

Murray City Municipal Council Chambers Murray City, Utah

The Municipal Council of Murray City, Utah, met on Tuesday, the 1st day of May, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., for a meeting held in the Murray City Council Chambers, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Roll Call consisted of the following:

Jim Brass,	Council Chair -Conducted
Brett Hales,	Council Member
Darren Stam,	Council Member
Jared Shaver,	Council Member
Dave Nicponski,	Council Member - Excused

Others who attended:

Dan Snarr,	Mayor
Jan Wells,	Chief of Staff
Jennifer Kennedy,	City Recorder
Frank Nakamura,	City Attorney
Pete Fondaco,	Police Chief
Craig Burnett,	Assistant Police Chief
Tim Tingey,	Administrative & Developmental Services
Doug Hill,	Public Services Director
Gil Rodriguez,	Fire Chief
Justin Zollinger,	Finance Director
Russ Kakala,	Streets Superintendent
Greg Bellon,	Asst. General Manager
Mike Terry,	Human Resources Director
Bruce Turner,	Power Department
Rondi Knowlton-Jeffries,	Mayor's Office
Janet Lopez,	Council Office
Mike Estrada,	Fire Department
Dave Florin,	Fire Department
Daren Wightman,	Fire Department
Mike Williams,	Murray Justice Court
Scouts	
Citizens	

Mr. Brass excused Mr. Nicponski from the meeting.

5. OPENING CEREMONIES

5.1 Pledge of Allegiance – Reed Diamond, Boy Scout

5.2 Mr. Brass stated that they have a tradition in Murray to have the Scouts in attendance stand and introduce themselves, their Troop Leaders and which Merit Badges they are working on.

The Scouts introduced themselves.

5.3 Approval of Minutes for April 03, 2012

Call vote taken, all ayes.

5.4 Special Recognition

Consider a Joint Resolution of the Mayor and Municipal Council of Murray City, Utah recognizing and supporting May 2012 as Building Safety Month – “An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures.”

Mayor Snarr read the Resolution in its entirety.

Mr. Stam made a motion to adopt the Resolution.
Mr. Shaver 2nd the motion.

Call vote recorded by Jennifer Kennedy.

 A Mr. Shaver

 A Mr. Hales

 A Mr. Stam

 A Mr. Brass

Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Tingey accepted the resolution for Mr Gonzales, thanking the Council for this proclamation. Mr. Tingey said that this is really an unrecognized service that often times people take for granted-the safety codes and the implementation of that by the Building Inspection Department, who do a great job. Just last week, he was doing an inspection with the inspectors of the Birkhill parking structure and it is amazing, the detail of what they have to do to make that safe. The important work of the conscientious building inspectors is really appreciated.

Mr. Shaver said, being in the construction industry, he would like to commend the City's inspectors; as he has heard, other cities come to our inspectors for help and guidance because they know that our inspectors are up to date on the codes and the things that are out there, which goes to commend our inspectors for their due diligence in staying up to date.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS (Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Council.)

Mr. Brass thanked the firefighters in attendance for their great work, especially when he really needed them, saying that they all do wonderful work for the community.

Citizen comment closed

7. CONSENT AGENDA

None scheduled.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Staff and sponsor presentations and public comment prior to Council action on the following matter:

8.1 Consider an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 City Budget.

Staff presentation: Justin Zollinger, Finance Director

Mr. Zollinger stated that there are three items that they are opening the budget for:

- Transfer to the Capital Projects fund for the next years CIP, bringing us down to the statutory limit of 18%; we are still a little above that based on a two-week old calculation.
- \$100,000 increase for the Retained Risk Fund for expenses that have come up this year that haven't been there in the past.
- Library Endowment Fund reserve; this is money that has been restricted in the past and now the donor has said that we can use the money for specific projects using those restricted funds.

Mr. Shaver asked if Mr. Barr, Library Director, would address the Endowment Fund money and how it will be used.

Mr. Zollinger said that the money would be for a stained glass window.

Mr. Barr said that this was an enhancement to the community. What they are doing, is as a result of the Centennial Celebration is that the library board has chosen to do an art project to not only commemorate the past, but hopefully provide a vision for the future. They set about working to raise funds from the community-donations-and working with the Friends of the Library which is a group of volunteers who do fund raising events, everywhere from the Star Wars Celebrations: May the Fourth Be With You” this Friday.... they have approached the donor in the Endowment and asked if they could use a portion of the endowment for this project. The donor agreed as long as they could match the amount, which they have done. The contract has been signed; the project has begun and should be completed and installed sometime this Fall.

