

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

ATTENDING: Mayor Pat Brady, Council Members Philip Engleman, Keith Brady, Irene Daw, Kent Johnson, Dan Harrison; Employees Conae Black, Bryan Meadows, Karen Smith; Citizens Penney Riches, Katherine Brown, Joe Bolton, Troy Pettit, Kathy Ryan, Sharon Mitchell, Eduard Korycan, Amy Wilmarth, Kim McFarlane, Julie Steuer, Rey Lloyd Hatt, from the Utah Local Government Trust Jason Watterson, Mike McCandless Emery County Economic Development Director, from United Way Bill Maikranz, Carol Wright and Deb Dull

CONDUCTING: Mayor Pat Brady, the meeting began at 7:01 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of allegiance is directed by Philip Engleman

Mayor Brady made a public apology for the comments he made at the last City Council meeting. He stated that he made some disparaging remarks about a community member that did not need to be said. This community member has invited him into his house and they sat down and had a very nice talk. He got to know them better and according to them it is water under the bridge. He told them that he would apologize publicly and write them a letter. Sometimes even we big boys let our emotions get away with us.

1. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda. Mayor Brady asked to separate out the consent agenda. He called for a motion on the minutes. **MOTION:** Kent Johnson moved to approve the minutes on the consent agenda. Irene Daw seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Johnson, Irene Daw, Philip Engleman and Keith Brady voted aye Dan Harrison was absent for the vote. The motion carried. **MOTION:** Keith Brady moved to approve the financial part of the consent agenda. Kent Johnson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Johnson, Irene Daw, Philip Engleman and Keith Brady voted aye Dan Harrison was absent for the vote. The motion carried.

Minutes for June 28, 2011 executive session
Minutes for July 19, 2011 regular meeting
Minutes for July 19, 2011 executive session
Minutes for July 27, 2011 special meeting
Minutes for October 11, 2011 regular meeting
September 2011 Recorder's report
October 2011 Treasurer's report
November 2011 Payment Approval report

2. Presentation from United Way of Eastern Utah. Deb Dull and Bill Maikranz from United Way of Eastern Utah thanked the City for their participation in the United Way Day of Caring. They showed a slide show of the property clean up on South Broadway. Deb Dull said that Conae Black who serves on the United Way Board instigated and led the project in Green River. They wanted to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Conae Black and show their appreciation for her efforts.

3. Discussion on the City's insurance with Utah Local Government Trust. Jason Watterson from the Utah Local Government's Trust addressed the Mayor and City Council. He explained that he is the Risk Manager for the Trust. Utah Local Government Trust is a government insurance pool. He said he will speak to them about how the city can either reduce their insurance rates or at least keep them where they are. He gave an overview of the city's general liability losses and workman's compensation. He also gave some information on a risk assessment that he did about one week ago. He looked at city property in the same prospective that an OSHA inspector or fire marshal would do. There is not a way to predict when an accident will happen so we buy insurance and pool together as a larger group. There are about 500 Trust members from around

