
Minutes
Workshop Meeting
July 12, 2016

Present: Mayor Kenneth Neilson, Council Members Troy Belliston, Kolene Granger, Garth Nisson, Thad Seegmiller, Jeff Turek, City Manager Roger City, City Recorder Danice Bulloch, Deputy Recorder Tara Pentz, Public Works Director Mike Shaw, Police Chief Jim Keith, Power Director Kelly Carlson, Administrative Services Manager Kimberly Ruesch, Audience: Russ Owens, Jamie Young

Meeting commenced at 6:00 P.M.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

Council Member Seegmiller made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Turek seconded the motion; which passed with the following roll call vote:

*Council Member Belliston Aye
Council Member Granger Aye
Council Member Nisson Aye
Council Member Seegmiller Aye
Council Member Turek Aye*

2. Review of the board audit report.

Administrative Services Manager Kimberly Ruesch reviewed the Board Audit report with Council.

**3. Discussion and review of applicants for the Rap Tax distribution, applications are:
Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park - Days of 47 Dixie - Brigham's Playhouse**

Jamie Young reviewed his request for Rap Tax money for Brigham's Playhouse. Their previous request was for \$65,000, and they did receive \$40,000. At the time, Council suggesting coming back in 6 months to make an additional request. He is now requesting the remaining \$25,000 to assist in the funding for their play productions. They have not been able to obtain their 501C-3 at this point, however, they do still have in place their pass through lender, which is allowed by the State.

Council Member Belliston commented his biggest concern is having the money be distributed to other entities because Brigham's Playhouse is not a 501C-3.

Council Member Granger asked how much the Artistic Association is charging to collect the funds through their 501C-3.

Mr. Young stated the association he is working with charges a 7% fee. He stated he is working to make Brigham's Playhouse self reliant, and hopes to be able to give back to the community in the future.

Council Member Turek stated he does not see how the "Days of 47 Dixie" fits in recreation, arts, or parks. He is concerned not only of the legality, but also opening the box to allow anyone to come and request money, which does not fit the guidelines.

Mayor Neilson explained there has been some changes to the original program with the Osmonds. The fireworks display will still be held in Washington City.

Council Member Belliston stated if the event is held in Washington City, we could at least show it is a recreation event in Washington City.

Council Member Turek stated he looks at RAP Tax money as a long term art or recreation not a one time event.

Council Member Seegmiller commented the RAP Tax intent was to bring things, which are not already hear. This is an event that has been part of our community for years.

Council Member Turek explained the history of the 24th of July Event. He also feels the individuals making the request came in to take over the event from the LDS Church, and are now asking for money to run the event.

Council Member Granger stated she feels the RAP Tax should be promoted, so we get more applicants who would be requesting the funds to be used for what it is intended.

Council Member Seegmiller asked the current balance of the RAP Tax Funds.

City Manager Carter reviewed the RAT Tax information with Council.

Administrative Services Manager Kimberly Ruesch reviewed the State Code on the RAP Tax funds.

City Manager Carter stated he feels the Southern Utah Sports Park technically falls under the publicly owned portion of the State Code requirement. He will have Staff review the Interlocal Agreement to verify there are not going to be any issues.

Council Member Turek stated concerned about funding the event that has been diluted over an entire week, rather than just having a fun one day celebration, which used to be a great Washington City family night.

Council Member Seegmiller stated he is still very unclear about what is happening with the “Days of 47” Event.

Council discussed the event in its entirety.

Council Member Seegmiller stated he is at the point he may be willing to provide some funds for the event, but he has questions, and is not willing to give the amount, which has been requested.

Council Member Granger stated there needs to be a committee to review applications and do leg work on these request. Possibly reach out in the community to get ideas on what we want Washington City’s legacy to be.

Council Member Belliston asked if there is any reason why the money has to be spent.

Administrative Services Manager Ruesch stated the money can be saved.

Council Member Belliston stated he would not have a problem holding the funds in an account until a sufficient amount can be saved to support a sizeable project.

City Manager Carter explained the definitions of State Code institutions, which would be eligible for RAP Tax Funds. The Covington Home and the Historical Society clearly fit under the guidelines.

Council Member Turek stated he feels comfortable supporting the Southern Utah Sports Park. There are many residents of Washington City who visit the park.

Council Member Seegmiller commented he appreciates the request from the Sports Park, as they have requested Washington City to help support their expansion.

Council discussed the applicant's requests.

Council Member Seegmiller noted he is uncomfortable with long term funding for Brigham’s Playhouse if they are unable to obtain their own 501C-3 status. He does not want RAP Tax money of 7% to be given wasted on fees.

4. Discussion regarding Telegraph Road and power lines. Public Works Director Mike Shaw / Power Director Kelly Carlson

Public Works Director Mike Shaw stated they have contracted with Landmark Testing to study the area.

Russ Owens with Landmark Testing reviewed the results of the findings of the initial study with Council.

Council Member Granger asked how long is the affected area.

Mr. Owens stated it is approximately 450 feet at the present time. He continued his review of the study and possibly solutions.

Council Member Granger asked if Washington City has access to the land where the repairs would need to be made.

Public Works Director Shaw stated the ground is owned by SITLA, and he has been in discussions with them. However, there are wetlands area, which area going to have to be addressed.

