

**ST GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan T. Pike
Councilmember Gil Almquist
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall
Councilmember Joe Bowcutt
Councilmember Bette Arial
City Manager Gary Esplin
City Attorney Shawn Guzman
Deputy City Recorder Annette Hansen

SITE TOURS:

Tonaquint Data Center located at 1108 West 1600 South Unit D

Councilmembers were taken on a secured tour of the Tonaquint Data Center by staff where they explained the operation and functioning of their facility. The Tonaquint Data Center is the only Tier III data center between Salt Lake and Las Vegas, housing computer data for many businesses including several Fortune 500 companies.

All Abilities Park and Cemetery Cremation Gardens and new access road to Tonaquint Cemetery located at 1851 South Dixie Drive

Councilmembers met at the proposed All Abilities Park site adjacent to the Tonaquint Cemetery where City Manager Gary Esplin specified where the planned park would be situated as well as where the area for the cemetery's Cremation Gardens would be located. He also indicated where the access road into the cemetery to improve traffic concerns there.

Councilmembers then met back at the City Offices Administrative Conference Room.

OPENING:

Councilmember Gil Almquist welcomed all those who were in attendance and called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was offered by Councilmember Gil Almquist, the invocation was offered by Bishop Eric Wilkinson from the St. George Green Valley Stake.

Mayor Pike arrived.

Discussion on Suntran Bus Stop Route Change to Include Doctor Volunteer Clinic – Cameron Cutler

Transportation Services Manager Cameron Cutler presented the Council with three different options for altering the current bus route to include a stop near the Doctor's Volunteer Clinic on Riverside Drive. Council discussed the different options at length and the impact for eliminating selected bus stops on 900 S in order to do this. Council inquired about the possibility of a different route North on Riverside Dr. and Mr. Cutler stated that he would run the route suggested to check for time and ease of use for the driver then return to Council with the results and further discussion. It was mentioned that although certain stops may be eliminated, ridership would almost certainly increase due to the greater need for a stop near the Doctor's Volunteer Clinic.

Consider Approval of the Sewer System Management Plan – Scott Taylor

Wastewater Supervisor Scott Taylor presented Councilmembers with the completed Wastewater Management Plan for review and approval as required by the state. He explained that the plan provides guidelines and maintenance standards for the prevention and handling of possible sewer system overflow. Major contributing factors and causes for possible overflow were discussed along with flooding issues and contractor negligence which has been a factor in recent overflow issues. Council discussed flooding and other wastewater issues with Mr. Taylor at length.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Bette Arial to approve the Wastewater System Management Plan as presented.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gil Almquist.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Almquist – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

City Manager Gary Esplin commended Mr. Taylor and his staff for handling so quickly and efficiently recent issues with flooding and specifically the sinkhole on Sunset where his crews worked diligently around the clock to fix the problem and help alleviate traffic issues. Mayor and Councilmembers also thanked Mr. Taylor and his staff for their diligence and productivity in keeping the City's system running effectively.

Report on Status of SwitchPoint – Matt Loo

Community Development Director Matt Loo introduced SwitchPoint Facility Executive Director Carol Hollowell and she addressed the Council with updates in regards to the newly opened SwitchPoint homeless shelter and resource center. Ms. Hollowell noted that there is a grand opening scheduled for October 16th and encouraged all to attend this event. She explained that since they opened August 29th they have averaged 68 clients a day, placed 9 clients in permanent housing, 23 have found employment and 5 have been reunited with family. She also presented funds/grants that have been secured through private, federal and state sources totaling an estimated \$2,407,000.00. Ms. Hollowell then elaborated on meetings with various state department heads that toured the facility and noted that these leaders were impressed with the shelters concept and commended them for their vision in helping the homeless population on improving their situations and helping to provide a more stable environment in which to live. Expenditures were discussed along with estimated donations of time and materials to get the shelter up and running. Volunteer opportunities were also discussed at length along with police support and presence at the facility. Ms. Hollowell also gave several examples of clients whose lives have been significantly improved due to the diligence and relationship building of staff and the programs that they help provide. Mayor Pike expressed his deep appreciation to City Manager Gary Esplin, Community Development Director Matt Loo, and Ms. Hollowell for their exemplary dedication and countless hours in

helping to make this concept a reality for the City and commended their enthusiasm and determination in making it an ideal program for the less fortunate within the city.

Presentation on All Abilities Park Plan – Kent Perkins

City Manager Gary Esplin introduced the concept of the All Abilities Park which Council has been discussing for quite some time and has been approved for within the current year budget. The initial concept plan that was drawn up by City Park Planners was presented to the Council where they explained that they had taken input from a public meeting they held which included a variety of disabled groups. These groups voted on a concept theme and recreational objects they desired to see included in the park. Given the overall feedback on this, they came up with the theme of “Dinosaurs in a Desert Oasis” with the desired elements of a train, water features, sensory garden and specifically designed play equipment for the disabled children. Cost estimate for the three phases along with potential future enhancements of the park were presented to the Council and discussed at length. Revenue sources were discussed along with potential sources for additional funding through donations and other community volunteer contributions. Council discussed current budget options and it was determined that there was sufficient amount budgeted for phase 1 of the park which included all grading, utilities, groundwork, parking lot, retaining walls, playground equipment and furnishings, park entry feature and fencing. Council also discussed cost of other phases as well as additional costs for park maintenance. Train operation schedule, maintenance and cost and revenue issues were also discussed. Councilmembers applauded staff on their concept and design of the park and expressed their desire to move forward with the design and engineering as well as bidding of the park project.

Councilmember Reports:

Councilmember Jimmie Hughes: reported on the Animal Shelter Board Meeting he attended on Tuesday the 23rd as well as a meeting he attended with the St. George Housing Authority.

Councilmember Gil Almquist: reported on mosquito abatement and noted that the flood control board cancelled their meeting. He mentioned that the Dinosaur Museum was moving forward with their plans for improvements there.

Councilmember Michele Randall: reported on the planned Veterans Day parade to be held in Washington City this year. She also reported on the Shade Tree Board meeting.

Councilmember Bette Arial: reported on the Art Museum fund raiser and the Arts Council, as well as the Children’s Museum.

Mayor Pike: mentioned he had a productive and informative meeting with Dixie Care and Share as well as a meeting with Washington County School District in regards to the Dixie Sun Bowl.

Assistant City Manager Marc Mortensen: addressed the Council in regards to updating the audio and visual capabilities in the Council chambers. City IT Director James Duckett presented options he researched to the Council to address current issues such as audio system feedback and computer malfunctions due to overheating. Options such as a new podium and projector screens were discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

- MOTION:** A motion was made by Councilmember Gil Almquist to proceed into the closed session portion of the meeting to discuss property sale.
- SECOND:** The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jimmie Hughes.
- VOTE:** Mayor Pike called for a vote, as follows:
Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Almquist – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

RECONVENE AND ADJOURN

- MOTION:** A motion was made by Councilmember Jimmie Hughes to reconvene and adjourn.
- SECOND:** The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gil Almquist.
- VOTE:** Mayor Pike called for a vote, as follows:
Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Almquist – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Council meeting was then adjourned at 9:43 pm.