
Minutes
Workshop Meeting
May 13, 2014

Attendance: Mayor Kenneth Neilson, Councilmen Garth Nisson, Kress Staheli, Jeff Turek, City Manager Roger Carter, City Attorney Jeff Starkey, City Recorder Danice Bulloch, Deputy Recorder Tara Pentz, Administrative Services Manager Kimberly Ruesch, Police Chief Jim Keith, Audience: George Staheli, John Crosier, Mike England, Bill Stoltz

Meeting commenced at 6:40 P.M.

Excused: Councilmen Thad Seegmiller and Ronald Truman.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

Councilman Turek made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Staheli seconded the motion; which passed with the following role call vote:

<i>Councilman Nisson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Staheli</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Turek</i>	<i>Aye</i>

2. Review of the board audit report.

There were no questions from the Council.

3. Discussion and review of Kids on Ice proposal. John Crosier / Mike England

John Crosier reviewed his proposal for Kids on Ice.

Councilman Turek asked how much money would need to be raised.

Mr. Crosier stated the minimum amount of money they would need to raise would be 6 million dollars. They would prefer to have 8 million dollars to open.

Councilman Turek explained he would ask all infrastructure would be included by the them.

Mike England stated they are proposing a substantial discount offered to the Washington City residents, with an additional discount if the resident also has a Washington City Community Center Membership.

Councilman Turek explained with the Community Center there was a backlash from having a resident and nonresident fee. He would like them to be aware this could be an issue, and it could be difficult to prove individuals are in fact residents.

Councilman Staheli asked what they feel would be the value of the land.

Mr. Crosier explained the County assessment shows the value of \$1.5 million. Obviously, that is a very low assessment for the entire parcel.

Councilman Staheli asked if there were any other areas within and owned by the City, which could be used or purchased.

City Manager Roger Carter stated the only other piece, which fits the size they would need, is the radio tower parcel.

Councilman Staheli asked them where they anticipate getting their funding.

Mr. Crosier stated the funding would be 100% charitable. They have the ability to get ice grants, the national hockey league, which gives grants, along with state and federal funding.

Councilman Staheli asked if the main concern in obtaining a grant would be to have the land before funding can be given.

Mr. Crosier stated most of the individuals or companies who request donations or grants, must have land before considering funding.

City Manager Carter cautioned the Council, Staff is moving forward with the discussion of the off-ramp at Main Street. One of the options actually splits this property.

Councilman Staheli asked if he would be able to see the designs proposals.

City Manager Carter stated the designs proposals were just received, and he would share them with Council.

Councilman Turek stated he is not inclined to give property to anyone. Those are ultimately assets of the taxpayers. He would be more inclined to look at a purchase arrangement, but he would not be comfortable giving anything away for \$100 per year for 99 years.

Mr. England asked if the proposal of the off-ramp goes right through the property.

City Manager Carter explained the option they favored, which sliced the land in two parts. However, he was not certain how much land would remain as far as acreage.

Councilman Nisson stated he agrees with Councilman Turek. He is not comfortable giving about any land.

Councilman Staheli commented he would prefer having the City assist with locating land in a different area. He is not necessarily inclined to give away that particular parcel. He asked if

there has been any discussions with SITLA regarding their property.

Mr. Crosier stated he has heard it is sometimes difficult working with SITLA.

Councilman Turek explained their mandate is getting the best price they can for the funding of the school children.

Councilman Staheli stated if a large developer came in, they could use the Kids on Ice facility for a park type scenario.

Councilman Turek stated in his opinion, in order to be viable, the building needs to be profitable. The land should be purchased, rather than just expecting Washington City to put everything into the proposal. He likes the project as well as the idea of the marketing, and branding to include Washington City.

4. Discussion regarding the John D. Lee statue placed on the empty pedestal in front of the Museum. George Staheli, President Washington City Historical Society

George Staheli stated the Historical Society would like to thank Washington City for all they do to support the museum along with the Relief Society Building. Many years ago, there were busts made for display in front of the museum. One of those busts was of John D. Lee. There were many residents in Washington City, who felt it was inappropriate, so it was never placed. The Lee family purchased the bust, and was going to have it placed in New Harmony. However, it was never done. The family has now offered to sell the bust back to Washington City, in order to place it in front of the museum. He reviewed the history of John D. Lee with the Council, and why the Historical Society felt the statute should be placed in Washington City. The Historical Society feels the statute should be placed, and it is time to honor one of the pioneers of Washington City. There will be no cost to the City. The Historical Society will pay for all of the mounting, and there would be a quiet ceremony upon placement. He would like to request this be placed on a City Council Agenda for approval to place the monument.

