

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORK MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2015, 8:00 A.M.
DIXIE CONVENTION CENTER, ENTRADA ROOM**

PRESENT:

**Mayor Jon Pike
Councilmember Almquist
Councilmember Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall
Councilmember Joe Bowcutt
Councilmember Bette Arial
City Manager Gary Esplin
City Attorney Shawn Guzman
City Recorder Christina Fernandez**

OPENING:

Mayor Pike called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Pike and the invocation was led by Carmella Fitzpatrick with the Unity Center of Positive Living.

DISCUSSION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 BUDGET:

City Manager Gary Esplin presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: General Fund Revenues Budget Fiscal Year 2015; Comparison of Revenues for 1st Seven Months (July – January) Fiscal Years 2013, 2014, and 2015; Sales Tax Distribution Diagram; Annual Comparison of 1% Direct Point of Sales Tax Revenues by Quarter for 2009 to 2014 (Adjusted for Lag); Monthly Average Sales Tax Remittance by Industry Fiscal Year 2007, and 2011 to 2015; Dept./Box Stores – Local Tax Remittance by Month 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); Retail, Fast Food & Restaurants – Local Tax Remittance by Month 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); Hotels & Motels – Local Tax Remittance by Month - 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); New Car Sales - Local Tax Remittance by Month 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); Furniture Sales - Local Tax Remittance by Month - 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); Lumber, Steel, Electrical, Plumbing Wholesale – Local Tax Remittance by Month – 5-Year Comparison by Calendar Year (2008 to 2011 Not Shown); 2014 Property Tax Distribution St. George District (Tax Rate is .011588); Property Tax Rate Distribution Comparison (St. George District) Tax Year 2005 to 2014; Number of Building Permits Issued by Category Comparison of January through December 2009 to 2014; Value (in \$Millions) of Building Permits Issued by Category Comparison of January through December 2009 to 2014; General Fund Expenditures Budget Fiscal Year 2015. He explained that until a few years ago, state law mandated that only 18% of revenues in the General Fund could be held in reserve; currently, it is 25%. The City has historically transferred unallocated funds into the Capital Project fund. He also explained that if needed, a budget opening is done to transfer the funds to another account. He continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: 2014-15 General Fund Expense Budget – Percentage Allocation; General Fund – Top 10 Revenue Sources to Total Salaries & Benefits; General Fund – Distribution of Personnel, Materials & Supplies, Capital Outlays, and Transfers Expenses for Fiscal Years 2007 to 2015; General Fund – Salaries & Benefits History; City of St. George General Overview of Fund Resources and Functions; and Annual Challenges.

Councilmember Arial inquired about the City's obligation to the Dinosaur Museum.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that the City owns the building; however, the City contracts with them to run the facility. All of the revenues go to them as well.

Councilmember Hughes inquired about moving golf into the General Fund. How does the City keep track of what the gap is there?

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that staff is monitoring that. The trends are good. There is a gap; however, actual revenues are up. There are thirteen golf courses in the County. Essentially, there is significant competition between the courses June through October, which is a challenge. He commented that City golf courses are in better condition than they have ever been.

Administrative Services Manager Deanna Brklacich presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Administrative Services Department Organizational Chart; Fiscal Year 2014 Percentage for Each Payment Method; Utility Payment Method – Volume and Type Over 5 Years; Utility Payment – Trend by Method of Payment Over 5 Years; Utility E-bills – First 18 Months; Other Stats; and Department Goals.

Mayor Pike commented that some of the boards he sits on have discussed investment strategy; most money has to be invested with the State. He asked if the City has had similar discussion.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that there have been discussions on this issue previously. Staff will be looking into other investment tools that other cities are exploring. There is approximately \$85 million that are not operating dollars. Staff has always been very conservative.

Ms. Brklacich explained that the State Money Management Act is a law the City has to follow.