the state who pool their premium dollars that is held in a fund where the losses are paid from. They adjust those losses and make sure they are adequate and appropriately paid. So if you have a bad record then you are going to pay more for your insurance premiums. Workman's Compensation is an insurance that covers employees and volunteers who are injured on the job. Workman's Compensation is one of the more difficult lines of insurance to get under control because if you don't actively manage it then it can get very expensive. There are some things that determine what your insurance premium would be. First would be your payroll. If you don't have any employees then you don't need workman's compensation insurance. The size of your payroll will factor into the insurance premiums. Then you classify the employees by their positions. You will pay more for an employee who works out on the street than you would for someone who is an office clerk because they have more risk on their job. There are a few other things that go into the insurance rate such as federally mandated things and any responses to 911 disasters. The major contributor to the rate is pulled from the losses that you have had which would be any injuries that your employees have had. That is the one thing that you have control over. The losses are when an employee loses time away from work due to an injury that they incurred. This is called an emod or experience modification. You want your emod number to be a one or lower. If it is above that then you pay a factor. If your emod is over one then your rate will be higher than the standard rate. This is not something that the Trust does this is for any workman's compensation around the country. If you have an emod of 1.5 then you are paying 50% more premium rate than the standard rate. This is one thing that you can control however it is a challenge to control it because it has a long memory. Your emod is a four year history of your losses. How do we fix that? First of all get your employee back to work. Get them the best care that you can so that they will be healthy enough to work. There are other things that you can do such as knowing what the employee's restrictions are. The Trust model looks at a .5 or 50% loss ratio. If you are over 50% then you are beyond where we would like to see you. We realize that over time there is going to be a loss here and there that is why you buy insurance. We summarize where the workman's compensation claims come from. Because of the size of the city there are not a lot of claims but the down side to that is one accident can have a major effect on your insurance premium. They can show where your employees are being injured. It shows some strains, punctures and burns. Many of these injuries are associated with the fire department. He would recommend a review of your fire departments policies and procedures particularly with the personal protective equipment because they don't always use that. The Trusts records show that there was one major employee accident in 2009 that has an affect on the emod. It adds about .4 to you emod number. When that one drops off you can look to see if that helps your rate if there are not any more injuries added. There are a number of things that you can do done to help prevent these injuries. If people in your community and your employees see that you care about safety that would be important. Another important thing is to establish a safety committee. In many small towns the safety committee consists of the City Council and a couple of the employees. You should review any injury incident that happens and make suggestions on how to prevent them. Follow up on any risk audits like the one that he just performed for Green River and make sure those things are fixed over time. Conae Black has been to some of our trainings. Currently these trainings have been held in Price or Moab. The Trust can do some on sight training if there is a particular need for it. He would encourage sending your people to the trainings. You should do a quick overview of things and ask questions like have there been any audits of your facilities and looking for any hazards that may be there or are we doing trainings for our employees. He provided some audit forms and will email the forms to Conae Black so there is an electronic copy. He would recommend that you use a different employee each month to do the audits so that it is not all on one person and everybody gets trained. Mayor Brady asked if the Trust had online trainings. Jason Watterson said yes, some streaming and webinars.

4. Report from Mike McCandless, Emery County Economic Development Director. Mike McCandless said he serves three roles for the county. He is the Economic Development Director, County Planning and Zoning and Travel and Tourism. His office as well as the County Commissioners made a decision to expend some economic development efforts in Green River. The hardest area for us to make an impact on is in retail. About 25% of his time right now is addressing the issues with the State Parks. They recently did a \$48,000 add campaign for the state parks. There are big political issues and it is serious. When the state did an audit they

found that the parks were not making money. If things do not turn around then they will close down the golf course. He has been working on the Natural Gas Bill at the legislature for some time. The person they had to sponsor the bill passed away along with other problems so this has taken longer. Since then they have found a new sponsor. Another effort is the Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR) program. With this program they are able to make more visits to businesses and make assessments. With this program they have been able to help business stay in business and some have even been able to expand. It has been a very successful program. The biggest issue and the one that peaks everyone's interest is the nuclear power plant. They have been working with the BLM on the access road. They are still waiting for the decision on the point of diversion for their water from the state. He suggests setting up a tax increment financing of the industrial park to help with the impact that will come to the community. The refinery and uranium mill projects are still around. He continues to work with the film industry. He also has continued efforts towards travel and tourism. The Emery County Business is gearing up and going well.

5. Introduction of Souder Miller & Associates. They were not able to attend the meeting tonight and asked to be on the December agenda.

