

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2 – Council Chair
Scott Goodman	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Vice-Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
Chad Wilkinson	CED Director	Rob White	IT Director
Kim Sorensen	Parks and Recreation Director	Russ Kakala	Public Works Director
Katie Lundquist	Theater Operations Manager	Matt Youngs	Power Department
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Trae Stokes	City Engineer
Jeff Pulls	Fire Department	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Steve Olsen	Fire Department	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Zac Smallwood	Planning Manager
Elvon Farrell	Economic Development Specialist	Ben Gray	IT

Conducting: Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 3:56 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole, February 4, 2025. Ms. Cotter noted one spelling error in need of correcting. Mr. Hock moved to amended as corrected, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray Traffic Calming Manual presentation.** Murray City Senior Civil Engineer Chris Zawislak said the manual lays out a process for addressing residents' complaints and concerns about speeding. He explained how they would use a quantitative approach, using accountable and measurable feedback to determine the best countermeasures that fit vehicle speeds. The City's TSC (Traffic Safety Committee) began working with WCG (Wall Consultant Group) engineers in 2024 to create the manual offering steps for implementing calming measures. The document gives background information on traffic calming options, civil counter measures determined by the TSC and includes an application process to outline how the City evaluates calming measures. A final decision would be reported to the TSC and recommendations would be provided to the applicant/resident.

Professional Engineer Jeremy Searle with WCG gave a detailed review of the document confirming the process would measure, evaluate and identify real speeding problems, and offer appropriate solutions for less significant speeding concerns. He said without a guiding document, common speeding issues are often resolved for whoever complains the loudest or the most.

Mr. Searle described measures for implementing passive, active and temporary speed solutions and noted that speed bumps, speed cushions, diagonal diverters and rumble strips are considered inappropriate measures. A Murray City Functional Class Map included in the manual was shared for charting arterials, collectors, local roadways, State Roads and safe walking routes for schools. He noted that active speeding measures should not be installed on identified emergency routes that are

constantly used.

Mr. Searle said the TSC decides whether to implement passive, active, or temporary measures when a resident submits a request form to the Public Works Department, along with a \$25 fee. This process initiates a traffic calming study in a concerned area. Murray's engineering staff will assess speeding concerns by collecting data, which results in a scored rating of low, medium, or high urgency. The TSC would analyze the rating to determine how to address the issue. High urgency ratings would be addressed with immediate active measures, and if less urgent measures are not working, temporary measures would be installed as a test case to study the before and after effects of a calming measure. Mr. Zawislak agreed temporary measures were recently purchased and would be tested this summer.

Mr. Searle explained the reason for a \$25 fee was to lessen the number of daily complaints regarding random speeding issues and increase a better focus to study major safety issues. A formal complaint with the required form and fee means that neighbors agree on a speeding concern, rather than having a complaint from one individual. He noted that City staff may also initiate traffic calming studies because they are aware of speeding hot spots in the City, new developments to an area and have access to car accidents that indicate if someone was distracted while driving or speeding.

Mr. Hock said the application process and \$25 fee felt like an added level of bureaucracy to a problem residents have. He thought the new process would make him seem less responsive to citizens' complaints, by referring them to fill out a form and pay a fee. In the past he could help citizens work through those issues and he believed that by taking the problem out of his hands he was no longer a point person as an elected official. He felt he could not follow up on those matters and residents would be charged with a fee to report a problem. Ms. Turner agreed.

Mr. Hill said the staff's intent was to implement a traffic calming measure, not to investigate or resolve a citizen problem, which may or may not be related to speeding. He said Council Members or residents can still contact the City's public works office, police, fire, or engineering departments about safety concerns. Council Members should funnel traffic and speeding concerns through the Mayor's office where concerns are passed on to the TSC who would study, discuss and resolve the issue by putting in a crosswalk, crossing guard, stop sign or no parking sign to address basic safety measures that do not require the form or a fee.

He clarified that the application and fee process was not required for every safety problem in the City but applied only to a community that may want traffic calming circles or other calming measures in their area to address speeding. Mr. Goodman felt the process was effective for a recent speeding issue in his district.

