

Gunnison City Council Work Meeting and Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 6:00 PM
Gunnison City Hall, 38 West Center
Gunnison, UT 84634

Present: Mayor Lori Nay, Councilmembers: Robert Andersen, Shawn Crane, Stella Hill, Justen Mellor, and Rod Taylor, City Recorder Janell Braithwaite, City Treasurer Steven Jenson, Pool Manager Matt Reber, Public Works Manager Donald Childs, Librarian Carolyn Childs, Maintenance Worker Wyatt Scott, Fire Chief Jed Hansen, and citizens Blake Donaldson and Joann Taylor

Presiding: Mayor Lori Nay

Work Meeting

6:00 p.m. Budget discussion.

Mayor Nay and Councilmember Shawn Crane began speaking with Gary Keddington from Keddington and Christensen about the salary for Carolyn Childs as she was retiring from the police department and working part time with the library. She was making \$20 an hour with the police department and the City was helping to pay part of that. She was not getting benefits from the City and was getting part of her salary in lieu of the benefits. Councilmember Taylor helped in the discussion to explain the in lieu of provision was for only full time employees and then they can choose to get the money paid to them instead of the city paying benefits if the employee had access to benefits with a spouse or different employment. Head Librarian Childs was still asking for the \$20 an hour rate once she moved to only working part-time at the library. The Mayor and the Council thought that was not appropriate for a part time employee to be making that wage since other full-time employees were not making that amount. It was decided to speak with Librarian Childs to negotiate a compromise. Also it was said that salaries and wages would be looked at in September once it was known the windfall of the budget at that time. Gary suggested a couple of the Councilmembers look over the wages and job descriptions and then bring back suggestions to the Council on what should change or not. Gary proceeded to review the tentative budget shown on the overhead projector. Gary said that he spoke with Pool Manager Matt Reber about spending to update the pool with an A/C unit for the Men's and Women's restrooms. This would add an additional \$60k to the budget. There was a discussion on how the Pool makes money and where that money comes from. Most of it comes in by way of taxes the City collects specifically set aside in the amount of \$250K. Also, the money that people pay to use the pool is only about \$30k. The transfers from the Enterprise Funds were discussed with an explanation as to why these transfers took place. There were minor repairs that could be made so that money could be saved in later years so that major repairs could be scheduled later. Revenues were down due to the pandemic and the pool being closed for a couple of months.

Each department's revenues & expenditures were reviewed. Gary explained the budget was set up to be conservative on the revenue side and over budget on the expenditures, and it usually balances out.

Gary also went over a Fraud Risk Assessment that the State of Utah is requiring all cities in Utah to go through. He will be getting with Recorder Braithwaite to update that and said that the policy and procedures that the City had on file was based off of accounting practices from the 1980's even though it said that they were updated as of 2019.

Work Meeting adjourned

Invocation: Councilmember Stella Hill

Public Comment

No one requested public comment time.

Gunnison Valley Hospital Report – GV Hospital Board Member Casey Dyreng

Casey Dyreng started by thanking the City Council and the Mayor for letting him come and to report as to the health of the Hospital. He mentioned that in Gunnison as well as most rural area hospitals there are challenges and obstacles that these hospitals must overcome to manage and spend funds they have on a yearly basis. He reported that Gunnison Hospital has had clean audits over the years and that he has confidence in the administration and the employees to give the best care and to manage the day to day affairs in the best interests of the public they serve. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, traffic with patients coming to the hospital had been down with most surgeries not being performed. Revenue during that time had been down 40%, with surgeries and ER visits being discouraged as well as doctor visits and lab work. Some employees had to work less hours and with the CARES ACT being passed, it gave an avenue to provide revenue to help pay for those missed hours. The board was confident that the hospital was capable of handling the pandemic if an outbreak were to happen in the area. There are enough supplies on hand at this time to cover that and there had been 585 tests for the virus that have already taken place with only 3 confirmed positive cases thus far.

There will be a new normal and while this pandemic continues it is not known what that new normal might be. As of 2019, before the pandemic hit, there were 18 rural hospitals around the United States that closed due to decline in patients or budget cuts. Already in 2020 there could possibly be 20 rural hospitals that could shut down. One of the good things about Gunnison Valley Hospital is that most of the money earned by the hospital is not given to investors; it can be invested back into technologies for the betterment of the hospital and the local residents that the hospital serves.

Board Member Casey Dyreng then asked for any questions from the Council at this time. Councilmember Crane asked about the changes the hospital had made with the care centers and had that produced an influx of money coming into the hospital? Board Member Dyreng reported that the investments in partnering with the care centers in the area had not yet been realized. The CARES ACT is grant money that does not need to be paid back to the government. That is what has stabilized most rural hospitals this year and has even given Gunnison Valley Hospital the chance to invest some of the grant money for the future. Most of the money has limitations on what it needs to be spent on. It is for payroll and making sure employees have jobs.

