

**MINUTES OF HARRISVILLE CITY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 8, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
363 West Independence Blvd  
Harrisville, Utah**

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**Present:** Mayor Michelle Tait, Council Member Grover Wilhelmsen, Council Member Gary Robinson, Council Member Ruth Pearce, Council Member Clark Beecher, Council Member Steve Weiss.

**Staff:** Bill Morris, City Administrator, Bryan Fife, Parks and Recreation Director, Jennie Knight, City Recorder, Rick Hill, Bailiff.

**Visitors:** Arnold Tait, Bob Howard, Bonnie Wahlen, Jack Wahlen, Jeff Pearce.

**7:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Tait called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors.

**2. Opening Ceremony.**

Council Member Robinson led the pledge of allegiance and conducted the opening ceremony.

**3. Consent Items.**

- a. Approve the minutes of November 27, 2019 as presented.

**MOTION: Council Member Weiss motioned to approve the minutes of November 27, 2019 as presented. Council Member Pearce seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.**

**4. Business Items.**

**a. 2019 Meeting Schedule**

Mayor Tait pointed out a few we will not hold meeting that coincide with holiday and will hold other meetings as needed.

**MOTION: Council Member Pearce motioned to approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule. Council Member Beecher seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.**

**b. Discussion/possible action for Splash Pad upgrades and budget.**

Bryan Fife passed out an outline of splash pad budget items. He explained this conversation was brought up by Council Member Wilhelmsen a few weeks ago and wanted to know how much money the splash pad requires from the budget and what types of issues we have had maintaining the splash pad.

He explained the history of the installation of the splash pad. RAMP contributed some money to the park reconstruction project. At the time an annual budget of \$7,000 was set to maintain the splash pad each year. The actual budgeting each year is around that amount, not including the employee wages and unexpected expenses.

[Council Member Wilhelmsen arrived]

Unexpected expenses total \$22,683, which include vandalism, electrical issues, etc. Employee wages were reviewed over the current life span of the splash pad. Roughly \$330,000 has been spent on the splash pad. This is an overview of what the city has spent on the splash pad. An employee on call compensation has never been addressed; although he is planning to address this. The current budget year includes fund to replace some equipment, the power box and relays that went out. What was initially installed was not meeting the needs of the electrical system. The chemicals are very powerful and have affected the equipment. Additional fans also need to be installed. He will be asking for additional fund the next budget year to address these types of issues. \$7,000 has already been committed to replace the electrical panel. The engineering of this panel has already been completed but the box has not been built yet. Another \$1,200 will be used to replace the automatic valve and bollard sensor. The splash pad only operated during employee hours last season because of the issues. There are some safety mechanisms in place. A former employee caught an electrical fire issue before the entire system was lost.

Bryan Fife expressed his opinion the city is putting a lot of money into the splash pad and he is unsure this is being utilized by our residents. Often times vans of day care kids are overtaking the splash pad each season. He feels a lot of money is being spent and our residents are not taking advantage of this benefit. He explained Steve Clark, who has now retired, needs to be replaced. He is seeking direction from Council on what direction the splash pad will go before he hires another employee. Not a lot of police calls have been generated.

Council Member Robinson asked what the cost would be to fence off the splash pad to control the hours and how long the life of the concrete is. Bryan Fife estimated \$8,000 for fencing. He explained vandalism has happened during the daylight hours. He actually took pictures of the concrete during installation; the rebar matting is very thick, likely as much rebar as concrete. The concrete is in good shape; it is not sealed and they do not salt it at all.

Council Member Robinson asked what portion of the splash pad was covered by the RAMP grant. Council Member Pearce estimated at least 50%. Council Member Wilhelmsen pointed out the annual maintenance is not meeting the budget needs with an additional \$20,000 needed each year. He asked Council for ideas of what to do with area if the splash pad is closed down. The restrooms will be used but doing something else with this area may be more productive. Additional sports fields or other things.

Council Member Pearce said the season is very short with only three months of the year being the splash pad season. She feels this is a money pit.

