



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 6th, 2015, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray Utah.

Council Members in Attendance:

Blair Camp, Chair	Council Member, District #2
Diane Turner, Vice-Chair	Council Member, District #4
Dave Nicponski	Council Member, District #1
Jim Brass	Council Member, District #3
Brett Hales	Council Member, District #5

Others in Attendance:

Ted Eyre	Mayor	Janet Towers	Exec. Asst. to the Mayor
Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator	Tim Tingey	ADS Director
Jennifer Kennedy	Recorder	Frank Nakamura	Attorney
Jan Wells	Chief Administrative Officer	Kellie Challburg	Council Office
Jennifer Brass	Resident	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Bruce Cutler	Utah House of Rep.	Sally Hoffmeyer-Katz	Resident
Kim Sorenson	Park Superintendent	Lane Page	Cemetery
Steve Roberson	Fire Dept./Resident		

Chairman Camp called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He acknowledged the presence of Representative Bruce Cutler.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Camp asked for approval on the minutes from September 1, 2015. Mr. Brass moved approval. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business Item #1

Discuss Murray Cemetery Burial Lot Sale Proposal- Doug Hill

Mr. Hill noted that there had been a lot happening at the cemetery recently. The irrigation system has been replaced and the two roads off of 5600 South have been removed. Sidewalks and curb and gutter have been installed. The cemetery staff brought in fill dirt, and will soon be laying the sod.

There is an estimated 140 new burial lots available due to the removal of the two roads. The additional burial lots should be available by the end of the month.

In recent discussions with the Mayor, it was decided to reserve an area set aside for niches. Niches have become more popular and easily pay for themselves. Ms. Turner asked for an explanation on niches. Mr. Hill replied that a niche is an above ground granite container used for storing cremated remains. Typically, a niche would hold one or two cremated remains. Mr. Page added that a niche is approximately 10 and a half inches square.

Mr. Hill said originally it was estimated that the cost to renovate the area and get the lots ready for burial would be about \$25,000. He said the costs are coming in within budget. If the price of the lots was increased, it would generate approximately \$125,000 in revenue. The projected revenue would easily pay for the necessary improvements.

Mr. Hill said the next issue was how to sell the lots. The challenge is that the demand for the lots is greater than the number of available lots. He said that he and the staff have been trying to figure out the best and most fair approach to sell the lots. The cemetery has maintained over the years an unofficial waiting list of people that want to purchase lots. There are requests from all over the valley, not just Murray City. The waiting list exceeds 140 lots.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board spent several months making recommendations to the City on the best way to sell the lots. After also discussing the issue with the Mayor and staff, a proposal has been recommended.

Since the time the proposal was completed, the GIS department has been doing an inventory of all of the graves. It is a complicated process that requires reviewing all the old records to determine the owner of the lot and the person buried. Photographs have been taken of every marker or monument in the cemetery and cross checked against the cemetery records. They have completed inventorying about 25% of the cemetery, and so far have discovered approximately another 100 available burial lots. It is unknown how many more lots will be found when the entire cemetery has been inventoried, but he expects to find additional burial plots to sell. Possibly, enough burial lots will be found to meet the demand, but it is unknown until the process is completed. Mr. Hill said he would continue the assumption that the demand is higher than the available lots.

The proposed recommendation is that all the burial lots would be double depth, meaning that there is the ability to bury two people in one lot. It is also recommended that all the new burial lots in the area would have flat markers, no above ground monuments. It would be best to keep everything the same and equal in the area for the ease of the sale and also from a maintenance perspective, he noted.

Burial lot sales would be limited to single family or duplex property owners, excluding business property owners, multi-family property owners and renters. He acknowledged that allowances would need to be made for people that have lived in Murray for a long time, but now possibly reside in a care facility in another city. The reason behind that, is that those people have paid to support and subsidize the cemetery maintenance with their property taxes. Chairman Camp asked for a clarification on the owner of the property, and if it required the property to be owner occupied, versus a renter. Mr. Hill

replied that only the property owner would be eligible, but welcomed any additional feedback on the issue.

Mr. Hill said that all the tools available would be used to notify Murray residents and those on the unofficial waiting list of the lot sale. The City would then start collecting interested names and possibly do a lottery, if the demand still exceeds available inventory. There would be a sign up deadline at some point and people would randomly be assigned a number for the lottery until all available lots are sold. There would be a purchase limit of two lots per resident.

There is a City ordinance that states that if a person wants to sell a previously purchased lot, it cannot be sold out on the market, and needs to be sold back to the City.

Mr. Hill noted that there would be a price increase on the lot purchase. Currently, the price is \$650 for a Murray resident, the proposed fee would increase to \$900. An amendment to the ordinance would need to be approved by the Council. He believes the price would still be well within the market range. Mr. Brass asked about the price for a niche. Mr. Hill asked Mr. Page to reply to the question. Mr. Page replied that niches are \$950, plus a \$150 fee for an engraved faceplate. Mr. Hill said the last area built contained 50 niches and cost under \$15,000. Mr. Brass asked how many lots are displaced by the niche area. Mr. Page replied approximately eight, including the surrounding sidewalk. Mr. Page noted that staff is looking into possibly building two higher levels of niches than before. Mr. Hill said there is currently a niche area located across from the cemetery office.

