

CITY OF OREM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
56 North State Street Orem, Utah
February 11, 2020

4:00 P.M. WORK SESSION – CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

CONDUCTING	Mayor Richard F. Brunst
ELECTED OFFICIALS	Jeff Lambson, Debby Lauret, Tom Macdonald, Terry Peterson, and Brent Sumner
APPOINTED STAFF	Jamie Davidson, City Manager; Brenn Bybee, Assistant City Manager; Steven Downs, Deputy City Manager; Greg Stephens, City Attorney; Scott Gurney, Fire Chief; Gary Giles, Police Chief; Ryan Clark, Development Services Director; Charlene Crozier, Library Director; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Department Manager; Brandon Nelson, Finance Department Manager; Karl Hirst, Recreation Department Manager; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder
EXCUSED	Council member David Spencer

DISCUSSION – 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for HUD-funded Programs

Ms. Mathews said a consolidated plan was required every five years, and they were working in collaboration with Provo and Utah County to complete the plan. Dan Gonzalez with Provo and Jessica DeLora with Utah County were present to answer questions. Ms. Mathews provided an update on the collaboration with other entitlements, which included using the same application process, timelines, and deadlines. She reviewed the anticipated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding based on the previous year's amounts, but added that the current Trump administration cut CDBG funding each year only to reinstate it at a later time. They were working with the assumption that the same would happen this year. Discussion ensued regarding the number of applicants seeking funding, CDBG program administration, a survey conducted by Civicus Consulting Group to understand community priorities, and the futsal courts and playground improvements at Geneva Park.

In response to questions from the City Council, Ms. Mathews said that there would be larger projects that would be county-wide but also smaller projects for each entitlement. She reviewed the joint funding process, and shared details about Orem-specific projects. To illustrate the challenge the CDBG Advisory Commission faced in determining funding awards for applicants, Ms. Mathews provided each council member with \$800 in play money and set out large cards with different categories for funding projects. She asked them to distribute their play money to see which projects were deemed a priority.

After calculating the totals, Ms. Mathews shared top priorities under each category:

- Public Services
 - Neighborhood cleanups
- Housing
 - Homeowner assistance
 - Public housing improvements
- Public Improvements
 - Streets
- Economic Development
 - Infrastructure development
 - Commercial and industrial renovation

Ms. Mathews said some of the results with the Council matched results from the survey that was conducted. She would share a more detailed breakdown with the Council once the data was all gathered.

DISCUSSION – Neighborhood Partnership Initiative (NPI) Advisory Board Proposal

Mr. Downs reviewed the history of the City’s neighborhood programs. The Neighborhood Partnership Initiative (NPI) was introduced in 2019 and had seen great results. Communication to neighborhood residents was done through targeted emails, mailings, social media, utility bills, newsletters, and more. He said there were approximately 19,500 Orem residents on the email list. Neighborhood plans had been completed for eight of the nine neighborhood groups, and the final plan was underway.

The Council had questions about the larger neighborhood areas, and whether that may cause “splinter groups” to form within the areas. Mr. Downs said the point was well taken, but it was more administratively manageable to have nine areas rather than 22, and they had decent representation from the areas to create the neighborhood plans. He added that some from existing “splinter groups” had been heavily involved and provided constructive feedback during the planning process. Discussion continued regarding public outreach and opportunities for residents to participate. Mayor Brunst asked that the Council be kept abreast of the program as it moved forward.

Mr. Downs said the proposal was to set up a committee that represented each of the nine neighborhood groups throughout the City. The makeup of the NPI Advisory Council would be one representative from each neighborhood, and officer from the Neighborhood Preservation Unit (NPU) in the Orem Police Department, and two council members that would serve as liaisons. The suggestion was to have members selected through an application and interview process, and then be approved to serve by the City Council to serve a three-year term. Mr. Downs reviewed the criteria they would consider through the application and interview process, and the proposed schedule of meetings.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the NPI Advisory Council. Mr. Downs said he would return with the required language to create and codify the new advisory body at a

future meeting. General discussion ensued regarding NPU and the Administrative Law Judge process for addressing nuisance properties.

Agenda Review & Preview of Upcoming Agenda Items

The City Council discussed the items on the evening's agenda; Mr. Bench provided additional information regarding the scheduled item.

City Council Reports (Boards and Commissions, New Business, Etc.)

Mr. Sumner gave a report on his assignments as a City Council liaison to the Public Works Advisory Commission (PWAC), Library Advisory Commission, the UCCU Board at UVU, and the Historical Preservation Advisory Commission. He said that a recent PWAC meeting had been eye-opening when it came to the dedicated work of Public Works employees, particularly when it came to snow removal and keeping the roads safe in the winter. They were the first to get up in the early morning hours on a cold and snowy day to go out to clear the roads, and often missed holiday time with their families, to ensure that others would be able to travel safely. He said the Library and UCCU Board had not yet had meetings for the year so he had nothing to report. Finally, he said there had been discussion of creating a time capsule in collaboration with the Historical Preservation Commission.

