

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

ATTENDING: Mayor Pat Brady, Council Members Kathy Ryan, Michael Silliman, Penney Riches, Philip Engleman and Gary Riches; Employees Conae Black

CONDUCTING: Mayor Pat Brady, the meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Discuss events coordinator. Mayor Brady suggested listing all current events held by the city that brings revenue into town. Penney Riches would like to list all events and stated that each one has potential to grow and bring in revenue. A good list was created that even included golf tournaments and the plans for future trails. After the list was created it was noticeable that there was seven months that no event was held. Mayor Brady said during the summer months Green River gets travelers attending events in Moab. He said one of the reasons that Moab is successful is because they hold events all year long. There were new events suggested along with picking up some older events that are no longer active. Some city resources such as the baseball park and the airport were brought up as being underutilized. Mayor Brady said through this all he would like to see a way to keep all of the restaurants and motels busy all year long and not just during the summer. He suggested speaking with the Grand County Travel Bureau and gather information on how we could improve upon our events. Penney Riches asked Mayor Brady how much money he was willing to put towards an event coordinator. Mayor Brady said \$5,000. Penney Riches asked if that included advertising the events. She said the cost to advertise each event will be about \$300 to \$400. The subject of signs came up again with the potential cost of the different signs. Conae Black said events have their own "housekeeping" expenses such as providing sanitation services and garbage clean up. It is not just paying someone to organize the events it is paying for all the expense incurred when putting on an event. Penney Riches asked how much money it would take to put on an event. Conae Black suggested looking at Melon Days event to compare costs. Gary Riches said he didn't know exactly how much money was needed to put on the car show however a lot of donations were given for that event. Conae Black said people will donate in the beginning but as the event grows the donations will stop. Kathy Ryan explained how much was involved in putting on the Friendship Cruise. She felt that event was a dying event. Penney Riches said that if the people in town do not support the events then they will not be successful. Kathy Ryan asked if this was just going to pay for a coordinator. She felt the city needed to put a code enforcement officer in place. Conae Black felt the city was putting the cart before the horse because the city barely has enough money to put on Melon Days how are they going to afford other events. July 4th cost the city a lot of money also. She felt that when the city gets in more revenue then they will be able to afford other events. She suggested that a non-profit organization should be putting on these events and pay money to the city for the use of their facilities. Penney Riches asked Conae Black if she thought a non-profit could make money on an event. Conae Black said yes. Penney Riches asked why the city doesn't make money off an event. Conae Black explained that the person putting on the softball tournament makes money. The vendors in the park make money. The melon farmers make money. The city pays for all of the housekeeping of that event while others make the money. The only revenue that the city gets is the sales tax revenue. Penney Riches asked Conae Black if she thought that bringing more events into town would not make enough sales tax revenue to pay for an event coordinator. She said another advantage to hosting more events is our name would get out there and people would start coming back. She stated that if the town is going to grow then we also need to hold more events because if there is not any events going on and we are not meeting together as a group and growing together as a

community they are not going to want to live here even if there is a house available. Mayor Brady said the top things people look at when they move are the schools and what recreational activities there are. Penney Riches would like the city get a Code Enforcement Officer and an Event Coordinator. Conae Black said to get some non-profit agency to host the events. Penney Riches said there isn't one and they can't make money on doing the events. Mayor Brady felt a non-profit agency would work. Conae Black said her brother is head of security for Thanks Giving Point and a non-profit agency does all of the events there. She said her whole family went to their Corn Belly's event that they hold in the fall. Her brother said last year they made a billion dollars on that event that is held for one month. Of course we cannot compare ourselves with Thanks Giving Point and their month long activities but it is a non-profit agency that puts on those events and they pay Thanks Giving Point a percentage of the profits to do certain things such as security, parking and the use of the facilities. Mayor Brady said that is something that the city should look into. Michael Silliman thought the Epicenter wanted money to be the event coordinator and wanted more events. Penney Riches said they wanted extra money for that and felt that if the city was going to hire someone to coordinate events then it should be put out for bid.

