

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORK MEETING
APRIL 30, 2015, 4:00 P.M.
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE NEAR THE DIXIE CENTER**

PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED:

Councilmember Gil Almquist

TOUR THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE:

Greg Woodall, as well as, members of the Dixie Archeology Society and the Washington County Historic Society took the Council on a tour of an archeological site near Confluence Park.

The Council returned to City offices for the remainder of the meeting.

OPENING:

Mayor Pike called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Rosalie Spaulding and the invocation was led by Reverend Alex Wilkie.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE WATER WASTE ORDINANCE:

City Manager Gary Esplin stated that staff would like to discuss a proposed water waste ordinance. The annual water conservation action will be requested in the near future.

Mayor Pike mentioned that the employee art show begins tomorrow at the City Commons Building. Additionally, he mentioned that next Thursday is the Interfaith Council's National Day of Prayer at the Gardner Center.

Water & Energy Conservation Coordinator Rene Fleming mentioned events that will take place during next week's Water Week. There was a water ordinance in 1909, she read that ordinance. She mentioned that there are issues with egregious water wasters. Additionally, she has received a number of calls regarding water waste; she can only ask the user to repair the issue. Firefighting and water applied for dust control would not be considered water waste. Her suggestion is to notify the user of the issue; if not repaired a fine would be imposed. Some users believe that since they pay for the water they can use it as they wish; however, the City has to meet the needs of all users. The proposed ordinance would address water that is standing or

running for 20 minutes or more. She reviewed exceptions and the violation process in the proposed ordinance.

Water Services Director Scott Taylor commented there would be a month and two notifications before a fine is assessed.

Ms. Fleming advised she or a staff member would follow up to see that the issue has been resolved. Fines would be added to the bill and would be subject to the same process as regular utility bills. It is not staff's intent to fine people. She will visit the location when a complaint call is received.

Councilmember Hughes commented that he is worried that staff will be deciding who is wasting water. He asked about those who are wasting other things such as power.

Ms. Fleming stated that a number of cities across the country have water waste ordinances, it is not unusual.

Mayor Pike mentioned that the City may have to look at water rates in the future. He stated that he would let Ms. Fleming know if the Council would like to move forward.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING OPERATIONS AND POLICIES FOR THE ELECTRIC THEATER AND RELATED BUILDINGS:

City Manager Gary Esplin commented that as the renovation of the Electric Theater nears completion, staff feels it is the right time to discuss operations and policies.

Community Arts/Exhibits Administrator Gary Sanders mentioned a needs assessment that was performed by Duncan Webb. He and Leisure Services Director Kent Perkins presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: City of St. George Arts District and the Electric Theater; 2013 Needs Assessment – Cultural District; The Arts District; Goals and Objectives of the District; Proposed Role of the City; A Map of the Arts District; Duncan Facility Recommendations; Repurposed Facilities; A Photo of the Original Electric Theater; Soon to be Finished; Main Floor Plan; First Floor; Upper Floor Plan; 2nd Floor; Lower Floor Plan; Lower Level; Proposed Mission Statement; Goals; Support the Arts; Survey Process and Results; Sample Survey Question; City Function; Structure; Revenue Sources; RAP Tax Distribution Idea; Sustainability Fees/RAP Tax; and Recommended Fees.

Councilmember Arial asked if a similar fee structure can be applied to other City venues in the Arts District.

Mayor Pike explained historically, the City has tried to not compete with private venues.

Mr. Perkins continued with the PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Hours of Operation; Who Can Use The Space?; Resident Partner Application; Possible Visual Arts Partners; Programming; and Calendar.

The Councilmembers like the proposal.

Councilmember Bowcutt commented that he is concerned about staffing.

Mr. Perkins explained that with regards to staffing, three options were presented when the budget was submitted. Currently, there are 52 part time hours a week of technical support in the budget. If they have to add a lot of technical support, they can add two positions and possibly make the position full time. A technician would be present during every event held at the theater area. Once the project is complete, staff would like to have a soft opening and then a grandiose grand opening.

Citizen Paul Jensen stated that this is the first time they heard this presentation. He asked how the arts groups will be involved, what can they do? The Arts Guild would need to meet to decide how they can be involved.

Mayor Pike explained that there is display and studio space available for rent. Visual art show and workshops can be held. How they can be involved can be defined with their help.

Citizen Bobbi Wan-Kier thanked the Council for doing this. She will be working with Alisha Burton and Gary Sanders to see what the City wants to do the third weekend of every month as a St. George art and studio tour. They are looking at marketing this very thing.

Mr. Perkins commented that each anchor needs to promote the other. He mentioned shows that have been at the Red Cliff Gallery in the City Commons. This is an incredible opportunity for the arts community to build and strengthen.

Mr. Jensen added if this is done right, St. George can become an arts destination.

Citizen Ed Baca asked if there will be a formula for waiving fees.

Mr. Perkins replied that he does not at this time. He will return with a recommendation.

City Manager Gary Esplin mentioned the City has a great collection of stored art. He thought that a portion of the facility should be set aside to the display these pieces.

Councilmember Arial commented that she believes the Social Hall should have art displays as well.

City Manager Gary Esplin advised that staff will need to look at protecting the paintings as the lighting would have to be just right. He mentioned that organizations may want to do fundraisers in the theater as well. There is enough space to do that.

Duncan Webb's study validated what the City has been working on for the last 30 years.

REPORT FROM MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Hughes mentioned that the Animal Shelter Board met this week. There are some issues with Best Friends taking the animals; however, the animal advocacy groups are helping out. He understands that the County has started conceptual plans for a shelter. The Homeless Coordinating Council met recently – things are going well. He attended the budget hearing for the St. George Housing Authority.

Councilmember Bowcutt commented that he sees a trend with the Planning Commission. Staff gives recommendations; however the applicants do not follow them. At the meeting last Tuesday, two items were not ready because the applicant did not want to do what staff suggested.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that staff could hold the application until they meet requirements; however, the applicant can go to the elected officials and say that staff is holding up their project.

Councilmember Randall had no updates.

Councilmember Arial reported that she mentioned to the Children's Museum that there may be fees.

Support Services Manager Marc Mortensen stated that staff received bids for the restrooms at a cost of \$64,000. The original bid was approximately \$79,000.

Councilmember Arial mentioned the Children's Justice Center Peace Garden event. She believes they should have some children's statues. Additionally, she believes that there should be sculptures at the Dixie Center.

Mayor Pike mentioned that last Saturday he attended the Arbor Day Celebration, the Cancer Relay for Life Breakfast and a rugby game held at the Sunbowl.

City Manager Gary Esplin updated the Council on the sale of the property adjacent to the Sunbowl to the Washington County School District.

Mayor Pike read a letter he received thanking Wastewater employee Jason Crow for assisting them during a sewer line break. He mentioned that Support Services Manager Marc Mortensen is working on a video to show what employees do for the City. Utah League of Cities and Towns will show the video at its conference in September.

Citizen Ed Baca commented that he has been asked by citizens if there is an update on the dog park in Millcreek.

City Manager Gary Esplin commented that the woman asked that it be at the 2450 East Park. The Council will have to decide if it fits in the priorities. He believes it will be brought up in public hearings during the budget process.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to adjourn to a closed session to discuss potential property purchase.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Arial.

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

Councilmember Hughes - aye
Councilmember Randall - aye
Councilmember Bowcutt - aye
Councilmember Arial - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned following the closed session.