Ms. Turner asked how the cost of lots and niches compared to other cemeteries. Mr. Page replied that Murray's price is well below private cemeteries, and other cemeteries increase their prices depending on the height level of the niche.

Mr. Nicponski asked if the cemetery currently has monuments and what the current lawn maintenance is. Mr. Page replied that there were both monuments and flat markers. He stated that a wider mower could be used without the upright monuments but it isn't a huge difference. Mr. Hill noted that the last area developed in the cemetery was 15-20 years ago, and there were designated areas for either flat markers or monument markers. The monument lots were more expensive than a smaller lot with a flat marker.

Mr. Brass asked about future plans and commented that the cemetery would fill up quickly and citizens will continue to want to be buried in Murray. Mr. Hill said there is a current possibility of purchasing land adjacent to the cemetery, but that would only provide a short term solution. He added that there are vacant properties near the cemetery, if the City chooses to spend the money on a long term solution. Mr. Hill noted that the adjacent area available is about an acre. Mr. Brass expressed concern about the infrastructure underneath the vacant properties nearby.

Mr. Hill said the goal is to complete the process by the first part of 2016. The Council thanked Mr. Hill for the discussion.

Business Item #2

**State Legislation Discussion-
Representative Bruce Cutler**

Representative Cutler thanked the Council for the opportunity to visit Murray.

The first topic is Medicaid expansion. There are a lot of concerns regarding Medicaid expansion, both inside and outside of Utah. There are a group of individuals that are affected that are below the poverty level and are not eligible for insurance. Children are covered separately.

The Governor presented Healthy Utah last year, but it failed. The Legislature decided on a task force and a gang of six including Senator Shiozawa. A new plan was recently presented to the Republican Caucus. The biggest concern is the cost and how the State will pay for the program. Initially, it was proposed to bill back just the medical providers that would benefit from the Medicaid dollars, but the Obama Administration said the medical community would need to be billed equally. Medical organizations are claiming that it isn't fair to be billed if they are not taking Medicaid patients.

Another aspect of the Governor's plan was a work requirement. The Obama Administration stated that you can't require a person to work to get the benefit.

The biggest concern remains how to pay for the program and that a "cap" is not allowed. There are many people that care about these individuals and want them to have coverage, but not cause the state to go into debt. If there are no funds available, then the funds need to be taken from somewhere else.

The Speaker stated that the Republican Caucus would need to have the majority of the vote in order for it to move to a special session with the Governor. He noted that there are 62 Republicans, and 38 votes would be required. He doesn't think they will get the super majority vote. There is a group strongly against the program and others are in support or on the fence. The Obama Administration is simply looking into the future eighteen months or less, he added.

The second topic for discussion is the proposed legislation of a single sign-on database for businesses. Initially, it also allowed individuals to have the capability of a single sign on when doing business with the State of Utah, but it was recommended to begin the process with businesses only. There is already a front end one stop business registration in place. Currently, after registration, the single point is lost and the different agencies, including tax, commerce, labor, etc. all have separate data bases. There is also additional risk because the information is stored in all the different places.

He would like a task force to determine how to come up with a *single identity store* for each business in the State of Utah. A business owner could log in to one data base and the other agencies could tie into that data base. A business owner could make a change on one site and all the agencies would be notified.

The task force would be made up members of the Legislature, agency heads, and representation from the County, Chambers of Commerce and ULCT (Utah League of Cities & Towns).

Ms. Turner stated that she believes it makes a lot of sense. Representative Cutler agreed and said that no other state has done this. The consolidation would make it so much easier on businesses, he added.

Chairman Camp asked if the scope of the legislation was to create a task force. Representative Cutler said that was correct and the task force would report back in the interim. He said this would take some money and he proposes that the business community help defray some of the costs. It would reduce the red tape the businesses have to go through and also improve the security by monitoring one data base, instead of 10-20 data bases.

Ms. Turner asked if municipalities would have input on the process. He replied that they would and a member of ULCT would represent the cities. He added that it wouldn't be forced upon the cities, and may not be worth it for some of the small towns. He commented that the best part is that the business would log in and be prompted to complete other tasks.

Mr. Brass said he understands the need on the state level but believes that there are many different factors that impact a business on the city level. He asked how that will all play into the data base and ultimately affect the ability of the City to issue a business license. Representative Cutler replied that the City would still maintain the information and only go to the state to identify the business, and general information on the business. The state database would have a gateway to Murray City and Murray City would continue to have the same current requirements for business licensing. Mr. Brass commented that there was an instance where a person believed that since they had logged into the state data base, they had a license to do business in Murray City. Representative Cutler said the goal would be to ping the resident and alert them that they needed to register with the City.

Chairman Camp noted that it would be beneficial to have a representative from the Municipal Recorders group that processes business licenses on the task force.

Representative Cutler agreed that their input would be helpful, as well as the input from the ULCT representative.

Announcements

Ms. Lopez announced that the City-School Coordinating Council would be held this Thursday at 5:15.

Video streaming of the Council Meetings is scheduled to begin at the next Council Meeting on October 20, 2015. There was one piece of equipment missing in order to start the video streaming at the meeting today.

Chairman Camp adjourned the meeting.

Kellie Challburg
Council Office Administrator II