

**Pleasant Grove City  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Work Session  
February 2, 2021  
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.

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**4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION**

**1) ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE – ROB SMITH, MARK CLEMENT.**

Rob Smith, Superintendent of Business for the Alpine School District, was present and appreciated the opportunity to serve the community. He introduced Board President Dr. Mark Clements, New Superintendent Dr. Shane Farnsworth, and former Central Elementary School Principal, and Space Center Champion Dr. Vicki Carter. Mr. Smith reported that Dr. Carter was instrumental in securing private donations for the Space Center.

Mr. Smith reported that this presentation was prepared in the fall and many of the outstanding questions had since been answered. Their focus was on keeping students in school safely. They are proud of their team and what students and teachers are doing in the classroom. Former Alpine School District Board President, Scott Carson was replaced by Stacy Bateman who has been very active and serves as Region PTA Director and is involved with the National PTA Board.



Mr. Smith commended their teachers for being exceptional and stated that the top priority is to recruit and retain the best teachers. They also focus on supporting families and parents in learning. This year, 534 new teachers were hired with 73% of the workforce being women. He was pleased to live near two universities with wonderful teacher training preparation programs. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Smith met with eight teachers as part of a Teacher Compensation Team where they looked at what is being done to recruit and retain quality teachers. The work of the group will be reported to the administration and board in the coming weeks. Mr. Smith stated that they are one of a few districts that are teaching face to face. Parents who prefer online learning were supported as well. The various options were described.

Mr. Smith reported on their efforts to have criteria from the Health Department changed relative to student quarantines. A dashboard was prepared to show what is taking place in each of the schools within the district regarding Covid-19. It was noted that the percentages of positive cases have been very low.

Mr. Smith updated the Council on the District Space Center and invited the Council Members to visit their Planetarium. He was excited by the tools that are available in the community to inspire young people to learn.

Mr. Smith reported on the COVID-19 pandemic and stated that their projections were accurate at less than 1% off. Their online options increased. He attributed that to the fact that many parents feel more comfortable with curriculums that support students at the elementary rather than secondary level. He stated that Pleasant Grove High School enrollments are high since most students wanted to participate in sporting activities they offer, unlike other schools. Mr. Smith reported that in January there was an increase of about 100 students in elementary schools, which was attributed to the vaccinations being offered.

Dr. Shane Farnsworth asked Mr. Smith to address the District-wide enrollment that is trending throughout the district. Mr. Smith stated that the pattern is similar to what was taking place even in fast-growing areas such as Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain. He reported that they have seen additional elementary students come back to school since January. Mr. Smith reported that the district enrollment is approximately 81,200 students for the district.

Dr. Farnsworth introduced himself and stated that he began his career at Alpine School District 22 years ago as a Language Arts teacher. He presented a summary of the capital investments in schools around the Pleasant Grove area. There was the rebuild of Grovecrest Elementary School, which reopened in 2017, and a recent rebuild of Central Elementary School that had slightly higher costs due to the Space Center. They have invested about \$6 million into Pleasant Grove High School but the construction is not complete yet.

Dr. Farnsworth reported that there are other projects in other schools. Pleasant Grove Junior High School has received \$2 million for projects. Manila, Mount Mahogany, and Valley View have benefited in terms of asphalt and roofing. He pointed out that in the plans for rebuilding, Pleasant Grove High School is third, Valley View is ninth, and Lindon Elementary tenth on their rebuild prioritization list. He confirmed that they will continue to support ongoing renovations in schools to make them places for the students to learn and for the communities to access.



Dr. Farnsworth reported that there was a recent study that the Board of Education carried out with respect to Valley View and communication was sent to the members of the community involved in the feedback meetings. He reported that feedback meetings were held and information gathered. The board opened the process with 120 days provided to make a decision in April. They met with area mayors to get feedback on the consolidation, however, the Board will not make a final determination until April 13. They plan to visit Valley View Elementary School with a couple of different proposals on options for consolidation.

Dr. Farnsworth stated that their recommendation is to continue with the study and not move to consolidation at this time. The Board was confident enough to allow them to share the information with the patrons, which is the current communication taking place. He thanked the school patrons for their kindness and stated that they were very civil, engaging, and open to feedback. Since Valley View Elementary School is aging, there are declining populations in Grovecrest and Central, and schools south of Valley View are declining as well. The time will come that they will need to make a boundary adjustment or consider consolidation.

Mr. Smith reported that they provided the Mayor and City Administrator a financial report that also can be accessed from their website. They are trying to find ways to engage communities in their schools and they will continue to do things like academic outcomes and social and emotional wellbeing support that is offered to teachers and students. Mr. Smith reported that they had a recent presentation with American Fork City and he had followed up with Council Member Shelton and Mayor Frost regarding an item that came up at the meeting. They were to work jointly as they serve the residents of Pleasant Grove.

Council Member Anderson commended them for the good work of communicating to the citizens on the use of their property taxes.

Council Member Anderson was not aware of conversations at Valley View Elementary School and asked for an update on what is taking place there.

Council Member LeMone appreciated the recommendations to the Board and for taking the time to listen to the parents and teachers of Valley View Elementary School regarding the consolidation.

Mayor Fugal stated that there will be discussions on the Army Reserve Armory that is proposed to determine if they can get a joint use or split the property to help the City and the District.