Mayor Brunst provided an update of items currently in discussion in the 2020 State Legislative Session.

Mr. Downs gave an update regarding the Geneva Steel property restoration, and said information had gone out to residents regarding the project. He said the smell had been an issue, but they were working on solutions to mitigate the odor and the State Department was monitoring the cleanup to ensure safety for the public.

Mr. Davidson said they had reached the point in the Orem Fitness Center build project to send out the fourth bid package, which was the largest and most expensive bid package. He said the Fitness Center was trending a lower cost per square foot than they had projected. Weather had been problematic in terms of construction, but they anticipated the work to ramp up as the weather improved.

6:00 P.M. REGULAR SESSION – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CONDUCTING

Mayor Richard F. Brunst

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jeff Lambson, Debby Lauret, Tom Macdonald, Terry Peterson, and Brent Sumner

APPOINTED STAFF

Jamie Davidson, City Manager; Brenn Bybee, Assistant City Manager; Steven Downs, Deputy City Manager; Greg

Stephens, City Attorney; Scott Gurney, Fire Chief; Gary Giles, Police Chief; Ryan Clark, Development Services Director; Charlene Crozier, Library Director; Public Works Director; Brandon Nelson, Finance Department Manager; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Department Manager; Jason Earl, Deputy Fire Chief; Jason Bench, Planning Division Manager; Ernesto Lazalde, IT Division Manager; Pete Wolfley, Communications Specialist; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder

EXCUSED

Council member David Spencer

INVOCATION /

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Heidi Weight

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lynn Weight

MAYOR'S REPORT/ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mayor Brunst reviewed the upcoming events, as listed in the agenda packet.

RECOGNITION – “Medal of Heroism”

Fire Chief Gurney invited Amanda Tuttle-Reynolds and the fire crew that was in attendance to come forward. He asked Deputy Chief Earl to present the “Medal of Heroism” to Ms. Tuttle-Reynolds, explaining that it was the Orem Fire Department’s highest honor given to civilians.

Deputy Chief Earl said on October 12, 2019, a fire started at the Countryside Condominiums in the apartment above Ms. Tuttle-Reynolds well after midnight. Barefoot and in her pajamas, Ms. Tuttle-Reynolds ran door to door, knocking and alerting the other residents to the fire. A recently moved-in single mother and her daughter from China were still in the building on the top floor, struggling to get out. Ms. Tuttle-Reynolds rushed up the stairs amidst the thick, black smoke and assisted them in moving to safety away from the building.

Deputy Chief Earl then presented Ms. Tuttle-Reynolds the “Medal of Heroism” and she, along with the fire crew from that October night, received a standing ovation from the audience.

RECOGNITION – State Champions

Mr. Hirst said it was exciting to recognize not one, but two 5A State Championship teams from high schools in Orem. He said it took years of dedication and many hours of work to become a champion, and the City had a long history of excellence. He first invited the Mountain View High School’s (MVHS) girls’ volleyball team to come forward. Team Captain Kaylee Sinema said their team was the number two seed at the state tournament, and triumphed over Farmington High

School to win their final match three sets to one. She said it had been more than 30 years since MVHS girls' volleyball had won a state title.

Next, representatives from the Orem High School (OHS) football team came forward to be recognized. A team member said this was the third state title OHS football had won in the last three years, but this year was the first in the 5A division; the previous two were 4A championships. He said their team may have been small in size, but they were big in heart and gave their all on the field.

Mr. Hirst invited the parents of the athletes to stand and be recognized as well, because the support of the parents made these achievements possible. The audience gave the teams and the parents a round of applause.

PRESENTATION – Orem Justice Court Annual Report

Judge Reed Parkin presented on the activity of the Orem Justice Court and said the following report was mandated by statute. He thanked his Court Administrator Jody Thenot and said she was key to the court's success. He proceeded to share the history of the State Judiciary system, and of Justice of the Peace courts. Judge Parkin shared highlights from the court, including the Intense Supervision Calendar for high risk individuals, Online Dispute Resolution to resolve small claims disputes, and technology initiatives to make the court more efficient and increase the ability to provide services.

Orem Justice Court Statistics for 2019:

- Total Case Filings – 12,437
 - Criminal Misdemeanor Charges account for 13% of total
 - Small Claims Filings account for 5% of total
 - Traffic Cases account for 82% of total
- Statewide Justice Court Filings – 428,278

The full report may be viewed at orem.org/meetings.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Time was allotted for the public to express their ideas, concerns, and comments on items not scheduled as public hearings on the agenda. Those wishing to speak should have signed in prior to the meeting, and comments were limited to three minutes or less.