Human Resources Director Judith Mayfield presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Human Resources Department; Opportunities; Compensation Program; Determining Job Position Range; HRIS; Employee Classification; Performance Appraisal Program – December 1, 2002 through November 30, 2009; Performance Appraisal Program – December 1, 2009 to current; Training & Development – 2014; and HR Policies & Procedures.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Legal Services 2014; Legal Services – Organization Chart; and Diana Hamblin Paralegal/Legal Services Secretary.

Diana Hamblin introduced herself and spoke about what she does for the department.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: 2014 Numbers; Number of Criminal Cases Filed By The City in 2014; Number of Cases Handled By The Washington County Justice Court in 2014; Justice Court – Total Caseload Comps; Number of Cases Exceeding Target Dates; Court Dates; Robert Cosson Chief Prosecuting Attorney 7 Years; Cassandra Warren Office Manager/Legal Secretary; and Legal Secretaries.

Cassandra Warren introduced herself and spoke about what she does for the department.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Claims 2014; Number of Claims in 2014; Liability Claims 2010 - 2014; 80 - Number of Worker's Compensation Claims in 2014; Worker's Compensation Claims 2011-2014; Annette Johnson Claims Manager; and Duties.

Annette Johnson introduced herself and spoke about what she does for the department.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Civil Matters; Paula Houston Deputy City Attorney; Victoria Hales Assistant City Attorney; and Departments.

Victoria Hales introduced herself and spoke about what she does for the department.

Paula Houston introduced herself and spoke about what she does for the department.

City Attorney Shawn Guzman continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: City Attorney Departments; Challenges; 11+1 Number of Incredible, Dedicated Staff in Legal Services; and Wish List.

Economic and Housing Development Director Matt Loo presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Economic & Housing Development; Top 25 Cleanest U. S. Cities for Year-round Particle Pollution; Business Licensing; Golf Division; SwitchPoint; Friends of SwitchPoint; Updates For First 4 Months; and It's About the 65%.

Councilmember Randall asked Mr. Loo if the police substation at SwitchPoint is setup and if it helps.

Mr. Loo explained that it is open and helps greatly. Sergeant Cowan is stationed there full time.

Councilmember Hughes asked what SwitchPoint's relationship is with the Dixie Care & Share.

Mr. Loo explained that the Dixie Care & Share has moved into a different business model. They will call it Welcome Homes; it will be a transitional housing model. He is involved with their committee and meets with them monthly.

Support Services Manager Marc Mortensen presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Support Services; Fleet Services; Fleet Facts; Vehicles in Fleet & Fleet Value (Current Cash Value); Fuel Costs; Work Orders/Repair Costs; Biggest Challenges; Technology Services; Work Orders; Ticket Allocations; 2014-2015 Accomplishments; Cityworks; SGCityAppInternal; Upcoming Projects; Facility Services; 2014-2015 Accomplishments; Roof Repairs; Upcoming Projects; and Public Information.

Mayor Pike called for a 15 minute recess.

Water Services Director Scott Taylor presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: City of St. George Water Services Department February 2015; 2014 Water Services Department Summary; 2014 Water Services Department Projects; Stone Cliffs Water Tank Project; Lagoon Sewer Lift Station Replacement & Clay Sewer Pipe Repair; Mainline Break Repair; Concerns and Challenges; Aging Infrastructure; Nutrient Removal: Wastewater Treatment Plant; Wastewater Challenges: Nutrient Removal; Arsenic Treatment: Water Source; Gunlock Well Field Arsenic Removal; and Capital Improvement Projects 2015 - 2025.

Councilmember Hughes asked what kind of a plan staff has for aging pipeline.

Mr. Taylor explained that staff will be doing an in-depth study for the next ten years. Cityworks has been a great tool. With Cityworks, staff can pin point where a break occurred and produce an asset management plan. He stated that the downtown section needs to be replaced. Infrastructure is looked at each year; however, there may need to be better planning for the future.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that in the past, the Water Department has been operated on a thin margin. The City is now building reserve funds and getting to the point to where more money can be put into infrastructure.

Councilmember Almquist asked how many millions of gallons of reclaimed water are used a day.

