



MURRAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 3, 2022
Murray City Center

5025 South State Street, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance: Council Members and others:

Kat Martinez – Chair	District #1
Diane Turner – Vice Chair	District #4
Garry Hrechkosy	District #5
Pam Cotter	District #2
Rosalba Dominguez	District #3

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Tammy Kikuchi	Chief Communications Officer	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Blaine Haacke	Power – General Manager	Robyn Colton	HR Director
Kim Sorensen	Parks and Recreation Director	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Danny Astill	Public Works Director	Ben Gray	IT
Danny Hansen	IT		

Conducting: Ms. Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole – April 5, 2022 - Mr. Hrechkosy moved to approve. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- Power Department Report. – Mr. Haacke discussed the following:
 - **2022 Summer load** – Mr. Haacke said many cities including Murray have concerns about meeting summer energy loads this year due to ongoing drought, record heat and escalating natural gas prices, but staff has prepared well by purchasing power in advance for July, August, and September. A brief review of the City's energy portfolio was given to explain where the City gets its power. He noted that because not all energy is generated in the City, gas turbines would be utilized more than usual this summer to provide a savings. Resource highlights:
 - Federal Hydro power plant or CRSP (Colorado River Storage Project). – The shrinking of Lake Powell is a great concern because if low water levels continue past a certain point, energy production will completely cease. Mr. Haacke confirmed that production will be okay for this summer because water flowing from Flaming Gorge and two other dams into Lake Powell will

be increased. Millions of people rely on CRSP including Murray City who receives 25% of its energy from Lake Powell. However, due to recent federal regulations, Murray will now get 40% less in energy and pay 14% more for it. New entitlement adjustments have affected all CRSP customers in the western region. There is also government concern regarding lack of generation, loss in power sales revenue and how to adjust to the fixed cost of the plant. Ongoing discussions will continue about how to keep funding the Glenn Canyon dam CRSP resource for future needs.

- Hunter Coal Plant. – Located in Price, Utah this has been a steady mortgage free resource. The City gets 30% of its energy from this plant.
- Landfill methane. – The City gets 6% of its green energy from two landfills in Salt Lake County. There are no concerns about this reliable resource.
- Cottonwood Hydro. – This year the resource will provide no generation at all. Not only because of low runoff and reduced snowfall, there are significant structural problems, internal turbine issues and problems caused by faulty maintenance and repair work. A full report about future plans to resolve the matter will be presented to the Council after studies are completed. Usually the City gets 2-3% of its energy from this resource.
- San Juan Coal Plant. – The City will continue to receive 2% of energy production through the end of September 2022 before the plant is closed for refurbishing.
- IPP (Intermountain Power Project) – The City has entitlement to contractually callback energy from the plant. With the volatile market and high gas pricing concerns, Murray Power will callback 19 megawatts of energy around the clock this summer that will provide 20% of the City's needs.
- Gas Turbines. – The plan is to run all three turbines from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day in July, August, and September. Last fall the cost of gas was \$4 per dekatherm, which is currently \$7 per dekatherm. Enough gas was purchased ahead of time at the lower price for peak summer hours. If turbines operate 24 hours per day, extra energy produced may be sold to other cities in need.
- Market Purchasing. – As a last resort, the City will purchase power hourly from the market hour to meet 15% of peak summer hours. This is most costly, but historically it is more economical than ordering a full block of energy that might not be utilized.
- **IPP coal plant in Delta, Utah.** – Mr. Haacke reviewed that one third of the energy for Los Angeles, California comes from this plant, but legislatively after 2025, California can no longer bring coal produced energy into the state. The solution was to reconstruct and demolish the existing coal plant and rebuild a natural gas plant. New construction is underway where Murray still has a large entitlement as an owner of IPP energy. The new plant is expected to be up and running by 2025 when the coal plant is completely demolished. Mr. Haacke said this is a personal disappointment because the IPP is one of the cleanest coal plants in the country and provides a reliable production of energy. The rebuild was the only way to keep it operational because the plant is too large for Utah by itself to keep on its own; this is why dependence on many partnerships is necessary.

California cities will pay for the entire reconstruction project of \$1.5 billion. The only cost to Murray will come after 2025 if power is called back for use, and the resource will be available to Murray forever if needed. There was a brief discussion about how the new plant will eventually become the first of its kind in the world and operate as a 100% green hydrogen energy plant.

- **Red Mesa large scale solar** – This resource will keep Murray Power in the renewable market, where the City has 5 megawatts of interest. Construction is still underway, but due to covid and labor issues and China supply chain issues, the completion date has been delayed until November of 2022. Mr. Haacke said it is unfortunate because the City could have used the resource this year to help with the summer load. The cost for the renewable energy is estimated at \$25 per megawatt.
- **General department Information** – The power department is fully staffed. Currently, in apprenticeship programs they have four lineman, two in metering and two substation technicians. There were six system outages last month and 11 the previous month; the average response time to repair an outage was 18 minutes.
- **Discussion on the Salt Lake Valley POU (Public Order Unit) MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)**
 - Chief Burnett reported that the Murray Police Department was asked to take part in a POU. He explained the POU is special trained officers who can respond to situations where there are issues like mass demonstrations or concerns of civil unrest. He noted a similar order was in place for the 2000 Winter Olympics that ended, but now all agencies agree there is a need in the forefront again for another POU.

He explained that by joining the Salt Lake Valley POU, Murray would participate by utilizing two officers at a time for one of the teams. This includes calling for assistance if Murray needed help beyond what our own police force could handle. Currently, POUs exist for the State of Utah, Salt Lake City, and West Valley City, and there are plans for two more team start-ups to include all other agencies in the Salt Lake Valley. He stressed that specific training is the biggest and most important factor about joining the POU because officers who go through important training would clearly understand what they should do during a civil unrest situation, as well as what they should not do. Response training would be received along with proper equipment to protect themselves and the public while addressing a mass demonstration.

Ms. Dominguez asked if more officers could be trained should an incident require more officers. Chief Burnett explained as part of the specialized POU there are two levels of training; the first being frontline officers achieving the highest level of training, with the most specialized equipment; the second level is basically the rest of the force who would act ready as a mobile field force to back up frontline officers if more help was needed. He reiterated that the MOU only authorizes the Murray Police Department to join the POU and have ability to call upon other POU member cities for assistance should help be needed. There was no cost for joining the POU and equipment expenses would be paid for as needed.

Mr. Hrechkosy asked if a budget request would be necessary once it was determined how many officers would be called upon. Chief Burnett confirmed POU equipment is costly but funding those supplies would be allocated from the police department capital improvements account or from the existing supplies budget. If a substantial number of officers are required, they would need to address

a possible budget opening request.

Ms. Cotter noted many agencies are already involved. Chief Burnett agreed many are from Salt Lake County, and now Utah and Davis counties are making the request to be included.

Adjournment: 6:23 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III