Mr. Shaver said that this will be a wonderful addition to the Library and that it is a marvelous commemoration because it is light and open. He commended Mr. Barr and the Library Board and Friends of the Library for doing this.

Public hearing opened for public comment.

None given.

Public comment closed.

Council consideration of the above matter:

Mr. Shaver said that the Retained Risk Fund that the City has is a vital part of how they plan to move forward in budgeting; this took them by surprise, and he went to a comment that Mr. Brass had made some weeks ago, when he said ‘if we had planned better in that Retained Risk, we would be in a much better position today’ it is a step that they do need to take, it is something that needs to become part of our thinking that we hold in reserves those things that will protect the City so that we don’t get taken by surprise and we have the means within ourselves. Murray has a history, as well as a tradition, to take care of their own, to serve their own needs; we have a marvelous Power Department, we have our own Fire and Police. Murray takes care of its own and we want to continue to do that-take care of our own and that Retained Risk fund is really critical. This hit is more than what they anticipated, but they need to make that as a solid part of their budgeting process and he looks forward to being a part of that as part of City Council.

Mr. Shaver made a motion to adopt the Resolution.

Mr. Hales 2nd the motion.

Call vote recorded by Jennifer Kennedy.

A Mr. Shaver
A Mr. Hales
A Mr. Stam
A Mr. Brass

Motion passed 4-0

Staff and sponsor presentations and public comment prior to Council action on the following matter:

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None scheduled

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Consider a Resolution approving the City Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Policy.

Staff presentation: Jan Wells, Chief of Staff

Ms. Wells stated that they had the pleasure to work with the Novak Group in creating the city's Strategic Plan and as part of that process they also worked with the city on the Capital Improvement Plan; it was suggested that as part of that process they also create a Vehicle Replacement Policy. They have been working on this for quite some time and appreciate the work of Doug Hill and George Hamer who undertook the challenge to do a draft and bring it to them; it has been worked over and they have all worked through this.

Ms. Wells said that the policy helps them to evaluate the current conditions of their fleet vehicles in an objective way and to score them. It also provides directions as they put a priority schedule in place where, based on the funding in place, they can replace the most outdated vehicles first. The policy provides information for the CIP Committee so that recommendations for replacement can be understood and reviewed and will help them as they reach their objectives in their decision making. The policy has been reviewed with the Council and they would appreciate their consideration.

Mr. Shaver said that if he understands it correctly, with the Replacement Policy as it was reviewed, one of the things that they began to understand is that by doing it over time they were able to meet the needs of every department rather than meeting one department over another and it is possible that they will be saving money in the process.

Ms. Wells said that was correct; having an objective evaluation, having a process that relies not only on the age of the vehicle but the condition of it, some vehicle don't have that many miles on them and can last a lot longer-it depends on the purpose of those. There are classifications in the ordinance that allows them to review those and as part of the CIP Committee and the work that is done there, it gives them the chance to look at those on the list and then match those with the funding that they have available.

Mr. Shaver asked what the feelings of the department heads were as they reviewed this as being part of the CIP versus being a normal part of the budgets. Was it a bit of a challenge or was it something that they accepted?

Ms. Wells said that she felt that the departments were pretty excited that there would actually be some funding set aside for vehicles-it has just been so many years since they have actually been able to do something-and they are very enthused that they can finally do this, it's been a long time since they have been able to replace anything and haven't had capital for the last three years.

Mr. Brass said that Councilmembers Stam and Hales have worked very hard on this committee along with many staff members. Murray provides all of our services, it is one of the things that makes Murray Great; we do everything and a lot of that requires special vehicles, some of those being breathtakingly expensive-the fire trucks last a long time, but when you have to buy one, there is a lot of money involved. On the other side of that, we use a lot of police cars to keep the city safe and they put a lot of miles on those cars and this was very important to them. They are constantly looking at replacing vehicles.

Mr. Hales made a motion to adopt the Resolution.
Mr. Stam 2nd the motion.

Call vote recorded by Jennifer Kennedy.

