

MURRAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Murray City Center - 5025 South State Street, Conference Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance: Council Members and others:

Phil Markham	District #1
Diane Turner – Chair	District #4
Pam Cotter	District #2
Rosalba Dominguez	District #3 – Excused until 5:18 pm.
Garry Hrechkosy	District #5

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Tammy Kikuchi	Chief Communications Officer	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Robyn Colton	HR Director
Steve Olson	Fire Department	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Bruce Holyoak	Parks and Recreation	Loran Pasalich	Chamber of Commerce
Rob White	IT Director	Steve Roberson	Fire Department
Camron Kollman	IT	Citizens	

Conducting: Council Member Turner called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole – December 6, 2022.

Council Member Cotter moved to approve, and Council Member Markham seconded the motion.
All in favor 4-0.

Discussion Items:

Reports from Murray City representatives who serve on interlocal boards and commissions:

- **UIA (Utah Infrastructure Agency)** – Ms. Moore confirmed Murray City is completely built out to offer UTOPIA (Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency) high-speed internet. Construction is currently underway in Pleasant Grove and Syracuse, Utah and in Bozeman, Montana. Infrastructure is planned for Santa Clara, Cedar Hills, and West Haven, Utah. She clarified that UTOPIA provides the consulting service for UIA, and it is UTOPIA that gets paid for all new connections. Ms. Turner asked when the City would no longer pay \$1.9 million annually to UTOPIA. Ms. Moore explained currently the obligation was reduced to \$1.2 million by receiving frequent dividends of \$500,000 so the payment would continue to lessen as more subscribers come on line. Recently old debt was refinanced that provided a savings of \$8.3 million which was funneled back into UTOPIA for helping them get more users.
- **VECC (Valley Emergency Communications Center), Metro Fire, UTOPIA, and COG (Council of Governments)** – Council Members learned the following from Mr. Hill:
 - **UTOPIA:**
 - Murray would pay on old UTOPIA bonds for approximately 20 more years.
 - Fifty-four other cities now offer UTOPIA but are not obligated to pay old bonds like Murray. Instead a user fee is paid which provides revenue to reduce old UTOPIA debt.
 - Total number of subscribers is now 51,178, of which 46,000 are residential customers.

- Murray's current take rate is 31%.
- **VECC:**
 - UTA (Utah Transit Authority), Granite School District and the University of Utah have now joined with VECC.
 - VECC now exceeds the National standard time for answering calls. With new software 94% of all 911 calls are answered within 15 seconds.
 - Grant funding allowed VECC to replace all turf landscaping with xeriscaping.
 - The current remodel would improve efficiency to accommodate a new radio system.
 - A new non-emergency phone system was implemented to separate non-emergency calls from emergencies.
- **Metro Fire:** As the lead agency for coordinating all board-up projects throughout Salt Lake County, there are many new agreements underway.
- **COG:** At various meetings, Wasatch Front Regional Council discussed plans for improving bus and TRAX services and growth planning for new roads and trails. The Little Cottonwood Impact Environmental Statement was presented regarding the gondola proposal; a law enforcement survey was reviewed for determining whether charges were duplicated between cities and the County. The Utah League of Cities and Towns provided survey information related to how cities have handled the issuance of housing permits; and a report was shared about Salt Lake County's changing demographics.

CVWRF (Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility) – Mayor Hales said evaluations and wage increases occurred for all CVW employees; and reported that the golf course on CVW property was sold to develop a new business park.

JRC (Jordan River Commission) – Mr. Holyoak reported the following and shared about past meetings:

- September – The 2022 Get To The River Festival was successful. Visitors participated in 31 activities like canoeing, chalk art, tree planting, trash cleanup, and maintenance work to name a few.
- October – Homelessness was the focus. With 400 new housing/bed options available in Salt Lake County, there is hope that homeless camps will decrease.
- December – Dire circumstances of the GSL (Great Salt Lake). Other tributaries flow into the GSL, but the Jordan River contributes 25%, which is the most water. The hope is to increase that flow and help the shrinking lake that is home to brine shrimp and migratory birds. The lake provides economic value with mineral extractions of magnesium and lithium, and the GSL produces 40% of the world's sulfate potash used in fertilizer.

Human Resources Department Report – Ms. Colton discussed recruitment, job classifications, performance evaluations, staffing totals, administration of the benefits and compensation plans, employment training, grievances, and data base maintenance of the City's personnel files. She introduced her staff and reviewed their responsibilities. There was a brief discussion about turnover rates in the last five years which spiked in 2021 due to the new step plan, retirements, and the great resignation after the pandemic. She said the situation was normalizing. There was a conversation about the frequency of applicants not showing up for interviews, she felt that process would also improve. Expanded coverage was implemented this year to cover mental health visits of first responders. The employee assistance program will mandate all police and fire employees to get a mental health check once a year. The bereavement policy was updated to include a miscarriage or still birth.

SHSP (State Homeland Security Projects) Training Grant for HAZMAT Materials – Chief Mittelman explained how MFD (Murray Fire Department) is part of the Salt Lake County HAZMAT response team serving as emergency waterways experts. All projects are a base for FEMA to provide states or specific regions with money to fund projects they cannot afford. If the SHSP Memo of Understanding is approved MFD would use grant funding to continue waterway emergency training, purchase necessary equipment and reimburse firefighters to complete this particular HAZMAT training.

Interlocal Agreement with Murray School District for a Music Specialist – Mr. Hill confirmed that for a number of years the City has helped fund a music specialist for MSD (Murray School District). Ms. Moore would allocate \$21,577.46 from reserves as part of the budget opening to provide the required matching funds. The music specialist would rotate throughout all Murray schools providing music education.

Ms. Turner asked what the City planned to do for GSD (Granite School District) schools located in Murray. Mr. Hill indicated there were no plans to include those GSD schools due to the fact that GSD has never requested money from the City.

He explained the MSD donation history that began years ago when there was no arts advisory board. Most wishes were granted when various arts organizations approached the City separately seeking money. When a sitting mayor requested one entity funnel all the requests, that was when the arts advisory board was formed. Eventually the arts board announced that the City should not fund MSD programs because the MSD was a separate taxing agency. As a result the Council stopped approving financial contributions to them, which turned the situation political. The MSD was not happy with that decision and kept returning to the City on their own to ask for money that has been given to them ever since.

Ms. Turner stressed the importance of representing GSD schools in her district equally to MSD. Ms. Dominguez and Ms. Cotter agreed the donation should be applied fairly. There was consensus that the City Council would review all criteria regarding future donations, a new application process would be devised, and the approval process would be held in a public hearing. It was agreed that the proposed Interlocal Agreement, MOU, and donation to MSD would remain as is in the current budget opening and could be revisited or amended at the next budget opening.

FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment – Ms. Moore provided the draft ordinance and reviewed various amendments to the budget. Items included transfers from reserves to the GF (General Fund), allocations for grant money received to the GF, grant funding to the Library Fund, Capital Improvements Fund, Power Fund, and Solid Waste Fund and a transfer from the Retained Risk Fund reserves to pay liability claims.

Adjournment: 5:56 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III