Mr. Zawislak said the intention was not to create barriers between Council Members and residents. The intent was to bring in objectivity related to speeding and create a buy-in from surrounding residents in a community. The required signatures of five other citizens and the fee payment says that more than one citizen agrees to the study request and concern. The goal is to get buy in from a concerned community, rather than one person insistent on have a calming measure installed, because staff has found the installation seems like a waste of money to other residents who questioned why a calming measure was even installed.

Mr. Searle said another City funneled speeding complaints through this same process successfully, which changed an emotional issue to a data driven solution. He hoped the new process would give Mr. Hock and others reliable back up support based on data and not high emotions. Mr. Zawislak agreed saying collected data could be passed on to Mr. Hock to share with concerned residents to

show that decisions are not made arbitrarily. Mr. Searle said the one page request form would serve the same purpose as an email complaint to the Council, and the form would provide detailed safety concerns along with the signatures of others who agree something needs to be done.

Mr. Searle pointed out other helpful tools, information sheets and actual rating forms included in the manual that will help understand traffic calming measures. City Engineer Trae Stokes shared previous efforts to study speeding concerns near schools and effective mitigation strategies. He agreed that moving forward with the manual speed issues would be evaluated more effectively with consistent data driven information.

- **Report on wildland fire deployments.** Fire Chief Joey Mittelman said 2024/2025 was a busy wild fire season and introduced Assistant Fire Chief Steve Olson. Chief Olson discussed wildfire seasonal trends and explained how a 2012 Utah mandate led MFD (Murray Fire Department) to create a specialized firefighter team for deployments beyond its jurisdiction. As a Cooperator with Utah State fire entities, MFD participates when properly equipped with trucks and maintained certifications. Chief Olson noted a 2024 wildfire map saying that all fires were human and lightning caused. He discussed the difference between deployment life and fire station life as a firefighter. Chief Mittelman reviewed MFD resources, vehicle types, staff balancing, and deployment funding. Chief Olson said the reason MFD team members look forward to participating in deployments is because they gain experience for handling major fire emergencies that could happen locally.
- **An ordinance enacting Chapter 3.58 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to donations and sponsorships.** Parks Director Kim Sorensen explained that the City has historically accepted small sponsorships and donations for 5K race T-shirts and allowing Murray High School billboard advertising. Larger sponsorships were avoided in the past because the City had to ensure the clear benefits to the City, while providing sponsors with advertising that offered more value than their sponsorship.

Mr. Sorensen said the City is now interested in accepting larger donations and sponsorships so the proposed ordinance would provide a written policy. Decision making would involve both the Mayor and City Council. The policy requires that donations over \$100,000 be reported directly to the Council, and smaller donations are to be reported periodically by the finance director. The policy also allows for naming rights of Murray facilities.

City Attorney Critchfield explained State Law that specifically allows parks and recreation departments to receive donations and sponsorships and the naming rights of Murray parks and recreation facilities. He said this already occurred in 2000 when Murray's golf course was renamed to The Lynn F. Pett Murray Parkway Golf Course. The process used for that name change would now be in writing by ordinance that also details legal matters related to standards and guidelines for accepting large donations and sponsorships.

- **An ordinance enacting Chapter 3.60 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to fees for use of preserving the Murray City Theater and Murray Park Amphitheater.** Mr. Sorensen presented the proposal for a \$2 per-seat preservation fee on all Murray City Theater and Murray Park Amphitheater tickets. He noted that most government-owned theaters have similar fees and that Zions Financial conducted a fee study based on conservative amphitheater ticket sales. He felt if the fee was not effective, it could possibly be increased in the future.

Ms. Turner thought the \$2 fee was not feasible and did not make sense. Mr. Sorensen noted the maximum fee of \$4.36 per seat suggested by Zions, saying the \$2 fee was determined after thoroughly studying other venues in the State that only impose a \$1 or \$2 preservation fee.