 A Mr. Shaver
 A Mr. Hales
 A Mr. Stam
 A Mr. Brass

Motion passed 4-0

10.2 Consider a Resolution acknowledging receipt of the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Tentative Budget from the Mayor and the Budget Officer, and referring the Mayor's Tentative Budget for review and consideration to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Murray City Municipal Council.

Staff presentation: Mayor Snarr

*Budget Address
May 1, 2012*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you tonight and present my budget for fiscal year 2013. Murray City, like the rest of the Country, has been on a financial roller coaster for the last three years. Most of the time, the coaster has been traveling on a downhill slide only leveling out periodically. The good news is that we are starting to see a slow, but steady upward progression. We have held our property taxes steady during this time. City departments have made repeated cuts in budgets and capital projects have been limited. Employees have not received additional compensation, but have willingly supported us as they have continued to accomplish their jobs in a stellar manner. An early retirement incentive was offered and 34 positions were vacated. Several jobs have been refilled after the costs for the program were recouped. Overall, there has been a savings of about \$800,000 to \$1 million dollars in **both** the General Fund and Enterprise Funds. These funds are available to help us cover increases to retirement and health care now. This effort also gave us the opportunity to look at the organization of the City and changes were made to consolidate to improve productivity. Our Finance Director retired and we have a new director, Justin Zollinger, who has been instrumental in helping with this budget process. Justin worked for Logan City and brings great experience to our community. I am happy to have him as part of our team. If you have been around town, you have seen evidence of some of the positive changes that are taking place. Fashion Place Mall has been a key focus of development as they have opened a new lifestyle wing with several new stores and restaurants. The Larry Miller Dealerships continue to be rebuilt and opened. A new dealership for Mini of Murray is also being constructed and Murdock Hyundai is coming to town. The Fireclay area around Main Street and 4300 South is busy with a variety of housing projects. These are all good signs that our economic engine is starting to generate again. The upcoming budget year takes us to the conclusion of the "hold harmless" on sales tax. This has been a safety net that we have used to allow us to hold our sales tax numbers at about \$12.2 million dollars, reflecting where we were in 2006, when the distribution formula was adjusted by the State Legislature. This year we will be close to reaching that number and I am optimistic that by the end of this agreement, we will be past this floor. We have taken advantage of this time to work on completing a new strategic plan that provides focus on the direction for the City to move in the future. I have appreciated the coordinated effort that has taken place with my staff and the Council. We are looking forward to sharing the tenants of this new plan. As part of this process, we also created a Capital Improvement Plan. This gives us the opportunity to undertake larger purchases over several years, if necessary, and allows us to rotate equipment and vehicles in an orderly fashion. This year the CIP Committee worked with a one-time amount of \$3 million dollars from reserves to program as part of the budget recommendations. Included in these recommendations are:*

- Funds to replace outdated Police radios and move to UCAN for dispatch service*
- Purchase specific replacement vehicles*

- Refurbish one of our older fire engines
- Add an additional ½ million dollars to roads for a \$1.8 million dollar total including Class C funds
- Replace the rusted stairs in the Park Center Pool
- Build a new restroom at Southwood Park

Plans are in place to help us add money to the CIP in future years to fund high dollar projects and keep us better able to serve our residents. Reserves in the Power Department and Water Department are adequate to allow us to accomplish the Capital Improvement requests from these enterprise funds. My budget includes the recommendation that our fee-in-lieu-of-tax dollars be balanced among all of the enterprise funds at 8%. This is an increase to some and a decrease to others, but provides consistency and fairness.

I have recently been made aware that there will be an increase to the tipping fees for TransJordan Landfill. We will need to address these increased costs and should consider a fee increase to handle these expenses. A Water and Storm Water Study is currently underway that may indicate a need to accomplish more storm water improvements at a faster pace. This, too, may generate the need for a small fee increase. These are both enterprise funds and need to be kept whole to provide the services that are received.

Department Heads have been very modest in their requests for operational expenditures. The majority of their requests are to cover the actual costs that are incurred to do their work. I am recommending that four more of the positions that were vacated due to the incentive, be filled - two for Parks, one for Water and one for Police. Under the direction of our new Administrative and Development Services Department, we have consolidated computer purchasing to one line item that will help us put a good rotation program in place.

Our employees have been amazing partners as we have dealt with this financial roller coaster and have not had pay increases for the last three years. To recognize their commitment and hard work, I am recommending a 3% cost of living adjustment for them this year, along with covering the new amounts for their retirement and health care. Their sacrifices have helped us continue to provide great service through these lean years. They are the faces our residents see doing their jobs each day and I hope you will support this effort.

