

# City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

**ATTENDING:** Mayor Pat Brady, Council Members Kathy Ryan, Kent Johnson, Penney Riches, Philip Engleman and Gary Riches; Employees Conae Black, Karen Smith; Citizens Mary Wilmarth, Amy Wilmarth, Katherine Brown, Don Hunt, Ethan Migliori, Elaine Kyle, From the Division of Water Quality Paul Krauth and David Ariotti, Ashley Ross, Armando Rios, From Armstrong Engineering David Hartman, Karen Walker, Birdie Acerson, Kim McFarlane, Bill Wilmarth, Maria Sykes, Chris Lezama

**CONDUCTING:** Mayor Pat Brady

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

The Pledge of allegiance is directed by Kathy Ryan.

1. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda. **MOTION:** Gary Riches made a motion to approve the minutes on the consent agenda. Philip Engleman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Gary Riches, Philip Engleman, Penney Riches, Kent Johnson and Kathy Ryan voted aye. **MOTION:** Philip Engleman moved to approve all other items on the consent agenda. Penney Riches seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Gary Riches, Philip Engleman, Penney Riches, Kent Johnson and Kathy Ryan voted aye.

Minutes for June 18, 2012 special meeting

Minutes for June 19, 2012 special meeting

Minutes for July 3, 2012 special meeting

July Treasurer's report

August Treasurer's report

July 2012 Recorder's report

September 2012 Payment Approval report

2. Discussion on potential FAA funding for the airport. David Hartman from Armstrong Engineering addressed the Mayor and Council. He relayed the information from the FAA on their program for the Green River airport for 2013 based on the Capital Improvement Plan set up by the City. There is a \$300,000 grant for lighting improvements. Green River City gets \$150,000 a year of Entitlement money and you can build that up or use it. Mr. Hartman asked if the city would like to use the \$300,000 for the lighting improvements or hold onto it and do the project another year. There is a match of 90.94% Federal money which means the total project budget is \$329,888. The \$29,888 would be split between the City and the State which makes the local match \$14,944. The project could straddle two fiscal years. If the project is designed in the winter and construction begins in the spring through the summer then the cash flow could be in two fiscal years which could help out. Mayor Brady asked how long the city had to make a decision. Mr. Hartman said the FAA likes to see grant applications by the end of the calendar year. Armstrong Consultants does will not send the city a bill for the design until the grant is approved.

3. Presentation on potential changes from the Division of Water Quality that may be an impact. Paul Krauth from the Division of Water Quality addressed the Mayor and City Council. He is going around to all municipalities who potentially discharge their sewer into water. He will state why it is important from both a national and local perspective and what huge cost and timing impacts it could have on Green River City. The major concerns are nitrogen and phosphorus. Lagoons here were never designed to take out nitrogen and phosphorus. Now this has become a big national trend. What is driving all of this is that it is impacting the fisheries which every stream, river and lake people recreate at and like to fish. From a local perspective it is impacting our drinking water supply. There is only so much ground water and we are taking our drinking

water from the surface water. As the state grows we are going to be getting our water from the surface water. We have already seen impacts of these nutrients in Pine View which is the drinking water supply for Ogden. When we fertilize the plants we get these big algae blooms and when they die off and fall to the bottom they create these big dead zones in reservoirs and lakes. When they do that create these little oxygen condition that kills of the fish. This has happened in Chesapeake Bay right next to Washington D.C. so it has brought it to the attention of the government. Another problem is Microcystis which is a glue green alga. When it dies it releases chemicals that can produce a foul odor and musty taste which is harmful to cattle. If we are going to treat it for drinking water it is a huge cost. It has created a huge numeric trend and Utah is already down this road. The first thing they did was tried to do a cost analysis but forgot to look at all of the smaller water treatment plants. He gave some of the numbers for these bigger treatment plants and just to do the first tier it would cost \$24 million dollars and raise the average rate about \$1.20 a month. To take care of the nitrogen and phosphorus it would raise the rates about \$3.00 a month. Nation wide the average sewer rate is \$66.00 a month. What does this mean for Green River? If you had to build a phosphorus rule that would include building a mechanical clarifier and adding chemicals which would cost \$1.2 million dollars to build the building and an additional \$2,000 to \$4,000 a year for the chemicals. If we had to go to the high level treatment it would cost \$5.5 million and an additional \$80,000 a year for the power and chemicals. This is what the EPA scenario would be. He showed other scenarios where the costs would be unattainable. He said that if this comes to pass Green River City will never want to discharge into the river. Land application is looking much better.

4. Budget Public Hearing. The public hearing opened at 7:25 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to increase the budget amount and disclose whom the city will be donating money to. Mayor Brady said the city has had requests to donate \$1,000 to the Special Olympics and \$500 to the MECCA Bicycle Club. There has also been a request to donate \$12,000 to the Medical Center. The decision here is whether to give the \$12,000 to the Medical Center this year or use that money to pay off the loan which would save the city money on interest payments and the fees from Zions Bank. Katherine Brown and Amy Wilmarth said the loan should be paid off. The \$12,000 that the city has been giving the Medical Center since 2006 goes into a separate bank account for reserves for emergency operating costs. Kim McFarlane said the Federal government recommends that there be at least three months reserve built up and right now they have about two months in the reserve account. He said the Medical Center relies on the in-kind donations from the city to help them get the grants they need to operate. Kent Johnson said with the potential growth that could come to our community there will be a need to expand and the medical center. If the city does not have that loan hanging over our heads then we will make it a lot easier to secure funding.

