

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
December 1, 2020
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Brent Bullock
Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director
Kyler Ludwig, HR Director
Mike Roberts, Police Chief
Drew Engemann, Deputy Fire Chief
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Sheri Britsch, Library Director

The City Council and staff met in the Community Room, 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION

1) ARTS COMMISSION UPDATE – *Tina Fontana.*

Pleasant Grove Arts Commission Chair, Tina Fontana noted that only four members of the Commission are currently active. She reported that they advertised in the City newsletter and found four more people who are interested. The new members were to be added in January. Ms. Fontana reported that there are four arts organizations. For the Pleasant Grove Orchestra, there will be no Messiah sung at the High School and everything is on hold. The same applied to the PG Players. She noted that the play *She Loves Me* is on hold indefinitely. They will look for other venues that could potentially provide more space to allow social distancing.

Ms. Fontana reported that the Children's Choir had a successful concert on Facebook Premiere on November 13. They had been rehearsing using Zoom and will perform at Temple Square on December 18 with Rachel Morris, a former member of the choir.

Ms. Fontana further reported that last year's production of *Curtains* of the Center Stage Youth Performers was canceled. They have a new rehearsal space in Lindon and will hold their performance showcase on December 12. Ms. Fontana further stated that *James and the Giant Peach* was planned for next year.

Ms. Fontana reported that the CARE Tax was of great help to the Arts Commission. They had not been able to use a lot of it because so many things were shut down. The two City-sponsored activities, the PG Orchestra, and the PG Players were each given some CARE Tax money for production. The PG Players were planning to carry out some theatre improvements. This included acquiring a new soundboard and improving theatre lighting.

Ms. Fontana stated that the Commission started a new program called Tastes of the Arts. The first activity was held in November 2019 at The Truffle Cottage. They sponsored a local business and showcased their chocolate art. Ms. Fontana further reported that the second activity was held in January of this year. They had a bullet journaling class under the guidance of Tori Merrill.

Ms. Fontana reported that the water coloring activity that was planned for March was waylaid. Following social distancing protocols, they were planning to have a photo scavenger hunt for events around the City. She would use the service days her company provides to work on the photo scavenger hunt based on input from the rest of the Commission members.

With regard to future plans, Ms. Fontana reported that Shadow Light Dinner Theatres asked the Commission for support. She was working with City Administrator, Scott Darrington and City Attorney, Tina Petersen to come up with a grant program using CARE Tax money. She explained that Administrator Darrington was finding out how other cities are handling the questionnaires and what they look for. Ms. Fontana further reported that concerts held at the park were amazing last year in the new space.

Council Member Jensen commended Ms. Fontana on a recent performance. Council Member Williams agreed that it was very well done. Council Member LeMone asked if it was something that Shadow Light Theater would want to do regularly. Ms. Fontana stated that they were planning to have a season and were considering a new script for next year. Council Member LeMone asked Stacy Martineau to comment on the concert season and how the Council could support them.

Stacy Martineau stated that they like the shade up the Recreation Center for the summer Concerts in the Park but they are happy with the downtown park venue. Ms. Martineau further explained that they had had only one dramatic moment throughout the entire concert series. She reported that a lot of people wanted to come to the Concerts because they had heard about the crowds and how supportive the City is. People have come from Heber, Zermatt, and the Homestead.

Ms. Martineau stated that they were looking at getting backdrops on the pavilion and a camera in order to live stream. She pointed out that they were looking at doing what the Homestead did, which was a pre-show followed by a concert. They would also look into having a warm-up band.

2) BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION UPDATE – Laraine Montgomery.

Laraine Montgomery reported that COVID-19 had not stopped the Beautification Commission from operating. The Commission has completely followed through with the yearly plans. The Commission has a full membership of 15 people, some of whom are couples. They were representing all of the neighborhoods.

Ms. Montgomery reported that they achieved one of their goals for 2020, which was to get new members. They were down three. Another goal was to start a gardening class. This was impacted by COVID-19 and was not implemented. Nathan Gerber, a member of the committee, set up the gardening classes using technology and covered some of the desired topics. Ms. Montgomery reported that Mr. Gerber would continue with the classes next year. Council Member LeMone asked if the classes were done both in person and on Zoom. Ms. Montgomery stated that they were done on Zoom only. They will be in-person once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Ms. Montgomery further reported that in April, they were supposed to help with Arbor Day but the event was canceled. Ms. Montgomery stated that in May, they let Test Out do the planting of the city flower beds because they knew how many people they had that were able to help out. In June, Ms. Montgomery reported that they held a Drive-By Garden Tour for Strawberry Days.