## **2) STAFF BUSINESS.**

Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas, reported that one member of their team who is responsible for business licensing is retiring soon. Appropriate action is being taken to ensure that the position is covered and continues to be performed properly. He stated that he would be sending the updated RAP sheet to the council members.

Mayor Fugal asked if a new Thai restaurant is opening next to Roxbury. Director Daniel responded that once they obtain a business license construction will begin.



Director Cardenas reported that over the last month they have done three times what they did last year in the same month in terms of construction permits. He attributed the increase in the number of Building Permits to people being home and making home improvements.

Public Works Director, Marty Beaumont, reported that Bruce Black will be retiring at the end of the month and they are planning a retirement party on February 24. His last day of work is February 25.

Director Beaumont reported that the power pole work on 1300 West was complete. They were now working to have the striping removed and redone. Due to potential bad weather, it was expected to be done next week.

Recreation Director, Tyler Wilkins, reported that he is back at the Recreation Center after a battle with COVID-19. Basketball is in full swing and they have started the Itty-Bitty Ball program. He stated that it was Amber's first time running Bitty Ball, which has been a success.

Director Wilkins reported that they received bids for the scoreboards at Manila Park that were to be done in anticipation of baseball season. Weight equipment that was ordered months ago is just now being delivered after having been delayed by COVID-19.

Director Wilkins reported that the signups are ready for the upcoming spring sports. Women's volleyball, men's spring basketball, and men's softball were filled up on the first day.

Police Chief, Mike Roberts, reported that they are now fully staffed and Corporal Lauren Locke has been assigned to the Major Crimes Task Force. She is the only member who is not FBI academy trained who is assigned to the Task Force. He reported that they are in the process of buying GPS and RFID. They are called bugs but are transmitters. One half are about the size of a saltine cracker and half are like watch batteries with a long tail along the wire.

Chief Roberts reported that there have been business burglaries in certain areas and a few businesses have been hit more than once. They had some unused lap-tops from an ICAT Grant that they installed transmitters in and placed them in areas where burglaries were likely to occur again. If they are stolen they will potentially be able to locate them.

Chief Roberts stated that they are establishing a "While you are away" program for citizens going on vacation and if anyone is interested, they can contact the police department to check out a laptop that could be placed in homes to record unwanted guests.

Chief Roberts reported that the Police Department began its version of Mental Health Monday last week. Chaplain/Psychologist, Dr. Evan Coates, comes to the Police Department every Monday to offer his services. He accepts City insurance and does not charge anything personally.

Chief Roberts reported that last month they received 1,155 calls for service and he will be updating the statistics for the Council to review.

Deputy Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, reported that with the Chief retiring, there has been a lot going on in an effort to move people to other positions. Lieutenant Tyler Nelson will be moving



to Orem and they will be hiring another individual to fill that position. The Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief positions will be covered internally. He noted that they are also short on Medics. Deputy Chief Engemann reported that most people have received their second vaccine shot. With the money they received recently, they purchased four new air monitors for the engines. These are used to monitor the air quality for carbon dioxide and explosive levels.

Library Director, Sheri Britsch, reported that there is a Libby app on the website. She stated that they are no longer doing the Zinio magazines previously introduced because the Libby or Overdrive apps have them. The app can be accessed with the library card number and the pin. There are also several movies available on the app.

Parks Director, Deon Giles, reported that the scheduled date for putting in the lights and the pad for the pickleball courts is February 15. The trails are currently closed due to mud but will be opening soon after the next storm.

Finance Director, Denise Roy, confirmed that she sent the email regarding the CAFR to the Council Members. The information is also available on the website. Director Roy stated that she has worked with Graphic Designer, Dani Rowan on adding the different graphs and making the budget book more attractive.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reported that five proposals were received for the broadband network through the Request for Proposals ("RFP") process. A committee was established comprised of Council Members Jensen and Williams, the Mayor, Administrator Darrington, and some department heads to review the proposals. Brian Perry who runs Spanish Fork's broadband network and Lynn Yocom from the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") have also been invited.

Administrator Darrington stated that for the Fox Hollow Request for Information ("RFI") they are seeking those interested in purchasing the golf course. It was issued about 10 days ago and expires on February 17. He relayed emails to four or five groups that may be interested and was waiting for proposals. A committee would be organized to review the proposals. He recommended having the three Mayors, the three City Administrators, and three Board Members serve on the committee.

Administrator Darrington reported that there have been minor changes to the agreement with Eric Dowdle, dba Americana Art Enterprises, LLC to deliver a portrait. The company requested a resize to a smaller portrait in order to deliver it on time. The price would also be reduced from \$50,000 to \$45,000. The size would be 22' x 28' with the initial size being 32' x 40'. Administrator Darrington stated that they would be negotiating further to reach an agreement on the size and amount to be charged. The main reason for doing the portrait was to get the puzzle at a cost of \$12.50 per puzzle with a minimum order of 2,000 puzzles. They initially budgeted for \$75,000 with the intent of recouping \$30,000 or \$40,000 after the sale. Administrator Darrington stated that he would be meeting with representatives from Americana Art Enterprises, LLC to discuss the details.

### 3) **ADJOURN**

Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. The motion carried with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Work Session minutes of February 2, 2021, were approved by the City Council on February 16, 2021.

  
Kathy T. Kresser, MMC

City Recorder

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