Mayor Nay commended the Hospital on being a great community partner for the City, and the things they support and donate to the area as well. She then asked what number of jobs would be lost if the hospital was not viable and had to shut down. Board Member Dyreng reported there are 190 jobs currently at the hospital that would be lost. 80% of those jobs are held by residents of Gunnison City. The hospital paid \$90 million in wages for the 2019 year. Councilmembers Hill, Crane, and Mellor gave their comments of support to the hospital and for it being in the area.

Review Conditional Sign Permit at 265 South Main, Michelle Christenson, with Proposed Approval – Councilmember Rod Taylor

Michelle Christenson had already left the meeting and Mayor Nay asked Councilmember Taylor if everything was in order for approval and if a vote could be done tonight. Councilmember Taylor reported that Michelle had met with the Planning and Zoning Commission with a few questions and those questions of the sign area and what it could be, also the proximity to the property line which had to be 3 feet away from the property line. The Commission had answered these questions in that meeting and everything was ready to be voted on by the Council.

Councilmember Taylor made the motion to approve the permit for Michelle Christenson on 265 South Main. Councilmember Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously for.

Proposed Approval of New Swimming Pool Employees – Pool Manager Matt Reber

Pool Manager Matt Reber reported that he had finished a lifeguard class and had hired 5 new lifeguards and 5 front desk workers. The lifeguards requested were: James Hart, Janie Anderson Elaine Jensen, Landry Nay, and Mayci Torgerson. Those with the front desk were Gracie Hinkins, Haven Lyman, Kadence Belnap, Michelle Mellor, and Soraya Leatherwood. The starting wage for all hires would be \$9.00 an hour. Jeremy Vincent as Swim Team Coach will be paid \$10.00 an hour.

It was reported that the pool was full, and it was good to see it open and serving the community. Mayor Nay asked what was being charged for admission. Manager Reber responded that it is \$2.50 for children and \$3.00 for adults. Family Passes for the year are \$300, Single Senior Citizen and Veterans pass for the year is \$150, Regular Adult Single Pass \$200. Summer hours will be 2 pm to 7 pm. Swim Lessons start on June 15th and there is already \$1,000 in revenue and it has only been on the website for 3 days.

Councilmember Crane made the motion to approve the proposed new Swimming Pool Employees. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discussion Regarding the Placement of Lighting on the Cabin at the Park – Claudia Sanborn

Claudia Sanborn stated that she is the Secretary of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and volunteered to be over the Cabin at the City Park and is coming before the Council to get approval to place red, white, and blue lights on the cabin for the 4th of July celebration. Iris Neel had come forward to pay for the lights and a timer to turn them on and off on the cabin. Claudia asked for approval from the Council and also the key to the cabin to get in to where the decorations were being stored. She asked for a standing vote that she could have permission to decorate the cabin for all holidays and not have to come before the Council each time to get approval.

Councilmember Mellor had a concern that the lights be not fastened in a way that will increase the deterioration of the cabin. Claudia reported that there are clips already on the cabin to attach the lights. The plug for the lights is in the cabin so the need for a timer would cut down on people needing to go each evening and morning to unplug the lights. Pool Manager Reber stated that the City has a timer that Claudia could use and also there is a plug on the outside of the cabin and the power to the plug is always on.

Mayor Nay was very appreciative of what the DUP organization does to keep the cabin in good shape and decorated through out the year.

Councilmember Hill made the motion to approve the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers to have access to the cabin to decorate with lights and to have a standing permission from the Council. Councilmember Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discuss 300 South Proposed Right of Way Adjustments with Cost Estimates and Proposed Approval – Mayor Nay

It was shown to the Council several different ways to adjust the right of way for 300 South from Main Street to 100 East. The first is down the middle of the road and then going out 30 feet in each direction left or right so that the 60 feet right of way would be preserved for the first block to 100 East. The next option would be to widen 100 East to 75 feet. The last option is to start at Main Street at 50 feet and then gradually widen to 60 feet by the time you get to 100 East. This way the City is not getting into the buildings on the South side of 300 South just off Main Street. If the last option is to be approved and the street is at 60 feet by 100 East, then the 75 feet right of way would not be a problem from 100 East to 200 East. Councilmember Taylor asked if there were any plans to develop the area now, or if that would be further in the future. Mayor Nay agreed that there aren't any and is just trying to get ownership to the landowners so that they could sell their land with no problems in the future.

