
Minutes
Electronic Workshop Meeting
Washington City Council
July 22, 2020

Present: Mayor Kenneth Neilson, Council Members Daniel Cluff, Craig Coats, Kurt Ivie, Kress Staheli, Doug Ward, City Manager Roger Carter, City Attorney Jeff Starkey, IS Director Steve Whittiekiend, City Recorder Danice Bulloch, Deputy Recorder Tara Pentz, City Attorney Jeff Starkey, Community Development Director Drew Ellerman, Economic Development Director Matt Loo, Public Works Director Mike Shaw, Leisure Services Director Barry Blake, Assistant Community Center Director Ben Rae, Police Chief Jason Williams, Audience: George Staheli, Katheleen Staheli, Brady Duecher, Ben Willits

Meeting commenced at 4:30 P.M.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

Council Member Ivie made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Coats seconded the motion; which passed unanimously.

2. Washington City Historical Society Presentation.

George Staheli reviewed the history of Washington City, and how special our heritage is. Washington City should not have to entertain removing statues, which are so important to our history.

Council Member Ward asked if the Historical Society has standards for the statues and plaques.

Mr. Staheli noted we know there are people throughout history who have been slave owners. However, this does not lessen the importance of their positive influence in Washington City.

Council Member Ward stated he was expecting a presentation from the Historical Society.

Mr. Staheli explained he was not prepared for a presentation, however, he is certain the Washington City Historical Society would be happy to put together a presentation for the Council. He feels comfortable saying all of those we have memorialized should be there.

Council Member Cluff stated he is grateful for the efforts of our Historical Society. The reality

is the vetting process took place when those statues were placed, and they felt appropriate at the time. All people are not perfect, and we may not know everything, but he does discount those who have put the investment in those monuments. He feels it is absolutely unfair to direct these questions to Mr. Staheli at this time, and in this forum.

Council Member Ward asked how many members are currently in the Historical Society.

Mr. Staheli stated there are over 200 people. The Historical Society is very important and does love Washington City, and many have given significant amounts of money to support our history.

Council Member Ivie thanked Mr. Staheli for his love for the community, and the efforts of the Historical Society.

3. Review of RAP Tax applications. Mayor Kenneth Neilson

Mayor Kenneth Neilson asked if the Council had a chance to review the application.

Council Member Coats asked what the benefit would be for Washington City residents, as the Southwest Symphony is not being held in Washington City.

Alyce Gardner stated she looked back at the ticket sales, and approximately 30% of the sales have Washington City addresses. They are mostly volunteers, and have been here for 40 years.

Council Member Staheli asked what has been asked for from the other municipalities.

Ms. Gardner stated they have submitted an application to the City of St. George for \$25,000 however, they have not received anything from them as of yet. They have applied every fall for funding through Washington County, but the application process does not take place until later in the fall.

Council Member Staheli asked if they plan on applying in the other municipalities.

Ms. Gardner stated they do hope to apply in the other cities.

Council Member Staheli asked what was the bulk of the expenses.

Ms. Gardner reviewed the expenses, which the majority goes to the staff.

Council Member Ivie asked if there are grants available, and if they have been applied for.

Ms. Gardner stated they received annual money from Washington County. The State has discontinued the money appropriation, so they will be applying for a government grant, but with COVID, it is very unlikely they will receive funding this year.

Council Member Staheli clarified they are asking for \$20,000 RAP funds from Washington City. He would like to know what is anticipated from St. George City, and Washington County.

Ms. Garner explained St. George gave \$25,000 last year, but most likely will not receive quite as much this year. Last year they received \$40,500 from Washington County, and will be applying for the same amount this year.

Council Member Cluff stated as a Council they have been looking at diversifying the allocation of the RAP Tax funds. He would hope with the decreased amount people being able to attend during this time, he would hope the costs could be reduced from the college as well.