While our revenues continue to slowly improve, the steps that have been taken in past years have helped us weather these financial challenges. We have cut costs and looked at every operation to make us as fiscally responsible as possible. As a result, our reserves are healthy, which gives us the flexibility to take care of unforeseen situations that always arise as we provide services. Our employees have been the backbone of these efforts and I appreciate each of them. I am looking forward to a smoother ride this year and invite you along as Murray City moves forward and upward. Thank you.

Mr. Shaver made a motion to adopt the Resolution.
Mr. Stam 2nd the motion.

Call vote recorded by Jennifer Kennedy.

 A Mr. Shaver
 A Mr. Hales
 A Mr. Stam
 A Mr. Brass

Motion passed 4-0

11. **MAYOR**

11.1 **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Snarr said that he has some interesting things to share with everyone-he feels that they are interesting because it gives people an idea of where the City is going, what peoples plans are, etc. In meeting with the Richard Reese, the new school district director, they indicated that they are not planning on taking those 23 structures down until next Spring because the building plan is such that by the time they are ready to roll out the new building until the Fall of 2015, why not keep the those people that have the houses rented out in them until then. In the Spring of 2013 the demolition process will begin and they expect to have those houses down within six weeks and the footings will be constructed and the design of the school will be completed.

Mayor Snarr said that he spoke with Murdock Hyundai to get a sense of when they are planning on moving into the new facility and was told that the plan is, and they were assured by the builder, that it will be available for occupancy between May 23 – 25, 2012. This is a very expedited construction process, but that is what they expect. They still need to do the façade on the outside and the landscaping is going in now, and they expect to be finished with the interior remodel within two weeks. They are really excited to come to Murray and think that they will be able to do a lot better in Murray as a business giving them more display area for the vehicles plus a larger parking lot.

Mayor Snarr said for those who have always been annoyed by the fence that is part of the IMC property where the trailer park used to be, that was all torn down, a new footing done and a small retaining wall put in. They wanted something that would not be tagged by the graffiti artists and it is not very tall but much more attractive than before and this wall is also keeping the rocks from sliding down the hill.

Mayor Snarr said that BMW Mini Dealership has sent out invitations to their open house which will be held on June 7, 2012 from five until eight; that dealership is nice and they got permission to take the tree down in front of Hubcap Tony's and Doc Holliday's building. The tree had a lot of issues as well as doing things to the curb and sidewalk and now that it has been removed, those challenges have gone as well. It gives a beautiful visual perspective when coming down State Street. The Soffe's have commented on several occasions that it is a beautiful addition to that portion of Murray. The City appreciates that significantly large investment.

Mayor Snarr added that the plans are in for the new Lexus Dealership; that goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission this Thursday and they will get site approval for that. Everything looks like it's in order and they have made all the necessary adjustments, so we will be missing out on a used car dealership for a while but they have the tattoo parlor under contract to buy that, the white house and the older hotel.

Mayor Snarr said that one of his biggest pet peeves is the graffiti artists. He was down looking at the new construction of the Main Street bridge and they have a canvass along a piece of vacant property there and they have graffiti all over that again. The city spends a lot of money every year trying to keep these things from becoming a tagging target where some erases what one person puts on there and replaces it with their own tag. One thing though: tagging artists are respectful of great artwork and we have some murals underneath the 54th South area as well as I-215. That is one big area and we have allowed people to go down there and paint those murals and they have not been tagged; they do not want to ruin someone else's creative art work.

Mayor Snarr had an absolutely incredible meeting with a delightful senior couple who said that there was something incredible that he had to look at. Mayor Snarr showed some photos of utility boxes by Sea World in San Diego, saying that in Vancouver, BC the city and utilities work cooperatively to redo all the utility boxes with wraps or paintings. The wrapping costs approximately \$500 -\$600 apiece to wrap and he would like to see the city do that-he is willing to sponsor one, saying it would be nice to say thank you to Costco for what they have done for the City. The boxes in Vancouver have never been tagged; this is a serious problem here and costs the city over \$50,000 a year in removing graffiti. The city could use that money for other more useful purposes, and he would like to check into this further to see if this is possible to do.

11.2 Questions of the Mayor

None

12. ADJOURNMENT