6. Discussion of animal control officer. Mayor Brady said since the city no longer has an animal control officer Irene Daw has taken on those responsibilities. He said with the City Council's discussion it has been mentioned that the animal control officer and code enforcement officer should be one position to make it a full time job. If they were separated then those positions would possibly be just part time. Irene Daw has said that she knows of people who are interested in the animal control job but not code enforcement and visa versa. She also feels these two positions should be separated due to their nature and needed a different kind of person to handle the different jobs. She said that in Moab these positions are separate and in Price they are put together. Mayor Brady said he would like to get with Irene Daw and Conae Black and look at the budget and discuss hiring a code enforcement officer. He would like to get this position advertised. Irene Daw said she has taken from St. George their code enforcement ordinance and she will email that to everyone. It has every thing in there like how to make them comply and what to do if they don't. Kent Johnson said he would like to take a part in the discussion on budgeting for that position.

7. Canvassing of the votes. Conae Black said there are 549 registered voters and there were 266 votes cast at our election this year. 25 of those 266 votes were early voters. The City Council reviewed the election results. **MOTION:** Kent Johnson moved to approve the election results. Philip Engleman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Dan Harrison, Kent Johnson, Irene Daw, Philip Engleman and Keith Brady voted aye. The motion carried.

8. Department Reports. Dan Harrison said he would like to see an agreement between the city and the museum nonprofit to get more exhibits and displays. He didn't understand Mr. Kinghorn's comments on not needing an agreement in place. He doesn't feel that the nonprofit will be able to get any funding unless an agreement is in place. He wonders if perhaps the city attorney, Mr. Kinghorn, has not done enough of these agreements to know if this is the way to go where as the city auditor, Doug Rasmussen, has been involved in a lot of them. He still holds his same position that he would like to see this agreement in place. Rey Lloyd Hatt said instead of calling it a contract or an agreement it might be best to call it a Memorandum of Understanding so that the city can transfer money to the museum nonprofit. He would suggest that the code enforcement officer should come from out of town or train someone. He would like to see this person do the building inspections also because there has not been good response with the way it is handled now. He mentioned the letter from the railroad on bringing the railroad crossing signs up to standards. Keith Brady felt that speaking of the burn season was a sore subject but there was nothing that he could do about it. The Department of Air Quality was going to let Green River move the burn season but the fire chief said no and did it the way he wanted to. In talking with his boss they are going to create regulations for the whole county so individual fire chiefs cannot make up their own rules. Mayor Brady felt they should determine the dates for next years burn season at the next meeting. Kent Johnson reported that the fuel tanks at the airport are not functioning. The runway and beacon lights are in need of repair also. He said the prairie dogs

are a problem at the airport. They chew on the runway lights. The city does not have a contract for an FBO at the airport currently. It doesn't seem that Redtail is interested in doing it. He spoke with Trent Fluckey about the paper work that needs to be done and he said he would train someone how to do it. Philip Engleman discovered raw sewage running out on the ground where the Book Cliff Restaurant used to be. That has now been addressed and taken care of. He is putting out a letter to explain about the solid waste. There has been a lot of unwanted waste dumped in the old landfill. He is considering adding an institutional water rate for churches, schools and government buildings. He would like to have a staff meeting to go over a plan on how to fix some of the maintenance problems. He wanted to know where they are at on the CIB list. Irene Daw reported on animal control. Bryan Meadows reported on the water leaks that they have had. They cut down a tree that caused problems with a water line. They had to rent a crane to get that done. When Green River Blvd was paved they patched all of the areas that needed asphalt. Karen Smith reported on the status of the new fire house. She spoke on a premitigation grant available for flooding. She asked the Council for a date for the Christmas party. A date was decided on. Conae Black said the field work on the annual audit is complete. She asked the Mayor and City Council how they felt about allowing the County to build on the Premium Oil property where they hope to be able to build the new fire house. The Mayor and Council were agreeable. She presented to the Mayor and Council what the city would save if they paid off the loan for the medical center. She has not been able to get any cooperation from CIB on responding to the medical center loan. Mayor Brady said the State Park Access road is complete. It didn't even cost as much as they thought it would.

9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Pat Brady, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: _____