Conae Black said the since we received the funding for the sewer land application we now need to add that to the budget. The cost for that project is \$680,000 and an additional expense for the planning study of \$30,000 that should be added to the sewer fund. Also the City Council has expressed a desire to utilize the savings on the power bill at the museum. The cost for the lighting upgrades for that project is \$19,176 which can be included in the Capital Projects fund. Conae Black showed the Mayor and City Council where the money for the donations had been budgeted for. It can be found in the Recreation fund under Community Activity Grants. There is \$2,000 budgeted. The Special Olympics has asked for \$1,000 and in the past the city has donated \$500 to the MECCA Bicycle Club so the budget does not need to be increased but it needs to be disclosed publicly who the city donates to.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

5. Discuss/approve/deny changes to the budget. **MOTION:** Philip Engleman moved to approve the budget changes a discussed in the public hearing. Kathy Ryan seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Gary Riches, Philip Engleman, Penney Riches, Kent Johnson and Kathy Ryan voted aye.

6. Discussion on animal control. Don Hunt addressed the Mayor and Council. He stated that there is a problem with cats around town disappearing and one of them is his. He had other members of the community with him who stated they too have had cats disappear. He quoted State law that holds citizens responsible for mistreating animals and also spoke on certain cases. Mayor Brady asked Don Hunt if he knows of someone who is mistreating animals. Don Hunt said

he did not have proof but had an idea. Kent Johnson said he knows that coyotes love house cats and it sounds like he is accusing someone of killing cats. Don Hunt said someone is killing cats in certain areas and that is right around where he lives. Kent Johnson asked Don Hunt even if he had proof of someone killing cats what did he want from the City Council. Don Hunt said he would like to make the police aware of what is happening. Gary Riches asked if he had reported his cat missing to law enforcement. A lady that was with him said she had and was told that they cannot do anything. She has had seven of her cats come up missing. Don Hunt said small dogs or small farm animals could also be hunted by coyotes and nothing like that has been reported. Karen Walker wanted to know if there was an animal control for the city. Gary Riches said there is not an animal control officer at this time but in the interim he is filling that position. Mayor Brady asked what these citizens what they would like the City Council to do. One woman stated that she would like her cats to be able to roam the area where she lives freely. Mayor Brady said it sounds like the State of Utah has already taken care of that what else would they like from the city. Don Hunt said he would like the Council to be aware of the situation because they have the right to have an animal without it being killed and if it is a coyote killing these animals then we have a big coyote problem in city limits. Kathy Ryan said she too has had chickens and cats disappear and fills it is either a fox or coyote. Gary Riches said if you have an animal missing then they need to notify the Sheriff's office because that is a crime. Don Hunt said he was told by more than one person that has notified the Sheriff's office and an officer would take a report and not do anything. Gary Riches thanked them for bringing the problem to his attention because he was not aware there was a problem. He said he would speak with Emery County Sheriff's office and get their perspective on this situation. Don Hunt said there is someone in town that does not like animals and is able to do what he/she wants until law enforcement does swing their hand. Gary Riches said he will investigate the situation. Dan Hunt said all he is asking is to know that someone cares and will actually try to do something about it.

7. Department Reports. Karen Smith reported that September is National Preparedness month. On September 21 the National Guard will be to the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting telling us some training activities that will be going on in our area. She attended a flood plain workshop to see if there was anything that can be done for those residents who are living in Elgin. She found that it is possible to change designated flood plain area in Green River. She reported on the meal for Melon Days and finalized some plans. Kathy Ryan said there was a huge water leak on Farrer Street and she declared it an emergency and has hired Double E Construction to repair the road. Part of the problem is the trench made for the last sewer project was not compacted enough and the worry is we don't know how far the problem is. The school signs have been ordered and should be arriving soon. Penney Riches stated that business at the museum is starting to pick up again. The Emery County Sheriff's office brought some inmates who cleaned up the museum grounds and they look really good. Phillip Engleman said he worked with the Public Works department to do some maintenance work on the lights at the baseball fields. There was a problem with one of the sewer lift stations and that is being taken care of. The fences and baseball backstop job is complete and it looks really good. We went to Vernal for the CIB meeting to get the funding for the sewer project but the meeting was not posted correctly and they could not vote on anything so they will act on it at the next meeting. Gary Riches said there is maintenance problem with one of the fire trucks. He drafted up a job description for a code enforcement officer for the Council to look over. He attended the last County Commissioners meeting and was told that by them that they are concerned with what is happening in Green River. He said the EMS is now under the Sheriff's office and if there are any concerns to take them to the assigned person there. He was told by Sheriff Funk that there is not enough funding to have a Supervisor over the EMT's in each community and if a community wanted to help fund a supervisor they would look at that. Gary said Green River City will look at that and discuss that and if they did hire a EMT supervisor that person would not answer to Jim Gordon he/she would answer to the person in charge at the Sheriff's office. Kent Johnson said now that the fencing at the park is completed the next project he would like to see done is work on the electrical changes at the park. Philip Engleman said the contractor for the fence reported to him that the basketball hoops need some reinforcement and anchoring on them. Mayor Brady brought in a small box of loose fencing wire left by the fencing contractor. Mayor Brady reported on some mail that he has received. He said that after the Melon Days meal there will be a movie shown by CHEER.

8. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Brady, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_