

Murray City Municipal Council Chambers Murray City, Utah

The Municipal Council of Murray City, Utah, met on Tuesday, the 7th day of April, 2009 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:

Jeff Dredge,	Council Chair - Conducted
Krista Dunn,	Council Member
Pat Griffiths,	Council Member - Excused
Robbie Robertson,	Council Member
Jim Brass,	Council Member

Others who attended:

Daniel Snarr,	Mayor
Jan Wells,	Chief of Staff
Michael Wagstaff,	Council Director
Carol Heales,	City Recorder
Frank Nakamura,	City Attorney
Gilbert Rodriguez,	Fire Chief
Pete Fondaco,	Police Chief
Tim Tingey,	Community Development Director
Doug Hill,	Public Services Director
Patricia Wilson,	Finance Director
Ron Kohler,	Treasurer
Ken White,	Operations Manager
Zachary Fountain,	Deputy for Legislation & Communication
Rondi Knowlton-Jeffries,	Mayors Office
Citizens	

Mr. Dredge asked that Ms. Griffiths be excused from the meeting.

A. OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Pledge of Allegiance - Noel Anderson

2. Approval of Minutes for March 24, 2009:

Mr. Brass made a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Robertson 2nd the motion.

Voice vote taken; All Ayes

3. Mr. Dredge stated that Murray City has a tradition of asking any Boy Scouts in attendance to stand and introduce themselves, their leaders, and which merit badges they are working on.

The scouts in attendance introduced themselves.

4. Special Recognition:

1. Swearing-in of new Murray City Fire Captain Andy Walkingshaw.

Staff presentation: Gil Rodriguez, Fire Chief

Chief Rodriguez introduced Mr. Walkingshaw, stating that anywhere you go, where people have worked or know Mr. Walkingshaw, you hear great things about him. He has helped the City with the ambulance and paramedic program, as well as the new fire truck. Mr. Walkingshaw has worked very hard to become a captain, which is a very difficult and competitive process, and to achieve this, is a great accomplishment.

Mr. Walkingshaw has worked hard for this, despite some setbacks: a year ago, he had open heart surgery, and he has worked through all of this to achieved this great goal.

Carol Heales, City Recorder performed the swearing-in ceremony.

Mr. Walkingshaw introduced his family.

2. Swearing-in of new Murray City Police Sergeants, Ross Huff and Erik Lindquist.

Staff presentation: Pete Fondaco, Police Chief

Chief Fondaco said that when promotions are done in a department the size of Murray City's, they don't come up all too often; and the competition is fierce. The hard part is talking to the other officers, those who did not get it, and explain to them why or what they have to do; most of the time you don't have an explanation, because you have so many officers that are qualified, and you make your selection, leaving a lot of disappointed people, which is not a good thing. But, you have to have fun doing this part, the swearing in. Chief Fondaco added that both of these people, have been recognized at the banquet for the Officer of the Year, which is an award given by the selection of the officers, not picked by the Chief; they are actually voted on by their peers and both should be proud of that.

Carol Heales, City Recorder, performed the swearing-in ceremony.

Sergeants Huff and Lindquist introduced their families.

3. Special recognition of Victor Meza for completion of the four-year apprenticeship program for Journeyman Lineman Certification.

Staff presentation, Ken White, Operations Manager

Mr. White stated that Mr. Meza has worked for the City for ten years; he worked in the Water Department for three years, then moved to the Power Department working as the City Arborist, and completed an apprenticeship program through Utah Valley University in their arborist program. Then Mr. Meza extended his career to get into the line working division four and a half years ago, and he was awarded an apprenticeship opportunity to work up to become a Journeyman Lineman, which he has now achieved.

Mr. White presented Mr. Meza with a certificate of recognition and said that Mr. Meza has been an outstanding employee. In the "olden" days, if you were not over 5' 7" tall, you were not looked at as a lineman; and as an old timer himself, Mr. White said that he had, at first, thought in those old time ways, but quickly realized that Mr. Meza is a wiry, well qualified person who is an outstanding lineman.

Mr. Meza thanked the City and his family for their support, and said it is a privilege to work for the City, and introduced his family.

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

Margaret Pahl, 4600 S Creekview Circle, Murray, UT

Ms. Pahl stated that as it is budget time, she wanted to address the Council on their decisions on the road budget that were made last year. She stated that “apparently, spreading the funding out amongst the districts was a goal. She presented a Power-Point presentation showing the information on the budget, and said that there were a few streets, especially on the Class C road funds, that were rated as good, but were still funded. The Engineering Department has identified a \$15 million grouping of streets that need repairs, and categorized each as good, fair, poor or failing.” In her research, she stated that she understands that last year, because of the failing economy, there were some decisions made last year that were not able to be fully corrected due to the funding coming short.