Mr. Taylor stated that the plant can produce approximately 7.5 million gallons a day. He explained that the biggest problem is that inflow to the plant fluctuates throughout the day.

Councilmember Randall asked how water levels are going to be this summer.

Mr. Taylor stated that culinary drinking water will be fine; however, farmers will suffer. There was a call on the water rights last year. Any water rights after 1897 were not allowed to be used. Every year, everyone's allotment is established.

City Manager Gary Esplin commented that City parks and golf courses use reuse water from the Virgin River. There may be a problem with this water source in the Bloomington Hills/St. George Golf area.

Mr. Taylor explained that during the summer, residents ask why the City is watering when residents are asked to conserve.

Energy Services Director Laurie Mangum explained that she and James Van Fleet purchased natural gas at a low cost from BP. She showed a video and presented a PowerPoint Presentation covering the following topics: Energy Services Focus Education and Efficiencies; Opportunities Transmission Pole Inspections; These Savings Can Be Used on Labor Intense Projects Such as; Another Use of the Savings is Education with Rene Fleming Workshops Include: For Homeowners, Contractors and Employees; Challenges Costs Associated With the Net Metering Program; Why Roof Top Solar Has Become a Challenge?; Challenges Costs Associated with Reliable Transmission; The Cost

Is Based On Highest Peak Load Whether We Use It or Not; On a Good Note Natural Gas Prices; Future Resources; Did You Know Ryan Bowler (a Journeyman Lineman on staff) Holds Lineman Apprentice Classes Once a Week?; and Did you know Kent Larson (a Journeyman Lineman on Staff) Is the Only Utility Worker in the State That Refurbishes Streetlight Fixtures.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE CITY'S FIVE YEAR PLANNING:

Mayor Pike invited the public in the audience to comment on the City's Five Strategic Planning.

Paul Bevans, Washington City resident, stated that what the City does affects the rest of the County. After the meeting last night it is self explanatory.

Mayor Pike mentioned an email he received asking the City to expand activities for young adults. He will follow up with student who sent the email.

Public Works Director Cameron Cutler updated the Council on the Sunset/Bluff Interchange. He then presented a PowerPoint Presentation covering the following topics: Public Works Department State of Affairs; Airport Operations; Current Flights; Passenger Activity; SunTran Operations; Transit Ridership; Route Challenge; Development; Building Inspections; Building Permits; New Development/Planning & Zoning; Engineering; Drainage Repair; City Traffic Signals; Streets Division; Streets; Roadway Construction; Drainage Capital Projects; Transportation Projects; and Teamwork.

Mayor Pike asked Mr. Cutler to update the Council on the River Road widening project.

Mr. Cutler stated that River Road is under design currently. It will be widened to five lanes from Brigham Road to 2450 South. Additionally, half of the Ft. Pearce Wash Bridge will be done and a stop light will be installed at Horseman's Park. The construction schedule is anticipated to be approximately four months. He mentioned other locations that may need stop lights in the next two or three years and explained that each signal costs approximately \$200,000.

Councilmember Almquist asked Mr. Cutler if he saw the petroglyph assessment with regard to the Indian Hills Drive Improvement Project.

Mr. Cutler replied yes, he received an email. A few things may have to be reassessed.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that this is a State contract and that they will have to meet the standards. He stated that it is important to look at getting Commerce Drive across the River.

Mr. Cutler stated that he met with Western Rock. There is an issue with the location of the easement.

Councilmember Almquist left the meeting.

Police Chief Marlon Stratton presented a PowerPoint Presentation covering the following topics: St. George Police Department; Our Mission; Department Leadership; Patrol

Division; Patrol; Patrol K9; Investigations Division; Detectives; Fraudulent Identity & Security Threats; Washington County Area Drug Task Force; Drug Task Force in 2014; Victim Services; Victim Services has assisted; Administrative Services Division; and Special Enforcement Division.

Mayor Pike mentioned that he met with the Legislatures regarding phone usage while driving. There is a position against that bill.

