



MURRAY
CITY COUNCIL

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
AND CITY ADMINISTRATION
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

The Murray City Municipal Council and City Administration met for a Neighborhood Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, in the Murray City Fire Station #82, 996 East Vine Street, Murray, Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Jim Brass Council Member, Chair
Jared Shaver Council Member
Brett Hales Council Member

Others Present:

Ray Cromar	Citizen – 5978 Lupine Way	Jan Lopez	City Council Office
Jan Wells	Mayor’s Chief of Staff	Justin Zollinger	Finance Director
Trae Stokes	Public Services	Doug Hill	Public Service Director
Russ Kakala	Public Services		

The purpose of the Neighborhood Meeting was to discuss and explain the Storm Water Operational Transfers that are made annually from the Storm Water Fund to the City General Fund.

Mr. Cromar asked why the City is stealing from the Storm Water Fund. He explained that in his opinion that is what it amounts to when storm water fees are transferred to be used for General Fund expenditures. He said that he would rather have the City collect only what it needs for the Storm Water Fund and raise taxes for other revenue that may be necessary.

Mr. Stokes showed Mr. Cromar the City map pointing out storm water piping and improvement plans indicated.

Ms. Wells explained the fund transfers are allowed by law and are similar to the taxes that private entities collect and pay to the municipalities. She said that the funding is used to provide City-wide services, such as, police, fire, recreation programs, street maintenance and tree trimming.

Mr. Cromar related his understanding of this but insisted that it would be fairer to tax for those City services and collect fees as appropriate for storm water.

Mr. Brass mentioned that Murray has many people on fixed incomes and that raising taxes would create a hardship for them; however, when operational transfers are done from enterprise funds, then the use of those utilities by all residents and businesses contribute to the City services that are being provided. He informed Mr. Cromar of the many new businesses that have opened at Fashion Place Mall and others that would soon be opening, including auto dealerships and hotels. These efforts to increase community development would help to take some of the pressure off of dependence upon property tax revenue and improve the future outlook of City finances.

Mr. Shaver pointed out that the General Fund budget for the fiscal year 2013 would amount to a \$500,000 decrease from the previous year's budget. The Capital Improvement Program was detailed for Mr. Cromar and the Strategic Plan that would give future direction for the City was noted and explained. He added that Murray City officials and administration do everything possible to use the constituents' money wisely. He further explained the City's attempt to be open and transparent and comply with state code requirements in sending the annual notice regarding operational transfers.

Mr. Cromar was most impressed with the lower budget and his anger with the operational transfers dissipated with this new information. He understood what the City officials were trying to accomplish and appreciated the opportunity to visit with staff and Council members regarding this subject.

Mr. Brass expressed to Mr. Cromar that elected officials encourage citizens to get involved in City business and be informed on issues. It is important for Council members to hear the opinions of residents and they do their best to make decisions that improve the quality of life and prepare for the future for the benefit of all Murray people.

As there were no other residents at the meeting, it adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Janet M. Lopez
Council Office Administrator