



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Brett Hales	Council Member
D. Blair Camp	Council Member
Dave Nicponski	Council Member

Excused

Jim Brass	Council Member
Diane Turner	Council Member

Others in Attendance:

Frank Nakamura	Attorney	Ted Eyre	Mayor
Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator	Tim Tingey	ADS Director
Jennifer Kennedy	Recorder	George Katz	Resident
Jan Wells	Chief Administrative Officer	Sally Hoffelmeyer- Katz	Resident

Chairman Hales called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He excused Mr. Brass and Ms. Turner that were absent.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hales asked for approval on the minutes from October 7, 2014. Mr. Camp moved approval. Mr. Nicponski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business Item #1

Utah League of Cities & Towns (ULCT) Transportation Resolution- Jan Wells

Chairman Hales welcomed Ms. Wells. Ms. Wells stated that this issue has morphed into two different resolutions that the League is supporting. The first resolution would be on the Council Meeting agenda for November 18th and the second one would most likely be

on the agenda for December 2nd. Ms. Wells said she just received this information from Ken Bullock and Lane Beattie.

There has been a Utah Transportation Coalition created, that involves the Utah League, UAC (Utah Association of Counties), and the Salt Lake Chamber. The focus of this group is to think of transportation in a broader fashion, rather than just thinking about roads. They would like to think of transportation as bike paths, trails, sidewalks, and mass transit also. They want this coalition to be the impetus for a new vision for transportation that includes all aspects of transportation, including air quality.

A communications campaign would be rolled out to the general public to get the support needed for the elected officials to bring a plan to the Utah Legislature. The plan is to fund the Unified Transportation Plan statewide. The amount needed for the statewide plan from now until 2040, is about \$3 billion. The legislature will be asked to help with the funding.

All of the cities in the state are being asked to sign an interlocal agreement to join the coalition. A tool kit would be provided, which would include information for inserts in utility bills, online support or other methods to get information to the residents. The goal is to show residents that the City supports this idea of a more global transportation issue. Each of the cities would be asked to support financially also. Murray has been asked to give \$2,000. Ms. Wells added that most of this initiative is being funded by private dollars to help create a coordinated communication plan. Businesses and other organizations have contributed but they would like the cities to contribute; so that the cities have an investment in the game, are active participants, and are full partners. This would be the resolution brought to the Council on December 2nd. She added that it is a one-time expense so the funding could come from non-departmental or reserves.

The next resolution, which is more specifically from ULCT, would be on the agenda for November 18th. This is simply an explanation of a funding strategy to deal with all the different modes of transportation. There is a plan to raise the \$3 billion needed by 2040. She stated that everyone is aware of the conditions of the roads and the difficulty of finding the necessary funding to help with the road needs in Murray.

Funding for roads comes from Class B and Class C funds, which is about \$1.3 million annually. Murray City augments that amount with money from the General Fund. Mr. Nicponksi asked the amount that comes from the General Fund. Ms. Wells replied that it depends on the year and the needs. She noted that it has ranged from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million.

The League and this Coalition would like to ask the legislature for a local option of ¼ cent sales tax statewide. She added that UTA (Utah Transit Authority) has ½ cent tax currently and would like an additional ¼ cent. The local option is a different tool for the cities and they would be responsible for selling it to the residents.

The League would also like to ask the legislature to expand the use of the funds to include bike lanes, trails and sidewalks, as well as road projects.

ULCT wants to ask for an increase in the gas tax also. The gas tax hasn't been increased since 1996, and that is where the Class B & C funds come from. Every year

those amounts shrink due to inflation. They would like the gas tax increased by ten cents a gallon, and also to include an inflation index for the future.

Mr. Nicponski clarified that money is contributed from the General Fund, as well as Class C road funds, but asked about funds that come from a bill that Brad Dee sponsored. Ms. Wells said those funds would be a third source, but it is an unpredictable source. She said that those are not guaranteed every other year and much of it depends on the needs and also the lobbyist. Murray has received funds from this source but on a very limited basis. He asked if there was any hint of a bill coming to the legislature this year. Ms. Wells replied that there is usually a bill, but it is a special interest topic and you have to be in the right place in line.

Mr. Nicponski commented on an earlier presentation this year by Jerry Rechtenbach. It showed the dire needs and costs of maintaining and improving roads. He asked if Ms. Wells could obtain that presentation and possibly show it to the Council. He noted that it was a real eye opener. Ms. Wells believes it is actually a league presentation and she would find it for the Council.

Ms. Wells added that the State has many sources of funding for roads, such as a STIP (State Transportation Improvement Plan), but that only covers state roads, not local roads. If Murray needed repairs, it goes through the STIP process and could take years for the project to move up the list.

The Unified Transportation Plan has a different scope; much broader in identifying future needs as well as involving trails, paths and sidewalks. It has the potential of uniting the citizens of Utah in transportation needs. The Council has recently heard from the bike community, but there are so many other transportation needs and wants, she added.

Mayor Eyre said this is an attempt to get buy-in from the cities. He added that the City is getting less and less gas tax by doing exactly what the state has requested, such as driving fuel efficient cars, hybrids and electric. As a result of the reduced gas tax funds, the City is using more and more funds from the General Fund.

Mayor Eyre asked Mr. Nicponski about legislative momentum and how certain topics seem to take precedence for that year. He said the League feels like this could be the year for transportation to have some momentum. Mr. Nicponski complimented Ms. Wells for her quality presence on the hill and agreed this could be the year from transportation. There is not the fear of an upcoming election to influence others.

Mr. Camp added that many of the presentations in his Association of Municipal Council meetings have been about transportation also, and believes this could be good timing. He added that is probably the topic of most of his major complaints and calls from citizens. Mr. Nicponski agreed and said that most road complaints are valid.

Mr. Camp asked about the resolution itself, and commented that it was lengthy and some of the bullet points seem redundant. Ms. Wells said the resolution came from the League but was adapted for Murray. Some adjustments were made but she added that she would be happy to review the resolution again. Mr. Nakamura agreed that it is lengthy and has some intent language included but believes that the copy Mr. Camp has is not the finished product.

Chairman Hales thanked Ms. Wells for her presentation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Council Office Administrator II
Kellie Challburg