Councilman Staheli asked who in the Lee family purchased the statue.

Mr. George Staheli explained there were a number of people in the Lee Family who made the purchase.

Councilman Staheli asked what happened when it was removed originally.

Mr. George Staheli stated it was never installed.

Councilman Turek stated it was quite controversial and the community was split. He asked what would be the issue with placing the statue at the Relief Society Building, since it is already owned by the Historical Society.

Mr. George Staheli stated they feel like it should be placed at the museum, because there was a place built for John D. Lee.

Councilman Turek commented because it was such a divisive issue in the community, he would

be very hesitant to place the statue on City property.

Mr. George Staheli stated there are not many times when this Council makes a decision that is not divisive. The statute should be placed because it is good for our heritage.

Councilman Turek stated he understands there are controversial items coming to Council, but this is something that could be avoidable.

Councilman Nisson asked if there was a divide in the Historical Society as to the location of the statute.

Mr. George Staheli stated there were no members of the Historical Society who were against the placement of the statue. The museum is the first choice, but if need be, they will place the statue some place else. John D. Lee did good for our community, and he should be honored.

Councilman Turek stated he appreciates what has been said, but he does not feel the same.

Councilman Nisson noted another issue for him was John D. Lee had taken all of the spoils to New Harmony.

Mr. George Staheli stated he did many good things for Washington City.

Councilman Turek explained he was a huge part of the development for Washington City, but is it worth it to honor him and divide the community, which he knows it will.

Mr. George Staheli stated we will never know what John D. Lee's role was in the Mountain Meadow Massacre.

City Attorney Jeff Starkey asked how the Lee Family felt about the statue.

City Manager Carter stated the Lee's were having a family reunion, and they decided to have it here at the time they thought the statue was going to go up, and they were upset it didn't happen.

Councilman Nisson commented these feelings about John D. Lee go way back. Everything he has heard from all of his family was not good.

Mr. George Staheli explained John D. Lee would not blame the church because of the relationship he had with them, so the word went around that he was responsible, and he took the blame. He feels as president of the Historical Society, it is his responsibility to come to Council with their wishes of being placed on Council agenda as soon as possible.

Councilman Turek stated he is certainly supportive of anyone being placed on the agenda. Whether he is personally supportive of the placement of the statue is a different issue.

Mayor Neilson asked Staff to placed this item on the next agenda.

Bill Stoltz stated he is a resident and property owner in Washington City. He was very surprised when he saw this item on the agenda. He is shocked and chagrined this would even be

considered by the Washington City Council. He does not feel the statute should be in Washington City period. John D. Lee represents much more than being a good guy. Saying he did some good things is one thing, but he was a convicted murderer and executed as such. He feels to honor and commemorate a convicted murderer is completely contrary to moral and family values. It is inconceivable to him that this is even on the agenda. The LDS Church just published an article about John D. Lee, which he read to Council stating he was responsible for slaughtering over 120 men, and he was convicted and executed. Mr. Stolz noted he is not of the LDS religion, and still feels John D. Lee should not be honored in a public place. He is not a person who we should be proud of. He is not looking at this as a member of the church, but as a citizen of Washington City, State of Utah. It is controversial, and divisive. There are more than a few members of the community who would be opposed to the John D. Lee statue. This man led an attack who slaughtered men, women, and children. The LDS Church does honor those who went before them, but there should be moral and ethical decisions made here. He would like to plead for the Council not to move forward with this.

Councilman Turek stated he does not necessarily agree with the placement of the John D. Lee statue, but he feels if someone has asked to be placed on the agenda, it is part of the process.

Mr. George Staheli stated he is very close to an individual who wrote about the massacre, and they feel he was a scapegoat.

Mayor Neilson stated this will be discussed further on the May 28, 2014 Council Meeting.

5. Adjournment

Councilman Turek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Nisson seconded the motion; which passed with the following role call vote:

<i>Councilman Nisson</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Staheli</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Turek</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Passed and approved this 28th day of May 2014.

Attest by:

Danice B. Bulloch
Danice B. Bulloch, CMC
City Recorder



Washington City

Kenneth F. Neilson
Kenneth F. Neilson, Mayor