To complete the quit claim deeds and to get everything done correctly, it would cost \$4,300 from Main Street to 100 East, and \$5,400 from 100 East to 200 East. Mayor Nay suggested that when the time comes to complete the process, the landowners that are affected could help pay some of the cost. The City would hold on to the quit claim deeds at City Hall and then when landowners needed to make the change, they could contact the City then notarize the deed and then record it with Sanpete County. It was proposed to handle the deeds first and then go with the assessments later.

By going to 75 feet as the right of way from 100 East to 200 East, that would give the City the right to do a sidewalk along that block. It was mentioned that it looks like the best solution to the problem of going from 50 feet starting at Main Street and going to 60 feet by 100 East and then going to 75 feet from 100 East to 200 East to give the City the best right of way so that development of the road and possible sidewalk could be done at some future date.

Councilmember Taylor made the motion to move forward with the adjustment of the proposed right of way to 300 South and to approve the blue line design. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Update and Proposed Approval of Expenditures for July 4th Celebration – Councilmember Crane

Councilmember Crane gave an update and it was decided that the Trails Committee and the Lions Club would be working together for the Auction that would be held on July 3rd. The entertainment has been established and that was lined up and had been approved.

Everything was on schedule for a parade as well as the fireworks show so until something comes down from the State that restrictions are preventing these activities they are happening and things will go forward as scheduled.

Councilmember Mellor mentioned that the Trails Committee was still gathering items for the Auction and they are excited for participation from the community. The City was talking with Gary in getting a different account set up to keep monies separate from the General Fund for the Auction. Treasurer Jenson was asked how the progress was going in getting Venmo set up. He reported that he was waiting for a representative from State Bank in Cedar City to contact him and the plan was to have the option for people at the Auction to be able to pay with a debit or credit card there at the Auction.

Update COVID-19 Report – Mayor Nay

Mayor Nay wanted everyone to think GREEN so that the State has us at green by the July 4th celebration. The state COVID-19 committee sent down a template for cities to follow to make sure communities is safe during the holiday weekend and to notify residents of the social distancing recommendations and the wearing of masks. The City could plan for events that include groups larger than 50 people if they follow the template and have the recommendations posted for the public to see it.

Discussion and Review of Applications for Recorder Position with Proposed Appoint at the Advice and Consent of the Council with Proposed Approval – Mayor Nay

Councilmember Taylor wanted to talk about some of the Planning and Zoning updates that had taken place before Council had a closed session to discuss the applications for the Recorder Position. He gave an update on several Home Occupation businesses that had been approved and reported that Bruce Parker would be coming down to the next Planning and Zoning meeting to answer some questions the commission had concerning Airbnbs. If the Council had any questions for Bruce, they could give it to Councilmember Taylor or Janell Overly the Commission's President.

Councilmember Crane made a motion to go into closed meeting for the purpose of employment for the Recorder Position. Councilmember Mellor seconded the motion. Roll Call vote of 5-0.

After the Closed Meeting, Mayor Nay proposed that Steven Ray Jenson be appointed to the position of City Recorder

Councilmember Crane made a motion to accept the appointment as explained. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Roll Call vote of 5-0.

Treasurer Steven Jenson was sworn in as the Newly Hired City Recorder by the outgoing City Recorder Janell Braithwaite.

Proposed Approval of Bills and Adjustments

Councilmember Crane made the motion to approve the bills and adjustments as presented. Councilmember Mellor seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Proposed Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Councilmember Crane made a motion to approve the minutes for the City Council Meeting Wednesday May 27, 2020. Councilmember Mellor seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Future Items

ACT Right of way for property North of Hwy 89: Councilmember Taylor asked about how far the property line goes from the ACT building to the highway. It was stated that the property goes up to the highway 89 to where the State owns the right of way. There is a four-year window for development and Recorder Braithwaite stated that there is only one year left on that clause.

Riots: Councilmember Mellor stated he had received a text about concerns of the riots and attacks coming to our community. He had spoken with the Police Chief and there are protocols in place with the Sherriff for these kinds of events. Most of the things posted on Social Media sites are not correct and that the events up north are being monitored.

Cemetery: Councilmember Hill mentioned that she and Mayor Nay had walked through the cemetery and that it looked like several of the bushes and trees looked to be dying. She was wondering if the water schedule needed to be looked at and most of the trees and shrubs look like they need to be trimmed and the dead ones need to be replaced. The flowers from the holiday have a few more days before they would be gathered up and thrown away. There is a sign saying the time frame for residents to remove them if they want to keep them.

Adjourn

Councilmember Crane made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Andersen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Adjourn



Steven Jenson, City Recorder



Lori Nay, Mayor

9-16-20

Approval Date