Council Member Belliston asked if there are additional options to discuss.

Mr. Owens stated the two alternatives would be the preferred. However, there are other possibilities if Council would like more investigation to be done.

Council Member Belliston asked if there is a possibility of completely taking out the slide area.

City Manager Carter stated closing Telegraph would sever the community. Telegraph would be completely closed for a couple of months.

Council Member Belliston asked if the project fails, who is responsible for the costs.

Mr. Owens stated he has been talking with the bigger companies, who deal with these slides on a much larger scale on a routine basis.

City Manager Carter commented it is safe to say there would not be a warranty given on the project.

Council Member Belliston asked the location of the water and sewer lines.

Public Works Director Shaw review the locations of those lines on the map.

Mr. Owens stated is could be six to eight months before there is a completed study, and a definite plan, and funding.

Council Member Nisson asked if this would qualify for emergency funds.

Public Works Director Shaw stated he has contacted UDOT and the MPO to try and obtain emergency funding, unfortunately, at this time, they are stating this would not qualify.

Power Director Kelly Carlson reviewed the movement of the steel structure power pole. Since January, the pole has moved six inches to the side, and dropped six inches. The integrity of the structure is completely compromised. He reviewed the replacement costs with Council. The entire cost of the project is going to be approximately \$350,000, but the project will completely remove the existing pole, and span the slide area. The lead time is critical, but the quicker bidder is \$4000 more, but still out 14 weeks on the poles.

Council Member Belliston stated he would feel comfortable paying even more money to decrease the timeline.

City Manager Carter stated Staff is looking for endorsement of the Council to move forward. The official decision would need to be placed on a regular meeting agenda for approval.

Council recommended moving forward as soon as possible.

5. Discussion to propose the naming of the Gazebo in Veteran's Park. Mayor Kenneth Neilson

Mayor Neilson stated he has had suggestions to name the Gazebo after Quinton Nisson. This has always been the location of the Nisson Band.

Council Member Turek commented he feels this would be very appropriate to name the Gazebo after Quinton Nisson, and he would suggest having the new structure completed, and dedicate it to him.

Mayor Neilson also suggested having a statue of Quinton playing a piano in our vacant location where the brass statues stand. He would like Council to consider this for the future.

6. Discussion and review of proposed Vote by Mail for 2017 election year. City Recorder Danice Bulloch

City Recorder Danice Bulloch reviewed the Vote by Mail proposal with Council. Our community has very young families, and many seniors who struggle to get to the poles. The State of Utah is pushing for vote by mail, and in the near future it will most likely be mandatory.

Council Member Turek asked how it would affect Council run elections.

City Recorder Bulloch stated Candidates will start campaign much earlier. The County has the ability to dictate their own election requirements. She believes once the County sees this process is not going to be as cumbersome, they will move to vote by mail as well.

Council Member Granger stated she feels vote by mail will create more of a voice for the citizens.

City Manager Carter stated the data shows the number one increase in voting would be to align national elections with local elections. However, the next option to increase voter turnout is to do vote by mail.

Council Member Nisson asked how the results would be given, and how long it would take for them to come in.

City Recorder Bulloch stated the results would be given on election day same as currently.

Council Member Belliston asked if the cost of the election through the County is the same

regardless of the turnout.

City Recorder Bulloch explained the County cost is a fixed rate, the estimate from us is for every single registered voter to receive a ballot.

Council Member Turek commented he does not feel the County is ever going to be in favor of moving to vote by mail. He is concerned at double the cost, it is not a wise investment.

Council Member Seegmiller stated he feels the right to vote is a privilege, and if you want to vote, you should be able to get up and take yourself to the polling location. A ballot should not be sent to a living room.

Council Member Turek stated he agrees with Council Member Seegmiller.

City Manager Carter explained this entire conversation was driven by our Council, and how to better engage our citizens.

City Recorder Bulloch stated the citizens in the areas who currently vote by mail were apprehensive when they first decided to move to vote by mail. However, after they were given instruction and more information, they have been very please with the ability to receive their ballots and study their candidates prior to mailing back the ballots.

Council Member Belliston stated he would be in favor of moving to vote by mail, if we were to get a higher voter turnout.

Council Member Turek stated he would be in favor, but he feels they should at least be able to pay the return postage.

Council Member Granger stated she would be in favor if the money could be made available in the budget.

7. CLOSED SESSION

A. Discuss purchase, exchange or lease of property.

Council Member Turek made a motion to moved into closed session to discuss purchase, exchange or lease of property. Council Member Granger seconded the motion; which passed with the following roll call vote:

*Council Member Belliston Aye
Council Member Granger Aye
Council Member Nisson Aye
Council Member Seegmiller Aye
Council Member Turek Aye*

Council Members moved into Closed Session at 8:26 P.M.

The Council adjourned the Closed Session and returned to the Regular Meeting at 8:45 P.M.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Belliston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Seegmiller seconded the motion; which passed with the following roll call vote:

*Council Member Belliston Aye
Council Member Granger Aye
Council Member Nisson Aye
Council Member Seegmiller Aye
Council Member Turek Aye*

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Passed and approved this 27th day of July, 2016.



Attest by:

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

Washington City

Kenneth F. Neilson
Kenneth F. Neilson, Mayor