Chief Stratton continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: photos of the officers; Communications Division; How are We Doing?; Total Incidents; Sex Offenses; Prostitution/Lewdness; Controlled Substance; Burglary; Suicide; Fraud; Robbery; Assault; Criminal Mischief; Theft; Death (Attended/Unattended); Homicide/Attempted Homicide; Traffic Accidents; Citizens Academy; Coplogic; Coplogic Future; Volunteers in Public Safety 2014; VIPS 2015 Stats; Project Lifesaver; Everbridge Notification System; Everbridge Fees; Washington County Citizen Alert; and It is all about quality of life!

Fire Chief Robert Stoker presented a PowerPoint Presentation covering the following topics: Mission Statement; Fire Department Challenges/Projects; Staffing; Organizational Chart; Infrastructure; Fire Response Areas; Fulltime Engine Companies; and Apparatus/Fleet.

City Manager Gary Esplin stated that fire impact fees can only be used for building stations or can be used to purchase a fire truck if it is over \$1 million.

Chief Stoker continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Capital Projects 2015 – 2016; Incident Response & Per Day; Firehouse Sub Grant Award; Training Programs; Southwest Regional Response Team; Emergency Management; City Wide AED Placement; Assisting Other City Departments; and Fire Prevention.

Leisure Services Director Kent Perkins presented a PowerPoint Presentation covering the following topics: Leisure Services A Year in Review; National Gold Medal Finalist; Administration; Fund Raising Packet; City Commons; St. George Art Festival; St. George Marathon; Marathon Survey and Analysis; Marathon Marketing Plan; Intermountain Race Management Roundtable; Reorganize Recreation Division; I Am Able Program; Move It!; Community Arts; Electric Theater; Survey; St. George Musical Theater; Establishment of the Red Cliff Gallery in the City Commons Building; Production/Involvement in City Events & Programs; Challenges/Opportunities; Dixie Center; Maintenance/Facilities Upgrades; Economic Impact; Challenges/Opportunities; Recreation; Facilities; Races; Events; The Flying Fish; Tennis/Pickleball; Programs; Youth Sports; Challenges/Opportunities; Parks & Cemeteries; FY2015 Accomplishments; Kept all parks, rights of way & round-a-bouts... Shade Tree Maintenance; Dixie Center Re-Landscaped; Cremation Garden and Wall; Sunbowl Grass; Horseshoe Pits to JC Snow Park; Special Events; Geographic Information Systems & City Works; What is GIS?; How Does Parks Use GIS?; 2014: What have we accomplished?; Future GIS Applications; Challenges; GIS, Asset Tracking & The Warehouse; Challenges/Opportunities; Park Planning; FY2015 Project List (Budgeted Items); Tabernacle Roundabout; Tonaquint Roundabout; Pioneer Part Restroom; Hela Seegmiller Farm – Phase I; Royal Oaks Park – Phase 2; sand Hollow wash Crossing & Trail Extension; Tonaquint Nature Center Grading & Revegetation; Bloomington Park Pickleball Courts & Lights; Special Projects – Designed & Supervised;

Red Hills Garden; Middleton Wash Trail Repairs; Tonaquint Cremation Garden; Elks Field Relocation; Electric Theater; SwitchPoint Resource Center; Christensen Park Restroom & Paring Lot; Silkwood Park; All Abilities Park; Millcreek Park; Utah State Parks & Recreation; Park Sign Replacement; Trail Wayfinding Signs; Utah State Parks & Recreation; Web Hill Trailhead; Virgin River Trail (River Road to Springs Park); St. James Park Improvements; Brigham Road Detention Basin Park; Sand Hollow Wash Park; Sandstone Quarry Trailhead (Owens Loop Trail); Crosby Way Parkway – Landscape Area; SunTran Transit Center Restroom; RAP Tax Projects; Current Project Completion Dates; Park Impact Masterplan; Challenges/Opportunities; and Capital Needs.

Councilmember Arial left the meeting.

Mayor Pike commented that he would like to connect the bike trail in some areas.

The meeting then adjourned.

Christina Fernandez, City Recorder