denna Whitman

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

ABSENT: Kent Nelson asked to be excused.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of Allegiance as directed by Ben Lehnhoff

1. Public Comment

The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance, followed by the public comment section. Kathy Ryan expressed concern regarding cleanup efforts on MainStreet. It was pointed out that there are businesses that need to adhere to strict guidelines, and there is a question of enforcement by the city. Kathy Ryan inquired if there were any business licenses and highlighted the issue of rubbish on the Main Street. Mayor Ren Hatt acknowledged these concerns, stating that letters have been issued regarding code enforcement, but emphasizing the lack of criminal offenses and cooperation needed with the city attorney for municipal code enforcement. The Mayor thanked Kathy Ryan for her input.

2. Introduction of New City Manager Edward Castro Bennett

The new city manager, Edward Castro Benett, was introduced to the City Council and attendees. Edward Bennett shared a brief personal history, indicating a connection to the community through family members who previously resided nearby. He mentioned originating from Salt Lake City and express enthusiasm about assuming the city manager role and contributing positively to the city.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny liquor license to El Charro Loco for Full-Service Local Consent
Discussion was held on issuing a full-service local consent liquor license for El Charro Loco, a family business seeking to offer alcoholic beverages. Emma Hernandez a representative from the restaurant discussed their family ownership history and plans to enhance customer experiences by offering drinks like margaritas and specific mention of responsible servings practices and potential economic benefits of increases sales tax revenue for Green River.
MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to approve the liquor license for El Charro Loco for Full-Service Local Consent. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion.
VOTE: Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
4. Discuss/Approve/Deny Green River Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project # 1C-2024 Notice of Award
The bid for the Green River Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project # 1C-2024 was discussed by the City Council Members. One bid was received, the bid was then awarded to JCI for the amount of \$2,089,575.38. **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve Green River Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project #1C-2024 bid opening and award. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
5. Discuss Patriot Day Proclamation regarding September 11
The Mayor presented a proclamation for September 11th as a Patriot Day and sought feedback from the council members about the language and reception within the community. The council had no objections to the proposed wording.
6. Discuss Hispanic Heritage Month 2024 Proclamation
The major discussed issuing a proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, noting the significant representation within the town's population. The council had no opposition and shared their support.
7. Discuss potential Inland Port projects- RFIs from Economic Development of Utah (EDC)Utah
Ryan Englund presented the council with information regarding potential Inland Port projects spurred by interest from economic development endeavors. Several projects with distinct scopes, requirements and potential economic impact were outlined. Green River was granted water rights back in 1958 when Wyoming was established, but those water rights expired in 1998. Green River was given a continuance until October 2025, only 608 of the 2000 water rights are being used at this time. He said it would be pretty nice if Green River could use some of these water rights for these projects. Ryan Englund suggested updating the 40-year plan and making it realistic. Some notable projects include a large battery recycling project and industrial ventures spanning hundreds of acres. Each was analyzed for resource demands, like water and energy requirements, and potential environmental concerns. Guy Webster commented that Project Podium has caused him concern, 1132 low paying jobs by 2027. In his mind it is probably too much growth too quickly to be a well-planned and organized project that would benefit Green River. It does nothing to maintain Green River's Water

Rights. Ryan Englund commented, Green River needs jobs but not that many. Guy Webster suggested looking into some of the other companies interested in coming to Green River, that would use more water and would offer higher paying jobs. Gayna Salinas expressed her concerns, she understands they want to bring jobs to Green River but having too many people come to Green River at one time, will change the community in a way we are not wanting. Bringing jobs in 5 or 10 families at a time would be ideal. Ryan Englund emphasized the need for cautious and public-involving consideration for such impactful movements in infrastructure and service. He stated Green River is one of the few places with water, land and rail service available.

8. Discuss the progress of the Thriving Communities Grant

Progress on the Thriving Communities Grant was reviewed, highlighting a recent two-day meeting conducted by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). Focus was primarily on issues of transportation and infrastructure enhancement. It was noted that curb and gutter installations might be explored across town to foster safer, more accessible streetways and stimulate economic growth.

Ryan Englund mentioned that it is intended as a multi-year program aimed at enriching local expertise and resources while additionally seeking external grants.

9. Discuss the progress of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a feasibility study of an events center

Mayor Ren Hatt provided an update on the (RFP) Request for Information process for a feasibility study regarding a proposed multi-use event center. This study follows a recent grant aimed at developing local amenities beneficial to residents and the tourist industry. Discussions included potential uses and configurations to benefit both local residents and the tourism sector through increased tax revenue during off- peak seasons.

Participants in the selection process have began evaluation of bids, with community input arrangements in the forthcoming stages. The study aims to inform these parameters, guided by findings and public input to ensure sustainable operations.

10. Discuss the Grand County Fire District tax plan

The proposed tax plan involving the Grand County Fire District was explored. Plans to annex broader regions of the county, potentially overlapping with current Green River Volunteer Fire Department response zones, were raised without prior discussion with local leaders.

Stephanie Crabtree spoke, and concerns were aired about establishing proper mutual response agreements to handle cross-jurisdiction situations, details about ensuring sustainable funding for increased responsibilities and coverage were discussed by the public and city officials. Gayna Salinas would like to thank Steffanie Crabtree for an explanation to the letter she had received and to Green Rivers service to the Grand County side.

11. City Council, Mayor, and/or Employee comments and concerns

Gayna Salinas expressed here concerns about miscellaneous city state issues, including sidewalk maintenance near businesses and addressing local noxious weed problems. Public feed back included suggested improvements for roadside cleanliness and interfaces. Bryan Meadows gave a quick update on the water project. The 90 percent drawings have been completed; they are hoping to submit the plans to the state next week. It will be a 2 months process before the state reviews the plans, and then it will be ready to go out for bid. The deadline for identifying all service lines is October 16, 2024. Mayor Ren Hatt highlighted the upcoming weekly Mayor office hours, every first and third Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. He urged everyone to come, and then he also thanked the city staff for their continued endeavors. He report on a stop sign that was replaced and the museum sign being fixed or turned around to face the right direction.

12. Discuss/Approve/Deny Consent Agenda

- Financial Report July 2024
 - Payment Approval Report September 2024
 - Treasurer Report August 2024
 - City Council Regular Meeting Minutes August 13, 2024
- MOTION:** Guy Webster made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

13. Closed Session, if necessary, pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205
Closed Session was not held.

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

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to adjourn. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

Ren Hatt, Mayor

Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: