



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 for a meeting held electronically in accordance with the provisions of Utah Code 52-4-207(4), Open and Public Meeting Act, due to infectious disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Council Chair, Rosalba Dominguez, determined that to protect the health and welfare of Murray citizens, an in-person City Council meeting, including attendance by the public and the City Council is not practical or prudent. The public may view the meeting via the live stream at: www.murraycitylive.com or <https://www.facebook.com/Murraycityutah/>

Council Members in Attendance:

Rosalba Dominguez - Chair	District #3
Diane Turner – Vice Chair	District #4
Kat Martinez	District #1
Dale Cox	District #2
Brett Hales	District #5

Others in Attendance:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Janet Lopez	City Council Director
Joey Mittelman	Fire – Assistant Chief	Jennifer Kennedy	City Recorder
Jennifer Heaps	Chief Communications Officer	Pattie Johnson	City Council Office Admin.
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Susan Nixon	Associate Planner
Melinda Greenwood	CED Director	Bill Francis	The Imagination Company
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney		

Ms. Dominguez called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. with the following statement:

Considering the continued rise of COVID-19 case counts in Utah, meeting in an anchor location presents substantial risk to the health and safety of those in attendance because physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain in the Murray City Council Chambers. The Center for Disease Control states that COVID-19 is easily spread from person to person between people who are in close contact with one another. The spread is through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks and may be spread by people who are non-symptomatic. The intent is to safeguard the lives of Murray residents, business owners, employees and elected officials by meeting remotely through electronic means without an anchor location. Citizen comments or public hearing comments may be made as follows:

- Live through the Zoom meeting process. Those wishing to speak during these portions of the meeting must send a request to city.council@murray.utah.gov by 3:00 p.m. on the meeting date. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions and a Zoom link to join the meeting.
- Read into the record by sending an email in advance or during the meeting to city.council@murray.utah.gov
- Comments are limited to less than three minutes, include your name and contact information.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Dominguez asked for comments or a motion on the minutes from: Committee of the Whole – August 25, 2020; and Committee of the Whole – September 1, 2020. Mr. Hales moved approval on both sets of minutes. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. (Approved 5-0)

Discussion Items:

Amendment to the CARES Act Funding Agreement and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment – Ms. Moore explained Salt Lake County decided to amend the original CARES Act agreement and pass more of their grant funding on to municipalities within the County. She confirmed the County increased the amount by \$1,456,622.43; this means Murray would receive \$2,913,244.86, which is double the original amount. In addition, the revised agreement would extend the time available to spend the funds from October 1, to November 1, 2020, either committed or spent. The County has to December 31, 2020 to spend the entire allotment or return it.

The Council would consider the ordinance in the council meeting, during a public hearing to adopt amendments to the City's 2020-2021 budget, allowing the City to receive the funds into the General Fund; and authorize Ms. Moore to transfer funding to various departments accordingly. The Council would also consider a resolution to approve the agreement with Salt Lake County for the transfer of CARES Act funds to assist and reduce the impact of COVID-19. Ms. Moore noted funds cannot be used to offset loss of revenue; and confirmed plans would be identified for spending all the \$2.9 million.

No Council Comments.

Judges to Serve as Temporary Justice Court Judges – Mr. Critchfield explained that often due to travel, illness, or conflict of interest, a temporary justice court judge is needed to fill-in when a sitting judge cannot attend court. He said the situation happens about once every other month.

Mr. Critchfield described the formal process to provide temporary judges, where the Council would review a list of five potential judges provided by Mayor Camp; Judge Thompson created the list and is familiar with each person. Mr. Critchfield noted judges on the list sit in relatively smaller justice court areas; they all have the time, and they are all willing to fill-in. Biographies were provided and Mr. Critchfield informed the Council it was not an easy task to attain fill-in judges; most are full-time and cannot break away from their duties. For example, it would not be efficient for a judge to travel from a distant city like St. George, or Logan.

Mr. Critchfield said the list is required by State law, and once approved it would be sent to the West Valley City, Presiding, and Senior Justice Court Judge. When the need arises in the City, that judge would select the temporary judge from the list. The Council would consider the resolution in the council meeting to ratify the list of temporary judges.

Council Comments and Discussion:

- Ms. Turner expressed concern about the proposed list; she said the group did not reflect the complexion, or overall gender of the City. She asked if the pool of judges could be expanded; if there were more options; and if the list could remain open.
- Mr. Critchfield replied, as a result of his recent meeting with Ms. Turner, he passed that suggestion onto the Presiding Judge in West Valley City, who confirmed that other judges are not available at this time; more specifically, all women judges are full-time within their own jurisdictions and cannot break

away. He noted one other woman judge was contacted, but unfortunately her status is now inactive. He said the matter would be kept in mind, and if an available woman judge comes about, he was happy to include her – or them - on the list. He noted the selected amount of five was not a required number- but only to allow for options to choose from. Ms. Turner was appreciative.

- Ms. Martinez thanked Ms. Turner for bringing up gender options. She thought the greater diversity in any pool of candidates, the better; and understood that availability and geographics were obvious factors. She asked if the use of technology might aide in the expansion of finding more temporary judges; or did the role need to be filled in-person. Mr. Critchfield said they sought to find judges who can come directly to the Murray courtroom, where normally all cases all held in-person. He was uncertain about using technology at this time; however, it might be a possibility moving forward, as COVID continues to be an issue. Ms. Martinez was satisfied knowing the list could be kept open.
- Mr. Hales concurred with all comments.

Services Available to Murray City Residents – Mr. Cox said he had done a lot of thinking since the proposal was made to form a diversity and inclusion committee. He thought Ms. Martinez made an excellent presentation, and also favored diversity and inclusion in Murray; however, without understanding the mechanics of the proposal his thoughts and concerns led him to have more questions.

He explained in his 30+ years as a Murray resident, he observed the City was always a very friendly, inclusive town, with few exceptions. That is why after the presentation, he personally reached out to several people in the City to inquire opinions on the matter; in addition, he reported that many others called him with concerns following the presentation. Subsequently, he found that all of them believed Murray is a good place to live and is very inclusive. Aside from inclusion, Mr. Cox said diversity was an entirely different subject; he believed diversity was taught in homes, churches and schools. Therefore, he did not know how a committee of nine people would address the matter for Murray; especially when some are living outside of Murray. He did not understand the proposed work of the committee.

He understood the City would hire someone to put a survey together, which would go out to all Murray residents; and that tax dollars would be spent to achieve this. He wondered exactly what we are looking for; and what the end-goal would be. Mr. Cox spoke to many Murray residents, for example, minorities; same sex couples; and some who have lived in Murray their entire lives- who raised families here because of the feeling Murray City displays. He reported the same answer came from all of them; many 40-50-year citizens, to 5-year residents that moved here just because of inclusiveness; they all felt good about inclusivity in Murray.

In addition, Mr. Cox wanted to be sure that everyone understood how far ahead Murray is compared to other cities, in terms of inclusivity. He stated for this reason, he is proud of the City; and proud of Murray police, who have been completing diversity training long before it was popular. He commended the Murray City school board for doing an excellent job by helping all types of students to feel included; whether considered privileged and underprivileged.

Mr. Cox decided to conduct further research to identify what Murray City currently offers for citizens, and disadvantaged citizens. He confirmed that prior to any current disturbances, and prominent issues throughout the country, Murray has been providing everyday opportunities for citizens for years. He explained this occurred under several Murray mayors; including help from City departments, and divisions. Mr. Cox read a list of programs, activities, and services to note Murray's current provisions:

To name a few – they include:

(See entire list - Attachment #1)

- Parks and Recreation:
 - Income-based scholarships for recreation programs.
 - Subsidized meals for senior recreation center participants.
 - Art and music programs for all middle and high school students funded by Cultural Arts.
- Murray Library:
 - Spanish collections for both adults and children.
 - Discover program for special needs adults.
 - Homelessness access to library.
- Human Resources:
 - Equal employment opportunity, prohibiting discrimination.
- Fire Department:
 - Free smoke detectors for low-income families.
 - Sub-4-Santa to assist low-income families.
 - Operation Cover Up – Winter coat and blanket collection.
- Police Department:
 - DARE program offered for all high school students.
- Finance and Administration:
 - Contributes to HEAT program, and utility bill relief.
- Community and Economic Development:
 - Home down-payment assistance for low to moderate income families.

In addition, Mr. Cox reported:

- The Murray City website translates into over 100 different languages.
- Six high school graduating students receive scholarships each year for college.
- The City annually contributes to the Boys and Girls Club finances.
- The Russian Club, and the Spanish Story Time programs offered in the past were discontinued, due to a lack of interest and attendance.

Mr. Cox concluded he did not understand what a committee could do to improve what the City was already doing for its' citizens regarding inclusivity. He asked where would funding come from to pay for this, and noted with bare bones budgets, all city departments cut their budgets by 4%, due to COVID. He emphasized he was not against the idea- but if there was a more specific end-goal, and if it improved what the City had in place- he would be more supportive. He reaffirmed if there was a specific need proposed- that is what they should be discussing to move forward; but because Murray is one of the most aggressive cities in the State, he was unclear what nine people would do to improve what already takes place.

Council Comments and Discussion:

- Ms. Martinez said the list Mr. Cox provided was incredible, to show that Murray offers many services and programs, which is what makes the City an amazing place to live. She reflected on some of the programs and opportunities she personally utilized as a Murray resident; but whether tried or failed; or successful for generations, all were ideas that started out as a proposal. She felt each idea was a personal thought of someone who wanted to help their community. She expressed excitement to see many of those opportunities serve a broad piece of the community; while others help a smaller part of the community; all equally valuable, and important.
- She said Mr. Cox presented valid questions and thought she may not have articulated, or given explanations more clearly, as to what capacity committee members would serve; and what needs

would be addressed. She explained the reason she had not conveyed this more specifically, was because her hope was to take the lead of citizens who she has spoken to from different communities; and then follow their lead. Ms. Martinez noted the budget was a valid concern, which would be considered after bids/quotes for survey costs were determined.

- She agreed further conversations about clarity were necessary; but felt passionate that there is a need for new ideas and proposals; for unknown barriers to be identified and removed; and for new ways to create ease of access by bringing people together in more welcoming ways not realized. Ms. Martinez stated it is hard to see what has not happened yet; and felt Murray residents are lucky to live in a community where so many ideas have blossomed into experiences for so many people; and there is still a lot of potential for continued growth.
- Ms. Turner expressed concern that the City may not be representing all of Murray's communities. For example, the City's boards and commission groups may not have diverse ethnic representation. She felt this was one of the many things the committee could assist with. Therefore, she made a request of Council Director, Jan Lopez to research and find out the ethnic makeup of the City's volunteer groups.
- Ms. Dominguez interjected that gender should be included in diversity. Ms. Turner agreed.
- Ms. Turner noted she was not present for the initial presentation; therefore, she did not understand the survey piece of the proposal. She favored developing the committee, and stated it was important to meet all of our citizen's needs. She believed Murray is a very diverse community, which is not reflected in the boards and commissions groups, nor in other areas of the City.
- Mr. Hales led a conversation about whether committee members must be required to live in Murray.
- Mr. Cox noted some of the nine committee members can live outside of Murray.
- Ms. Martinez stated the purpose of requiring committee members to live in Murray, or own businesses in Murray – was to allow for interpreters, or anyone representing people like refugees who live exclusively in Murray- but do not speak English, and lack transportation; those individuals who help in that capacity may live outside of Murray, and be a committee member.
- Ms. Dominguez concurred committee members could be those who provide services for refugees- but do not live in Murray.
- Ms. Martinez said as noted by Mr. Hales, the plan would be first to ask residents living in Murray to be committee members. And only if a person needs assistance – due to barriers or challenges, could a helping representative serve on the committee in their place.
- Ms. Dominguez apologized to Ms. Martinez; while she appreciated Mr. Cox presenting the information, she thought the agenda item was solely about Murray services, and not about the diversity and inclusion board discussed at the last meeting. She said Ms. Martinez had been working on the matter and met with Mayor Camp, so it was moving forward. Ms. Dominguez expressed gratitude for all of Murray services, and noted others offered by the County. She said conversations about the diversity board would continue to take place, and since it was being discussed– she invited Ms. Martinez to provide an update about it.
- Ms. Martinez said her meeting with Mayor Camp was to discuss clarity about the proposal, and for nailing down direct goals. It was decided that the survey would happen prior to the formation of the committee, rather than within the committee. She reported the Mayor's office would look into associated survey costs, which would be brought forth to the Council for further discussion.
- Mayor Camp confirmed his staff was looking at specific vendors to determine a survey cost; they would work with Murray's purchasing agent to make it happen; and return to the Council to look for funding, and develop survey questions to be asked within Murray's communities.
- Ms. Turner questioned the function of the survey and asked would it determine whether to move

forward with forming a committee; she expressed confusion about why a survey needed to be done.

- Ms. Martinez said she initially used the word ‘survey’ as a task to be conducted by the committee – consisting of different ambassadors from various communities within Murray; and by doing a deep dive into issues about the City like access, and safety; this way they would determine what individual communities are saying. She explained Mayor Camp felt more comfortable with doing the survey first by the City; and having a more technical, professional survey conducted.
- She stated other than the cost, she was not opposed to that idea. She thought it was important for the administration to feel comfortable and see the same direction she is going. However, for her; the most important thing is that the survey come from communities directly, which was why she felt comfortable going with committee members to network out and dive into needs, without a costly survey. She confirmed the discussion would continue after bids come in for the survey.
- Ms. Turner was still unclear about the survey specifics, and reiterated questions like whether the survey would determine if a committee should be formed; or, would the survey be utilized to discover issues the City needed to approach. She asked again what the function of the survey was.
- Ms. Martinez said the survey would reveal specific needs to help realize what the largest “ask” is for in the community; it would determine what the largest need is; what the largest percentage of interests, concerns and challenges are.
- From her perspective, the initial intent of the survey was to reach out to individual communities- from the committee representative to find out deeper needs and challenge. This way they would find out if all individuals have access to Murray services; if they are aware of them; and also, to help educate how to utilize services and bring awareness to all opportunities.
- Ms. Martinez said her hope was to ensure that everyone felt comfortable with the process, because it would be more successful with support from both the Council and the Mayor’s office; she wanted to be conscious and thoughtful in attaining specific needs ahead of time to ensure the proposal moved forward.
- Mr. Cox said he was not against these ideas; he was thoroughly proud of what Murray offers. He agreed the City could always improve but felt the mechanics were still unclear. He wondered if a survey was necessary; or if the City could put a commission together, conduct its own survey, with issues to be resolved by the administration and the City Council. He felt there were many ways to handle it; but was willing to work through the planning to see where it ends up. He agreed it was good step, in a good direction, although there was confusion in the details. He was confident they could work it out.
- Ms. Dominguez fully supported the proposal and appreciated Ms. Martinez for driving the conversation and thought she should continue. Ms. Dominguez felt the proposal needed the Mayor’s support with a level of comfort.
- Ms. Martinez said just because she had thought about improving, adapting, or changing something about the City, it did not mean she was not super proud of where we are already. Or, that she was not appreciative of those already working very hard on existing services - because everyone is proud of where we are. Looking forward, she would return to the Council with more details and information.

Announcements: Ms. Lopez made two announcements about upcoming virtual meetings for Council Members to attend.

Adjournment: 6:25p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator II

ATTACHMENT #1

Murray City Programs and Services for Disadvantaged Citizens

- Parks & Recreation
 - Scholarships for recreation programs (income based)
 - Senior Recreation Center – opportunities for subsidized or partially subsidized meals and program participation
 - Cultural Arts – provides funding for various programs in Murray School District, such as a music specialist, after school musicals, storytelling, haunted tales, and the spring art show for middle and high school students.
- Murray Library
 - Homebound book service – materials are mailed to homebound patrons, with a postage paid envelope included to return them
 - Rosetta Stone – free resource to learn languages for library cardholders
 - “Discover” program for special needs adults – a bi-monthly gathering to make crafts
 - Home school club – for kids that are homeschooled to come to the library once a month for an educational activity
 - Spanish collections – both adult and children
 - Resource on website – online library with databases with specific information on US citizenship test prep, GED, in Spanish and English
 - Online resource for Fuente Academica – a database of Spanish and Portuguese scholarly journals
 - Limited access card for the homeless population to allow material checkout and computer use without a permanent address
 - Outreach to daycares in Murray by providing story time – year-round – on a weekly basis
 - Matryoshka (Russian club) – for story time – discontinued due to lack of interest/attendance
 - Spanish Story Time – this was offered in the past, but discontinued due to lack of interest/attendance
- Human Resources
 - Hiring and employment practices are fully compliant with federal law, prohibiting discrimination
- Fire Department
 - Helps low-income families with free smoke detectors
 - Cadet program often helps kids with family issues
 - Sub-4-Santa collection, to assist a low-income family with gifts every year
 - Operation Cover-Up – collects coats and blankets for those in need during winter months
 - Ambulance bills can be adjusted in cases of financial hardship
- Police Department
 - Continues to sponsor the DARE program in all elementary schools in Murray

- Finance and Administration
 - Ensures contributions to the HEAT program are budgeted each year, and manages the Murray Utility Relief fund in conjunction with HEAT eligibility
- Community and Economic Development
 - Offers down payment assistance through NeighborWorks, along with other housing programs for low to moderate income families

In addition, the city website can now be translated into over 100 different languages by using the translate button at the bottom right-hand corner.

The power department and mayor both offer scholarships to graduating seniors each year, which usually equates to six students receiving money for college.

We contribute a sizeable amount to the Boys and Girls Club each budget year.