Ms. Pahl continued with the Power-Point: “In this case, these failing streets would only add up to \$1.4 million to fix all of the streets on the list. Last year, the City’s budgeted amount was \$6.5 million.” She said that she is here in self-interest, to talk about the street she lives on. She stated that Creekview and Creekview Drive are completely failing, and the entire neighborhood looks like that. (Showing slides of the neighborhood streets.) She added that on what section, a kid broke his leg on a skateboard last summer, and it is one of the worst sections, probably due to the fact that the adjacent street is in fairly good shape, bringing the storm water to this area where there are no outlets.

Ms. Pahl said that: “this is what they are fantasizing about: they want this bulldozer over on her street right now!” and she hopes that the City Council will make the decision to put \$1.4 million on these streets in all the districts that are categorized as failing.

Public Comment closed.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

None scheduled

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

None scheduled

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None scheduled

F. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider a Resolution acknowledging receipt of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Tentative Budget from the Mayor and the Budget Officer, and referring the Tentative Budget for review and consideration to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Murray City Municipal Council.**

Staff presentation: Mayor Daniel Snarr

Mayor Snarr said that this is a very important time of the year, to consider presenting the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget.

City Council Members, residents and staff, thank you for giving me a few moments tonight to present my budget recommendations for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Everyone is aware of the economic environment in our Country. Our State Legislature has just completed their annual session and we have heard of their challenges in making budget cuts. Our City, like others, has felt the impact of changes in the economy.

We have been fortunate for the past few years to have our economy driven by a vibrant economic engine. This engine has brought prosperity in our City. We have taken advantage of a full head of steam to build two new fire stations without increasing taxes. Other improvements have been made to infrastructure and programs. As elected officials, we have worked together to accomplish as much as we could while the economic engine was at full throttle. I believe we have used the funds we have in a manner that positions our City to weather a slow down of the train.

The work of the City is to provide service. Service means people and people represent a large portion of our budget each year. Since we have been working under budget constraints this year, we have put a hiring freeze in place. Open positions are being reviewed on an individual basis. I have been committed to maintaining our public safety personnel and have replaced Police Officers and Fire Fighters as necessary. I am recommending no wage increases for our employees this year. As I have spoken with them about placing these limits, they have been extremely supportive and willing to make necessary personal sacrifices. I appreciate their great attitudes and their continued efforts to provide excellent service to our citizens. My goal is to keep the employees we have in their jobs while keeping them busy with meaningful work. Our health insurance costs have increased minimally at only 3.75%, which is a tribute to their efforts and I suggest we cover this in the budget.

Having a slowed economic engine requires much reflection. I have thought about our City and

the progress we have made over the last few years. The federal government is looking for ways to encourage job growth and stimulate the engine. As a local government, what should we be doing to get things moving again? While we need to be conservative with our planning and our funds, I believe we also need to move forward in ways that make sense for the future of our City.

I believe that keeping City infrastructure updated is our most fundamental responsibility to our citizens. The recent survey we completed verified their desire for good services. We have several enterprise funds where we have been saving to complete projects and this seems to be a good time to finalize them. Our Water Department, in an effort to increase efficiency and accuracy, has been gradually replacing our manual water meters with auto read meters. One-third of the residents we provide water to are already connected to the new meters. This year we would like to finish the project and complete the other two-thirds with the replacement meters. Also in the Water Fund, I am recommending the replacement of two large trucks this year. With funding from the Waste Water Fund, we can purchase a new vacuum truck for about \$300,000. A 14 year old sweeper truck can be replaced using funds from the Storm Water Fund. These vehicles will allow us to provide valuable services our residents expect. Our five year contract with Waste Management expires this summer and we are currently in the process of re-bidding this service. Reviewing what new contracts look like with other entities, I believe the cost for solid waste collection will increase. Bids will be received soon and we can further discuss the cost of this service as the budget process continues.

Road maintenance is an on-going challenge. This has been a priority for all of us, but the funding has not kept pace with the needs we have. Under the direction of our Public Services Director, a five year road plan is being initiated. It will be available for discussion during budget reviews. I am recommending using Class C funds to work on 5290 South, finish Allendale, and do maintenance projects, then use \$500,000 from our reserves to undertake critical projects. We have recommended three projects to the Wasatch Front Regional Council for addition to the State Transportation Improvement Plan. If they are not added this year, we will continue to request them in future years. We have also received \$1million dollars from Legislative action this session to allow us to move forward with the environmental impact study for Cottonwood Street between Vine and 4500 South.

With the advent of the ambulance service, the costs and benefits of this program have yet to be determined. I believe that the numbers we have projected are conservative after comparing with other cities that provide ambulance service. Regardless, I believe it has improved the quality of life for our citizens. We have put the ladder truck on a lease finance plan, which will help our cash flow as we pay for this vehicle.