Ms. Montgomery reported that in July there was a Commission Family Party at Discovery Park. She noted that they had missed about two meetings. The rest had been held at the park. Yard of the Month was also extended from June to September.

Council Member LeMone suggested that they have yard signs that show the Christmas Light Display award winner. Ms. Montgomery agreed and stated that they have lanterns that they give out as gifts.

Ms. Montgomery reported that in November, they always have a Thank You Dinner for the Parks Department, this year they held a lunch for them at the Lions building. She noted that they do a good job putting up the Christmas lights. Ms. Montgomery stated that someone suggested a drive-by for next year to see homes that are lit up and put their names on the City's web page. They would also have a Christmas Light Show.

Council Member LeMone asked if the Beautification Committee is still doing the park walkthrough. Ms. Montgomery stated that they discontinued that because Director Giles found that it caused contention among the employees.

3) FEMA AND THE UTAH STATE DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ("DSAMH").

Cindy Wilmhurst from the State of Utah and the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") talked about the Utah Strong Recovery Project. She stated that what Utah Strong is doing is now taking place in all 50 states throughout the country.

Ms. Wilmhurst reported that Utah Strong is funded by FEMA. 20% of the population is struggling with the impacts of the pandemic stressors. Ms. Wilmhurst further stated that the federal government provided significant funds for COVID-19 relief because of concern regarding impacts

on emotional and long-term wellbeing. Ms. Wilmhurst reported that Utah Strong is facilitated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (“SAMHSA”) on the Federal level and operated on the State level by the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Wilmhurst stated that the purpose of the Utah Strong Recovery Project is to assist people in finding ways to cope with the stressors of COVID-19 and to help prevent persistent mental health problems down the road.

The program began in June. Anyone in the State can access the information as there are counselors in every county in Utah. The program is run by Rebecca Minnick and is entirely anonymous. It has served more than 68,000 people. The counselors also go to schools and speak in front of groups to provide tips on how to deal with anxiety and stress. Ms. Wilmhurst stated that half of the FEMA counselors are trained to respond to natural disasters. COVID-19 is unpredictable and has an uncertain timeframe. It has become the third leading cause of death in the State.

Ms. Wilmhurst reported that the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and Harvard Medical School reached out to people in June and found that 40% of adults reported that they were struggling with mental health or substance abuse. She further reported that the Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a poll in California and found that 45% of Americans are struggling. That figure rose to over 50% by the end of July.

Ms. Wilmhurst stated that according to the Utah Department of Health, Utah’s suicide rate has not increased. However, one-quarter of young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 reported that they had considered suicide. Calls to the State Suicide Hotline have also been on the rise. Ms. Wilmhurst reported that according to the CDC, Hispanic and non-white workers account for 73% of workplace outbreak-associated COVID-19 cases. The Latino population, which makes up 14.2% of the Utah population, accounts for more than 40% of total positive COVID-19 cases. Ms. Wilmhurst indicated that they are offering free and confidential counseling in-person by virtual, emotional support, and public education means. They are also sharing information and referrals for those who are unable to pay their rent or need utility help.

Ms. Wilmhurst reported that they have a Utah Strong statewide helpline that is open seven days per week from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. They also have newsletters that are distributed with utility bills and Spanish speaking counselors.

Ms. Wilmhurst thanked the Council for the opportunity to present and welcomed feedback.

Council Member Andersen commended Ms. Wilmhurst for her efforts. Mayor Fugal indicated that the hotline will be listed on the City’s webpage.

4) CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reported that information regarding capital projects was emailed to the Council earlier. Administrator Darrington stated that there was no decision making that needed to be made, this is an opportunity for staff to present their thoughts on the COVID-19 money and get input from the Council.

Administrator Darrington stated that the item will be back on the agenda for the December 15 meeting. The budget amendment would be done in early January. He reported that they sent out supplemental requests for funding to department heads. After review, he and Finance Director, Denise Roy would sit down with the department heads and prioritize the requests.

Administrator Darrington presented a list showing how each department listed their requests based on priority. He stated that there is an opportunity to fund nearly everything that was requested with a few exceptions. Administrator Darrington reported that one of the larger items involved redoing the parking lots, particularly the Library and City Hall. They included a placeholder of about \$200,000 for the cost and were considering funding it in the future.

Another request was from the Fire Department for an ambulance. Administrator Darrington reported that this would be a second new ambulance as the first round of the COVID money had covered one. He stated that that was something that was moved to a future discussion as it was not urgent.

Administrator Darrington reported that the Parks Department requested two large mowers, which cost \$70,000 to \$80,000. He stated that staff recommended funding one mower now and have the second set aside for future discussion. The largest request was \$500,000 to construct restrooms at the Battle Creek Trailhead. A sewer line would need to be installed to connect to the sewer system.

