

MURRAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Conference Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members and others:

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

Brett Hales	Mayor – Arrived at 4:05pm	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	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Loran Pasalich	Chamber of Commerce	Kim Fong	Library Director
Rob White	IT Director	Julia Pehrson	Library Assistant Director
Citizens		Jeffery L Davis	HB/SRC MSR Design

Conducting: Council Member Hrechkosy called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Discussion Items:

- **Power Department Report.**

Power Director Greg Bellon discussed the relationship Murray Power has with UAMPS (Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems), who helps to provide energy to its member cities. He reviewed all current resources, production totals and entitlements, and explained how certain energy options benefit the City. There was a conversation about why the City's 30-year-old hydro plant was not mentioned. Mr. Bellon said for three years the resource has not fully functioned and this year only one unit was operating and issues with the penstock remain unresolved. He said there are many problems with the resource, but they hope to have it further analyzed so that both units will be operating next year. The hydro would provide five megawatts of clean hydro energy. He shared a graph describing existing resource production that reflected a deficit in power over the long term. This is due to the closure of the Hunter coal plant which will shut down sooner than expected. As a result the City would purchase more energy from the market which is more costly due to soaring energy prices. He reported upcoming projects that include plans to relocate the central substation at the Murray Power Department property, the purchase of new transformers, the installation of Advanced Metering infrastructure, LED streetlights, and repairs at the hydro plant.

- **An ordinance amending Section 15.20.230 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to Electric Service Schedule 15 Voltage Discounts for General Service Ultra Large customers.** Mr. Bellon explained this amendment was needed due to an oversight when the power rates were amended on July 18, 2023. Prior to the July 2023 rate increase the Voltage Discount existed, however it was inadvertently left off the approved ordinance. Consultant Dave Berg recommended no change to the Voltage Discount, which is \$0.34 per kilowatt to ultra large power customers. The Council would need to consider this ordinance with the Voltage Discount put back on the Electric Service Schedule.

- **Library/Senior Center Feasibility Study.** Kim Fong introduced Jeff Davis with MSR Design, an architecture firm that works with cities to create combined library senior center facilities. Mr. Davis discussed the findings that propose construction of a new Murray City Library at the existing Murray Senior Center and associate both opportunities at one location. He said the consensus of the study is to have a shared entry, in a two-story building, with an outdoor plaza and pickle ball courts. The study produced many options to explore but he shared only two that seemed most feasible.

Conceptual site plans for Option One and Option Two were displayed reflecting dedicated separate spaces and shared spaces; primary street access and parking options, and programming was outlined that would occur at different times of the day for various events. There was discussion about how the facility would be scheduled in relationship to visitors at the four-diamond ball field to the west and parking challenges that could occur. He explained opportunities and challenges regarding each option, and additional parking ideas that included costly underground parking. Total project cost estimates were noted for Option One as \$60.7 million and Option Two at \$62.5 million.

There was consensus that the cost was significant for each option, and various bonding options were discussed. It was noted that the current size of the Murray City Library is half the size it should be for the population in Murray City, and the existing building is not located on its own property. Ms. Fong confirmed the library currently has \$3 million in savings for a new facility. Mr. Davis discussed the option of Philanthropic funding, where millions of dollars could be donated from various organizations.

- **A resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council giving Notice of Intent to adjust specified portions of its wastewater service boundaries it has in common with the Midvalley Improvement District.** Public Works Director Russ Kakala discussed the resolution needed to define proper legal boundaries between MID (Midvalley Improvement District) and Murray City. He explained the original boundary was set in 1947 and had not been adjusted since that time. Public Works Superintendent Mr. Ford discussed a map to show that two Murray properties would be affected. Textual language would be updated, and the resolution would clarify MID boundaries with all bordering entities that include Sandy Suburban Improvement District, Cottonwood Improvement District, Murray City and Midvale City.
- **Discuss applications for nonmonetary and monetary non-profit donations.** Council Executive Director Jennifer Kennedy clarified that Council Members would consider nonmonetary donations in the council meeting; and voting on monetary donations to non-profit groups would occur at the next council meeting. Mr. Hrechkosy said if further discussion was needed regarding the monetary donation requests, the Council could continue the conversation at the next Committee of the Whole work session. Ms. Cotter had several questions regarding the current financial requests and agreed more time was needed. There was consensus to extend the discussion regarding cash donations.

Ms. Kennedy said the non-monetary donations that would be considered in the council meeting were from the American Legion, The Haunted Woods, and for Public Power Week. There were no concerns regarding those non-monetary requests.

She explained that as part of the last budget process the Council decided that an application process should be required for future cash donations. As a result, new applications were sent to various groups that the City has given money to in the past and seven applications were returned to the City Council

office by the deadline. In addition per Utah Code, the City Council office hired Bonneville Research to conduct a study of all the applications to confirm that all donations are warranted. The study results confirmed that all requests were warranted, and that Murray City could receive the amount of donation in return by services provided by these organizations.

Ms. Cotter explained that since the application decision was made, she questioned whether the City should donate monetarily; and wondered if this should be the last year for giving cash donations. Her concerns were related to the recent power rate increase, property tax increases, inflation in gas, food and living costs inflicted on all citizens. Ms. Turner and Mr. Hrechkosy agreed they would like more time to review the requests. Ms. Dominguez believed there are needs in the community, so she favored the study results and suggested further assessment of community needs. There was consensus to continue the discussion about cash donations at the next Committee of the Whole.

Adjournment: 4:59 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III