Assistant Community Center Director Ben Rae reviewed the WCCC request for RAP Tax money. They are hoping to install pickle ball courts where the sand volleyball courts are located at the Community Center.

Council Member Cluff asked how much the courts are being used in our community at this time.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated they are used quite frequently. They consistently get calls to see when new courts are going to be added, as they are always being used, and very difficult to get a spot.

Council Member Coats asked about removing an amenity to get the courts.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae noted in the time he has been at Washington City, he has had a very limited number of reservations for the volleyball area. The pickle ball courts would be a much better use of this space.

Council Member Ward asked if there is maintenance with the sand volleyball courts.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae reviewed the required maintenance.

Council Member Cluff asked how many courts are planned with the request today.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated they could fit 4 separate courts.

Council Member Cluff explained he is worried about the need for pickleball for youth. If there could be more painting in a second gym, they could have the same amount of space in an air conditioned space for tournaments. He is not against pickleball, but he would prefer something to be installed, which would target our youth.

Council Member Ivie asked if this is the right time, as we are placing additional courts at the Boilers Park, which will be open very soon.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated this would provide additional recreation, and allow for some leagues.

Council Member Ivie asked if some of the current supplies in place could be used.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated there is a possibility the costs could come in

less, as they may be able to use the current lighting, and the power is already in place.

Council Member Staheli commented we could potentially get more memberships, or day passes to the Community Center with these courts, as they are not just walk on like the parks.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae confirmed he was correct.

Council Member Staheli asked if Staff has had discussions on any type of funding to complete the

project.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated they currently do not have any other money available.

Council Member Coats stated he had a citizen asked about tennis courts in Washington City, as we no longer have any available. They have all been converted to pickleball.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated he is not as familiar with tennis courts, but he would assume they would only be able to fit one tennis court in this spot.

Council Member Coats asked if Washington City has any plans to place tennis courts, as we do still have some citizens who use them.

Assistant Community Center Director Rae stated Washington City does have some tennis courts, which are lightly used, but do not have plans for any at this time.

4. Follow up on traffic and affordable housing at approximately 1100 East. City Manager Roger Carter

Economic Development Director Matt Loo stated Washington City, as well as, all other areas in the Country are currently facing the issue of affordable housing. He reviewed the Affordable Housing Plan approved in 2017, along with the City goals, and challenges. There comes a time as leaders, when hard decisions have to be made. There may be pockets in the community where we could spread affordable housing, so it is not all located in one central area.

Council Member Cluff stated within this plan there is approximately one and a half miles of the epicenter of affordable housing. Outside of this area, do we have any other area we are working on affordable housing.

Economic Development Director Loo explained we do not currently have pockets, which may be why we need to look at the Master Plan to address this.

Council Member Cluff asked if there is a down side to have this concentrated area.

Economic Development Director Loo stated he does not see a downside at this time. However,

transportation is critical.

Council Member Ivie clarified the current Washington City Master Plan does not have any designated areas for affordable housing. This is a reality we all need, but it is going to be a, not in my back yard, situation. These areas need to be identified as soon as possible.

Council Member Cluff stated there is a concern for products being concentrated in one area, as it degrades the service. It also decreases the safety of the area. We are at the breaking point for the concentration of one area, and he is concerned about decreasing the quality of life in this area.

Economic Development Director Loo explained he would like Council to begin the process of looking at areas to spread affordable housing through the City.

Council discussed different options for affordable housing.

Brady Deucher reviewed the statistics for affordable housing in Washington City.

Ben Willits stated most of the product type available now is apartments. Their product would be able to be purchased. He briefly reviewed the changes to the project from the past meeting, which is on the regular meeting agenda for consideration.

5. Adjournment

Council Member Ivie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Coats seconded the motion; which passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.

Passed and approved on the 12th day of August, 2020.

Attest by:



Danice B. Bulloch, MMC
City Recorder



Kenneth F. Neilson, Mayor