Theater Operations Manager Katie Lindquist confirmed that the \$2 fee was in line with Salt Lake County. Mr. Hock said the \$2 fee would only generate about \$20,000 per year and would not cover the annual operating expenses of \$90,000. Mr. Sorensen clarified that the preservation fee was not intended to cover all operation costs.

He explained that Ms. Lindquist and the Arts Advisory Board favored the \$2 preservation fee to avoid raising ticket prices any higher, which could impact a successful opening of the Murray Theater. He said a fee should have been implemented when the outdoor amphitheater first opened and that having one now would help fund maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements.

Ms. Turner felt doubling the fee would be beneficial, Ms. Cotter thought a higher fee might deter visitors and that \$2 was more affordable for young families with children. Mr. Goodman suggested applying a higher fee only to the Murray Theater. Ms. Turner was concerned about increasing fees after visitors were accustomed to the lower rate. Ms. Lindquist hesitated in implementing the maximum fee because residents previously opposed a \$2 price increase on tickets for musicals at the amphitheater. She clarified that the preservation fee would fund improvements and maintenance costs only, not General Fund expenses. The \$2 fee suggested for the Murray Theater was based on projected ticket sales, estimating year-round revenue compared to seasonal programming at the outdoor amphitheater.

Mr. Hock suggested adding more programming to the Murray Theater to increase preservation revenue. Mr. Sorensen confirmed the theater would schedule more events per month than the amphitheater. Ms. Lindquist noted that fees collected from private rentals would also help fund amphitheater improvements and explained that the \$1 and \$2 fees would be applied in accordance with the expected attendance of each event. Mr. Sorensen said the suggested \$2 fee could be reevaluated in one year and confirmed that the outdoor theater has 680 seats, and the Murray Theater seats 320 people.

Ms. Turner asked about theater fees in Salt Lake City and Ms. Lindquist confirmed that most charged a \$1 or \$2 preservation fee, with Logan City implementing a \$1 fee for their theater. Mr. Pickett supported the proposed \$2 fee and Ms. Turner reiterated that a higher fee would ensure the funding of arts programs in the City. Ms. Cotter agreed with keeping the \$2 recommendation from Zions Financial and staff. Mr. Hock concluded that after further discussion, the majority agreed to maintain the \$2 fee with a priority to reevaluate the fee in 2026.

- **An ordinance amending Section 17.156.020 (C-N Commercial Neighborhood District) to allow Land Use No. 7410 “Sport Activities” as a permitted use.** Planning Manager Zac Smallwood said the request was made by Another Round Golf company that wants to include event watching and golf practicing in their existing space. Mr. Smallwood shared City Code to confirm that the indoor sports activity would be allowed in the zone and there would be no impact to the surrounding community. He reviewed the findings, noting that staff believes a golf simulator activity would benefit the community and reported that the Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval to the City Council.
- **An ordinance relating to Land Use; amends the Zoning Map from R-1-10 (Single Family Low-Density) to R-1-6 (Single Family Medium-Density) for the properties located at 1504 and 1508 East Vine Street, Murray City.** Mr. Smallwood said the rezone of two properties would allow for two potential flag lots. He compared zoning standards of the existing R-1-10 to the requested R-1-6, noted that each parcel contained an existing home, with the potential to build one additional single-family home on

each parcel, for a total of four single-family homes. He shared findings and stated that staff supported the request and the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval. He confirmed that the rezone would increase property values and aesthetics without disrupting the church parking lot. Mr. Smallwood pointed out the existing duplexes and multi-family housing units in the area.

- **Legislative Updates and discussion on the Utah Housing Strategic Plan.** Ms. Cotter expressed appreciation to the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) for supporting member cities. She said the ULCT was closely monitoring SB (Senate Bill) 337, Land Use and Development and SB-328, Alcohol Amendments and noted that SB-300, Election Amendments had passed committee with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Hock reported that Phase One of the Utah Housing Strategic Plan had an unclear impact since it contained no new information. Mr. Smallwood explained Phase One was a summary of past data, while Phase Two, during the Interim Session, would offer communities more clarity on the State's housing goals for 2025.

Adjournment: 5:35 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III