Mayor Tait asked if there is another monetary option to help fund this. Mayor and Council discussed the possibility of charging for the use of the splash pad. Bill Morris pointed out anything paid for by RAMP must be open to the public at no cost. Council Member Robinson asked if there is expiration to that time frame. Bill Morris suggested checking with Riverdale and South Ogden cities to see what they are doing to maintain

their splash pads. He reminded Council when the splash pad was installed, liability issues were addressed.

Council Member Weiss asked how often the bowery is rented. Jennie Knight said most weekends and sporadically throughout the week. Council Member Weiss suggested installing another pavilion that could be rented out.

Mayor Tait suggested Council take all of this under consideration. Council Member Wilhelmsen asked if the main concerns are liability issues and the cost for employees. Bryan Fife said he will need to address any changes. If there is a charge, we would have to hire part time employees. Council Member Weiss asked if there is an option to have people sign waivers. Bill Morris said the liability with personal injury is not much because we have governmental immunity as long as Bryan Fife follows the guidelines. He did suggest having Jason Watterson from the Utah Local Governments Trust conduct an inspection to address any potential issues.

Bill Morris also suggested applying for additional funding through RAMP to see if they will cover some costs.

Council Member Beecher asked if volunteers could help. Bryan Fife said volunteers usually do not work out very well. They can walk away anytime and then often the city is left with larger problems.

Without any further instruction, Bryan Fife will move forward with the regular season.

#### **c. Discussion/possible action on Locking Park Entrances at Night.**

Bryan Fife explained this discussion is a follow up from a Council request a few months ago. He said the cost to run a chain across the north and south entrances at Highway 89 and another one at the end of Independence is \$1,000. Bill Morris suggested Council approve this, he would like to get the parks secured. Other surrounding cities are looking at vandalism issues and he feels this will liken worsen.

Council Member Robinson asked where the chains will be installed. Bryan Fife said on posts at the three entrances from 6am to 10pm. The police department would lock these. The policy is already in place, this is just enforcing an existing policy. Council Member Weiss asked about signage. Bryan Fife said the cost estimate includes signs. The would only address vehicle traffic.

Council Member Wilhelmsen asked if this is chain or gates. Bryan Fife said he would prefer gates, but the chains are more affordable. If someone wanted to get through, they would be able to but with minimal damage to city property. The chains would be held with clips not locks, to allow access for plowing and restricted access.

**MOTION: Council Member Pearce motioned to approve purchase of chains to close the park entrances for security. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.**

#### **5. Public Comments - (3 minute maximum)**

**Bob Howard** expressed his concerns with the empty houses on Wall Avenue. There are four vacant houses he is sure transients are living in. Some of these houses have been empty for six months or more; this is causing vandalism to his property. He asked if the Council has plans for these houses. Bill Morris suggested enforcing the vacant house ordinance, requiring property owners to secure the properties. Bob Howard

specified there have been people living in the driveways of these homes as well. Bill Morris said this area has been looked at for redevelopment, but that might take some time. Bill Morris suggested Bob Howard file a formal complaint with Laurence, the code enforcement official.

**Jeff Pearce** said he filed a complaint back in September about Dave Greens commercial property. There has never been a six foot fence installed between the residential and commercial zones. Bill Morris said he will follow up with Laurence on this issue.

#### **6. Mayor/Council Follow-Up:**

Council Member Robinson asked about getting the check register. Mayor Tait said there have been some staffing issues. This will be worked out.

Council Member Robinson asked if a letter sent to Council from Mayor Tait needs to be read into the record. Bill Morris explained this is part of the permanent record and is subject to GRAMA.

Bill Morris said next month we will hold the annual training for open meetings and ethics. Council Member Wilhelmsen asked if we could hold this training online like the mosquito abatement does. Bill Morris said he prefers to have this included in the minutes. In addition the public gets to hear the same training during the meeting.

Council Member Robinson asked if the ULCT training is open for registration. Jennie Knight said the registration is not open yet, but she can make hotel reservations.

#### **7. ADJOURN**

Mayor Tait declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

**ATTEST:**

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**MICHELLE TAIT**  
Mayor

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**JENNIE KNIGHT**

City Recorder

Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2019