Hal Johnson said he would like to reiterate a long-standing request on behalf of the Geneva neighborhood to landscape the stretch of land on the south side of 800 North. He recalled being told that 800 North was not a city road but a state road, and it could not be landscaped by the City. However, the area from 900 West to 1200 West had been recently landscaped with rockwork so he was confused. Mr. Johnson said the neighborhood was willing to provide the labor if the City would provide the supplies and the design plan. The neighbors hoped to replace the weed patches with more attractive landscaping, and he asked that they consider the request.

Craig Doxey said the City had many advisory commissions which allowed residents to serve, from city beautification to natural resources to transportation. He felt there was a group that had been missed in these opportunities, and that was the first responders. He said they faced complex and important issues, and first responders should be the first priority. Mr. Doxey said the creation of an advisory commission for first responders would help them feel valued and appreciated, and would include a representative from the City Council as a liaison. He felt this would be a good step in restoring Orem's reputation as a desired place to work as a first responder.

Lisa Wilkey said her comments would be about her continued concern for Orem first responders. With the news of the retirement of Orem's Fire Chief, she felt this was a pivotal moment in Orem's history. She reviewed some of her concerns with the current fire administration.

Mayor Brunst asked Ms. Wilkey to please focus her comments on issues rather than individuals. Ms. Wilkey stated that her main concern was regarding individuals, and concerns of name calling and other problems. She said the process of hiring a new chief was vitally important, and felt that all levels should be involved in that process. She said they should seek the opinions of those that would be most affected, because the current fire fighters were some of the strongest assets they already had. The right chief would gain the trust of his crew, and create a brighter, better environment for the first responders.

Erik Wilkey said he too wanted to address the issue of hiring a new fire chief. He asked how that process would go, and who made the ultimate decision. Secondly, he asked if advancements within the department would be halted until the new chief was hired. Mr. Wilkey reflected on a saying one of his mentors had in his office, and said that now was not the time to stop and rest but to seize the opportunity of installing a new chief. He felt there were many important qualities they should look for, and that the new chief should lead by example and serve side by side with his fellow fire fighters.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Approval of the January 28, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes
- Appointment to Boards and Commissions
 - Public Works Advisory Commission Re-appointments:
 - K.C. Shaw
 - Carol Walker
 - Tod Hadley

Mr. Macdonald moved to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. **Mrs. Lauret seconded** the motion. Those voting aye: Richard F. Brunst, Jeff Lambson, Debby Lauret, Tom Macdonald, Terry Peterson, and Brent Sumner. The motion **passed**.

SCHEDULES ITEMS

There were no Scheduled Items for this meeting.

CITY MANAGER INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Davidson provided an update on issues currently before the State Legislature. He said staff was following a number of bills, but a specific bill he felt the Council should be aware of was House Bill 273. HB 273 was sponsored by Orem Representative Val Peterson and related to amendments for the Property Rights Ombudsman. Mr. Davidson said the ombudsman typically intervened in developer/government issues with property and offered an opinion. Those decisions had been non-binding and had been taken as sound, credible legal advice relevant to development laws. However, there was a current case being considered that would alter governmental immunity in terms of compensatory damages that may be paid. Mr. Davidson said he wanted to bring this to the City Council's attention so they may track the bill's progress, and he would forward any additional information he received to them.

Mr. Davidson touched briefly on some development projects, including the Mike Dunn transfer station on Geneva Road and the Orem LDS Temple site. He said the Dunn property appeared to be for sale, so the municipal waste taken there would now be taken elsewhere. Also, there had not yet been a site plan submitted by the LDS Church because it was still in the internal approval stage, but he expected that to be forthcoming.

Finally, Mr. Davidson spoke about the fire chief recruitment process and expressed appreciation to Chief Gurney for his commitment. He said they were casting a wide net in the state and nationally seeking out the best candidate, and said it would be an inclusive process. This recruitment process would take time, but he did not want to "hit the pause button" on what the department already had in the works. Mr. Davidson said this would not be a democratic process where there would be a vote, but they intended to include many voices in the assessment and vetting of the candidates, and that input would be part of the data set used to select the new chief. Deputy Chief Jason Earl would serve as the Interim Chief through the recruitment process.

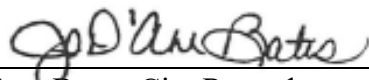
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sumner moved to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Lambson seconded** the motion. Those voting aye: Richard F. Brunst, Jeff Lambson, Debby Lauret, Tom Macdonald, Terry Peterson, and Brent Sumner. The motion **passed**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Approved: February 25, 2020




JoD'Ann Bates, City Recorder