Under my direction, the staff is working to understand the stimulus programs that the City may qualify for and we will be sending in requests for possible funding. Through the CDBG program, we have been tapped to receive \$209,500 to reimburse some of our costs for the Trans-Jordan Landfill Gas project. As we receive more information on these funds, we will let you know.

Last year we set aside \$250,000 to add to our previously pledged amount for UTOPIA. I am

recommending that we continue by adding that same amount again to prepare for the possibility that UTOPIA may not be where it wants to be financially. I still believe high speed internet will improve the quality of life for our citizens and that other benefits are being realized.

With the slowing of our economic engine and sales tax projected to be down 10% this year, we are taking a conservative approach by using that figure to plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Making cuts of \$1.4 million is a challenge. My recommendations include the following:

- Our general fund departments have made cuts of \$500,000. I have appreciated their willingness to look at any line items that could be reduced.*
- We recently bonded for a sales tax bond to be used for a variety of purposes. I am recommending using \$400,000 to pay for necessary vehicles and reimburse us for some costs associated with new fire station #83.*
- Our reserves at the end of this fiscal year should be about \$5.9 million. While I believe we need to keep them healthy, this is also an appropriate time to use them to weather rough times. I am suggesting that we use \$900,000 this year; \$400,000 to help replace lost revenue and, as I mentioned earlier, \$500,000 for road projects.*

In my State of the City address I discussed how we have prepared for the future by saving for times like this. I am optimistic that the economy will pick up steam and allow us to accomplish great things in the future. We have a wonderful team in our City and with our efforts and others, we will see the economic engines once again move full steam ahead in our City.

Thank you.

Mr. Brass made a motion to adopt the Resolution.
Ms. Dunn 2nd the motion

Call vote recorded by Carol Heales:

 A Ms. Dunn
 A Mr. Robertson
 A Mr. Brass
 A Mr. Dredge

Motion passed 4-0

2. **Consider an Ordinance Amending Section 2.62.160 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to the Vantage Care Retirement Health Savings Plan.**

Staff presentation: Mike Terry, Human Resource Director.

Mr. Terry stated that this request is to update the Ordinance referring to when employees retire, and what they can do with their pay-out money. The City had found a Retirement Health Savings Plan (RHS) through ICMA, called the Vantage Care Plan; what this did was to allow an employee to set aside money at retirement tax-free, as long as it was spent on medical expenses in the future. The City had this for three or four years, and then the IRS came down with a ruling that said they would disallow RHS's in general, so ICMA stopped offering that plan, and we were no longer able to put new money into that plan. Those that had money in the plan, they were able to keep those plans and not lose any money, and can use that for medical expenses, but it is no longer an option for our retiring employees, and this needs to be removed from the language in our Ordinance.

Mr. Robertson made a motion to adopt the Resolution.

Ms. Dunn 2nd the motion

Call vote recorded by Carol Heales:

A Ms. Dunn
A Mr. Robertson
A Mr. Brass
A Mr. Dredge

Motion passed 4-0

3. **Consider a Resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and Salt Lake County for receipt by the City of \$380,000 to be used to purchase the Armory Property subject to a conservation and recreation easement.**

Staff presentation: Daniel Snarr, Mayor

Mayor Snarr stated that for several years, the City has looked at the possibility of acquiring the old maintenance facility that the Utah National Guard owned. Over the years, he has developed a relationship, not only because he served in the service, but also because the City allows a lot of the functions that the armed

forces desires to hold, in Murray City; we are the home for the Armed Forces Day Celebration. They have been anxious to sell this property, but the City did not have the financial means to buy the property; there were other critical needs that needed to be addressed, and over the years, he has promised them that the City would try to find a way to buy it, or if the City had to, consider taking some money out of reserves at one time. Fortunately, because we have a good relationship with the Mayor and Council members of the County, we were able to go to them, knowing that there were some monies available for open space acquisitions of properties that were good values to the adjoining communities; this was a prime example of such a property, as it sits right next to Murray Park. The City went down and made a presentation to the County, and they agreed that it would be a good fit.

Mayor Snarr thanked his staff, Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Hill and all the staff for all of their hard work and for supporting this initiative to work closely with the County Council. He is sure that they will be asking the City to look at some other opportunities regarding the development of other properties that they own that adjoin City property.

This is a good project; something that is nice to have in our park portfolio, and asks that the Council moves forward in approving this Resolution.

Ms. Dunn made a motion to adopt the Resolution.
Mr. Brass 2nd the motion

Call vote recorded by Carol Heales:

 A Ms. Dunn
 A Mr. Robertson
 A Mr. Brass
 A Mr. Dredge

Motion passed 4-0

G. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Snarr said he noticed that at 6400 South and 300 East, that there had been a couple of houses there that had significant challenges over the last few years; our Code Enforcement has been vigilant in trying to address these concerns, and the houses are now gone.

The City is also working on several other projects to develop some other areas of the

City, and he will keep the Council updated on those as they progress.

H. QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

ADJOURNMENT