Administrator Darrington further reported that there had been a request for two more tennis courts. Previous monies funded two tennis courts so this request would be shelved for the time being. There was a \$100,000 request from the Streets Department for ADA ramp replacement. Administrator Darrington stated that they were recommending cutting the cost in half and using \$50,000.

Another request was received from the Historical Commission to have a full remodel of the Old City Hall. Administrator Darrington reported that the Historical Commission was working with the limited funds allocated to them to do some minor remodeling. They were now requesting additional funding.

Council Member Jensen asked if it was a full restoration or a remodel. Council Member Bullock stated that it is full restoration. He explained that the roof and the windows need to be redone. Administrator Darrington stated that there was \$140,000 in unallocated money. The Council could deliberate on that. He reported that \$650,000 had already been allocated and more future capital money would be available.

Administrator Darrington reported that the \$900,000 put into the operating budget this year was in excess of the capital project money. This will be evaluated to see if some of the money can be pulled back out. He stated that he would have better numbers on the future monies after the City Council Retreat in February.

Administrator Darrington highlighted the following on the recommended list:

- The bleachers at the Recreation Center. He stated that these were difficult to maintain and they would like to get automated electric ones because the current ones cannot be retrofitted.
- Strawberry Days Project. Staff recommended that the Council sets aside funds to be used for something special with next year being the 100th anniversary. Administrator Darrington suggested doing a Dowdle puzzle. They included a placeholder of \$75,000 which the Council could increase or decrease.

Council Member Andersen asked if the Rodeo grounds fell under parks or Strawberry Days. Administrator Darrington stated that the Rodeo Committee has their own funding for improvements there.

Mayor Fugal added that the Rodeo grounds were an entirely new discussion they needed to have on the future of the Rodeo Grounds. Administrator Darrington stated that that is also eligible for CARE Tax funds.

5) STAFF BUSINESS

Deputy Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, reported that the Fire Department was running properly. Mayor Fugal asked if the new engine had been spec'd out. Chief Engemann reported that they were waiting for signatures on a few things.

Police Chief, Mike Roberts, reported that things were slow over the Thanksgiving holiday and a few people were taken to jail. He further stated that things were good within the department and there was nothing to report.

Library Director, Sheri Britsch, reported that the Library was doing well. They would be having Mrs. Claus online next week. She noted that they have a new Mrs. Claus. Ms. Britsch stated that there is a box in the Library where kids can put in their questions for Mrs. Claus. She reported that they were fairly busy.

Parks Director, Deon Giles, reported that the pickleball project was moving forward and much of the grubbing had already been done. He stated that the Cemetery was also very busy. Graves had been dug every day for the last few weeks and staff was getting overwhelmed. He also reported that the U.S. Forest Service adopted the proposal that the North Utah County Trail Alliance presented to them. This will provide the City with 8 ½ additional miles of the trail above Valley Vista.

Director Giles reported that he would be working on establishing a Trail Committee using volunteers and people who are acquainted with trail maintenance.

Council Member Andersen asked about Jason Cowley's replacement. Director Giles stated that they will have to replace him. He reported that Jason is currently living in St. George.

The City Council commended Director Giles on the Christmas Lights. Council Member Jensen stated that he would provide Director Giles with the contact for Chrisville Park so he could work

directly with them. It was noted that the equipment has been ordered and will hopefully be available by December 15.

Recreation Director, Tyler Wilkins, reported that the Recreation Center has been busy. They have been following State mandates and commended his staff for their work.

Director Wilkins reported that they finished Flag Football right before Thanksgiving. They will finish Volleyball next week and get ready for Basketball season. Mr. Wilkins further reported that they met with Les Mills, an industry leader in group fitness. They reviewed the classes offered at the Recreation Center and found them to be in line with industry requirements. Director Wilkins stated that they were a bit low on strength classes but have dumbbells and strength equipment on order. In response to a question raised, Director Wilkins stated the busiest night is Monday night, which is family night. He stated that they are also busy in the evenings when students get out of school.

Council Member Andersen stated that throughout the year January is the busiest month. Director Wilkins added that this year, they will not have the Fitness Fair in January and will instead offer the membership sale and a Fitness Fair in the spring.

Council Member LeMone asked if they would be selling discount passes for Christmas. Director Wilkins stated that they will not because it is so close to the Fitness Fair.

6) ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Council Member Williams moved to adjourn the Work Session at 5:28 p.m. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Work Session Minutes of December 1, 2020, were approved by the City Council on December 15, 2020.

Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

(Exhibits are in the City Council Minutes binders in the Recorder's office.)