

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

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Krista Dunn	Council Chairman
Jeff Dredge	Council Member
Jim Brass	Council Member
Patricia W. Griffiths	Council Member

Member Excused:

Robbie Robertson	Council Member
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Others in Attendance:

Daniel Snarr	Mayor
Frank Nakamura	City Attorney
Michael D. Wagstaff	Council Executive Director
Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrative Secretary
Jan Wells	Mayor's Chief of Staff
Pat Wilson	Finance Director
Erin McShay	Valley Journals

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. She stated that Robbie Robertson was excused due to illness.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Dunn called for a motion on the minutes from the Neighborhood Meeting held on July 29, 2008. Ms. Griffiths moved approval as corrected. Mr. Brass seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Dunn called for action on the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 5, 2008. Ms. Griffiths moved approval as written. Mr. Brass seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Ms. Dunn asked for a motion on the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 26, 2008. Ms. Griffiths moved approval as written. Mr. Dredge seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4-0.

Business Item Neighborhood Meeting Advertising Discussion

Ms. Dunn asked Mr. Wagstaff to address the neighborhood meeting advertising issue.

Mr. Wagstaff commented that because the last neighborhood meeting did not have many people in attendance, it was brought up that there should be a discussion on how to best advertise for the next meeting and if the meetings should continue.

What has been done in the past was to post notices at the Murray Library, Park Center, City Hall and the Heritage Center. In addition, there was an announcement on the Murray website.

Ms. Griffiths asked how far in advance the notices were posted.

Mr. Wagstaff responded that it was about three weeks.

Ms. Griffiths stated that people just do not check bulletin boards and some people do not have access to the internet.

Ms. Dunn said that the problem is that when there is no big issue to be decided then not many people attend, however, when there is an issue people show up. It may be possible to get more attendance, however, maybe the right advertising has not been done. Ms. Dunn added that this has been the case throughout her time on the Council. In the first several years, the Council held many district meetings and they were organized a little differently. Each meeting was done individually in the district and other Council Members attended to help answer questions. In those meetings attendance was about the same as the recent one.

Ms. Griffiths expressed that in her neighborhood when she has had a specific issue that needed discussion, she would have 85 to 90 people in attendance. In the two meetings formerly held she had about that many people present at each meeting.

Ms. Dunn agreed that when there is an issue of great importance they do get the residents to participate.

Ms. Griffiths commented that if there is not an issue, most people are not interested in attending another meeting. She feels attendance will be sparse until that occurs. If there is an issue pertinent to the district then that is the time to schedule a meeting.

Ms. Dunn pointed out that absent a specific issue, the Council really must go out and rally people to come. Even then, attendance may be low.

Ms. Griffiths responded that she agrees, people have enough meetings to attend. If there

is a particular interest or concern, then they will come.

Mr. Brass agreed with the comments made. He feels that the Council's intentions were good, trying to discover the concerns of citizens, however, one must look at the expense of having all the department heads in attendance. The only way to assure that everyone is notified is a notice by mail and that is very expensive.

Mr. Wagstaff offered that he had some quotes on mailing and it is at least \$500 to mail a postcard to residents in one district.

Ms. Dunn added that it would be \$500 for every meeting.

Mr. Wagstaff asked if it made sense to spend that money.

Ms. Griffiths said that sometimes the help of Boy Scout troops had been used for home delivery and they are very dependable. She feels that when citizens have issues, they will contact the Council member and let them know about it.

Ms. Dunn advised that she has used the Boy Scouts too.

Mr. Brass agreed that citizens will let each one of them know when they have a concern.

Ms. Dunn asked if the Council holds meetings just to get residents involved, will they come out when their input is really needed on various issues. Maybe the message of the Council should be that when a meeting is held it is to address an important purpose.

Mr. Wagstaff added that by way of brainstorming and staying in contact with the general public, Provo has a neighborhood program with neighborhood captains. They have established a calling plan for everyone to contact five people and information is disseminated very quickly. It is an effort, which doesn't happen overnight, to organize this sort of arrangement, however, it is an option that Murray could look at.

Ms. Griffiths stated that one neighborhood in her district has formed a neighborhood council.

Ms. Dunn said that the annexed area had community councils before they became part of Murray. She there are some interesting groups that come out to those meetings.

Ms. Griffiths responded that she has had some good experiences with the neighborhood council. This pretty much expresses her feelings.

Ms. Dunn reiterated, for clarification, that Ms. Griffiths would like a specific issue or

purpose for a district meeting to be held.

Ms. Griffiths confirmed that.

Mayor Snarr stated that there was good attendance at meetings held regarding a house on 1300 East a few years back. He continued by remarking that Murray is just not drawing a lot of attention, and that can be a good thing. The City is continuing to do the best possible for the citizens.

Ms. Griffiths stated that when she has had people with specific concerns, she has felt good about having the support of City officials and department heads.

Mayor Snarr explained that the Fire Department had a breakfast on Labor Day and generally most people seemed pleased with what is going on in the City. Comments were favorable about the ambulance service, a complaint was made about not getting a business license, however, most people came by and said they love living in Murray.

Ms. Griffiths observed that when the grand opening for the fire station was held it was good to see people excited and interested in that neighborhood. She was impressed with the support from the area residents.

Mr. Brass and Ms. Dunn added that many who were against the construction of the fire station had turned around and were happy to have it located there.

Ms. Griffiths added that anything involving the stakeholders has positive results.

Mr. Brass pointed out that the Council has been very good about going out on critical issues and getting feedback, and he feels that the fifth Tuesday should be kept for those kinds of meetings.

Ms. Dunn reviewed that the fifth Tuesday should not have a regularly scheduled meeting but be reserved in case critical issues require input.

The Council Members present agreed with that point.

Mayor Snarr asked if the Council would go ahead with the neighborhood meeting scheduled for September 30, 2008.

Ms. Dunn and others agreed that the Council should hold the September 30 meeting that had already been publicized.

The following meeting would be between Christmas and New Year's Day, so it had been

decided to skip that one. The following fifth Tuesday would not be until March 2009, according to Mr. Brass.

Mr. Wagstaff pointed out that Mr. Robertson should be consulted regarding the topic. He said that the next meeting has been on the Murray website and in the Murray Journal, because publication coincided with the meeting.

Mr. Brass added that the decision to hold the first neighborhood meeting was made prior to a Journal being published, so that makes a difference and each one following would have that publicity.

Ms. Dunn commented that now if any Council Member has an issue that needs discussion a meeting can be called on the fifth Tuesday and used for input on that issue.

Mr. Brass stated that he would like to see how this September neighborhood meeting plays out, to see if Council thinking on the meetings is accurate. It has been written about in the Journal which gives more coverage and it has been on the website a little longer. If the response is the same, then the Council will know it is not the advertising, but the interest level of the residents. A final decision on the next meeting will not need to be made until March.

Ms. Wells commented that there is one more Murray Journal before the meeting on September 30. It is not an issue that has all the Murray City events, however, an ad in the Journal is very reasonable.

Ms. Dunn said that she feels it would be worth doing that advertising. Since the meeting is going to be held, it would be nice to have some attendance.

Staff Report

Michael D. Wagstaff

Mr. Wagstaff reported that there are no new calendar items, however, as a reminder to Mr. Brass, the next Journal article is due by September 22, 2008.

There being no further business Ms. Dunn adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Janet M. Lopez
Administrative Secretary