2. Discuss code enforcement. The discussion on this agenda item began while still discussing an event coordinator. Conae Black felt the city should clean up the town before we host more events. Penney Riches said hiring a code enforcement officer the way it was done did nothing and was absolutely a waste of money. Conae Black disagreed and felt without code enforcement the city is now going backwards. She said it helped a lot with the control of the animals and also with the businesses complying with the ordinances. Penney Riches said she has not seen any changes in the businesses. She also said she doesn't know what he did because she has never had a report on his actions. Mayor Brady asked Penney Riches if she has looked at the Mancos Rose property. Penney Riches said that owner would have done that on his own. Mayor Brady disagreed saying he would not have done anything unless he was pressured into it. Conae Black said it just took writing a letter to that owner to get him to comply. Conae Black said C.J. Vetere was able to get Dan Harrison to move his equipment from his property on Main Street and now that C. J. Vetere is gone Dan Harrison has started moving more and more equipment back onto that property. She said C.J. Vetere could have done better but who is over him? The City Council is over him. Penney Riches said she isn't over code enforcement either. Mayor Brady said everybody is over code enforcement. Penney Riches said that is not what she was told. She said if the city is going to hire another code enforcement officer then that person needs to be educated and the Council needs to have a backup plan in place. Gary Riches said judicially the city does not have any support. Conae Black said yes we do. Penney Riches said the city needs to take them to court and pay for it ourselves because the county will not going to. Gary Riches said the city will need to hire a prosecutor. He has talked with the Emery County Prosecutor and he is not going to do it. Penney Riches asked if the city could use the Emery County Court if we hired our own attorney. Gary Riches said yes we could. There was some discussion on the best judicial practice. Penney Riches asked if the city can legally put a fine on the water bill. Conae Black said you can legally do whatever the code states you can do. Citations can be issued if you swear the employee in as a citation officer. Penney riches said a code enforcement officer needs clear cut directions. Gary Riches said the problem is finding someone who can do the job. The city needs to be willing to pay \$26 to \$27,000 a year. Penney Riches felt the pay would be more like \$35 to \$40,000 a year. Philip Engleman said that brings the city back to not being able to afford to pay for that position. Penney Riches said the city is back to hiring someone who knows what they are doing. Conae Black said there is training available for code enforcement. She spoke with Bob Durfey from Sandy City who is their Code Enforcement Officer and Building Official. There were other members who attended this conference who also have multiple roles. She specifically asked if it was too much to ask one person to do both roles and was told no it wasn't. She was told that you can't expect that person to be trained within a years' time and should allow plenty of time for that person to get that training. There is training available for code enforcement and we all know that certifications are needed for the building official. There is nothing wrong with Trenton Bennett who does an amazing job. She felt that in one year the city

will grow and have more revenue to work with. Trenton Bennett will have a chance to be the Building Official for the refinery and will have that experience that he wants and it will give the city time to get the new employee trained. She suggested that the new employee could be the Public Works Director, Code Enforcement Officer and Building Official. The Public Works crew would need to do animal control and grounds maintenance for the city and we wouldn't need to hire separate employees for all of those duties. Penney Riches agreed to Conae Black's suggestion. She stated that if the town is going to grow then we also need to hold more events because if there is not any events going on and we are not meeting together as a group and growing together as a community they are not going to want to live here even if there is a house available. Mayor Brady said the top things people look at when they move are the schools and what recreational activities there are. He asked what should be done about code enforcement. Conae Black said the city wouldn't need to reduce Bryan Meadows wages but take away his title as Public Works Director. Gary Riches felt that if the city began requiring the public works crew to take on these extra responsibilities they will quit. If all four of them walk out on their job because of the extra responsibilities assigned to them then who will run the water treatment plant. Philip Engleman said Rural Water Association will step in and help until we can get someone in place. The general feeling is that it would set the city back but not destroy it. There was more discussion on filling the public works positions if the current crew quit. Gary Riches said then from this time forward he would like to see the public works crew given the assignment of animal control officer and if they come back and say they will not do that assignment then they need to be fired. Mayor Brady and Michael Silliman said they are doing those assignments now but not without complaining.

3. Discuss/approve/deny budgeting \$1,000 to the trails program for maintenance of the trails. Penney Riches this would be a yearly expense. BLM felt there could be two or three trails up Tuscher Canyon if the city can help fund maintenance on the trails. They will not allow for the trail on BLM property unless the city has the maintenance plan in place. BLM felt it would cost about \$1,000 a year to maintain these trails. She said the BLM usually hires someone from Moab who knows the trail and they get volunteers to come up with BLM supervising the maintenance. She said there are four to five businesses who have agreed to help with this expense but felt if the city were on board with it then it would be a better sell to the BLM. Mayor Brady said he will give \$1,000 from his budget for this. **MOTION:** Gary Riches moved to fund \$1,000 to the trails program for maintenance of the trails. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan, Penney Riches, Philip Engleman and Gary Riches voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Pat Brady, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: January 15, 2015