

Murray City Municipal Council Chambers Murray City, Utah

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. for a meeting held in the Murray City Center Council Chambers, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Council Members in Attendance:

Dave Nicponski, Chair	District #1
Dale Cox, Vice Chair	District #2
Jim Brass	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4
Brett Hales	District #5

Others in Attendance:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Jan Lopez	Council Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Jennifer Kennedy	City Recorder
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Jennifer Heaps	Community & PR Director
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Jon Harris	Fire Chief
Danny Astill	Public Works Director	Melinda Greenwood	Community and Economic Development Director
		Ryan Madsen	IT
Citizens			

Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order – Mr. Hales called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Haglund

Approval of Minutes

Council Meeting – February 19, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Brass moved to approve the minutes. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Cox. Voice vote taken, all “ayes.”

Citizen Comments – Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Council.

Lori Haglund – Murray City, Utah

Ms. Haglund said the Wasatch Front Regional Council and Murray City plan to increase the width

of Vine Street between 900 East and Van Winkle Expressway to a uniform 81 feet. This is a Wasatch Front Regional Council project, approved over a decade ago, that is being managed and implemented by Murray City. The plans include the addition of a 12-foot center turning lane, two five-foot bike lanes, two six-foot parking lanes, curb and gutter, two five-foot park strips and two four-foot sidewalks – totaling 81 feet.

Ms. Haglund stated an 81-foot roadway will require the removal of approximately 52 mature trees, along with numerous bushes, young trees and hedges that will be replaced with asphalt and concrete. Mature trees and landscape provide character and shade in the area, reducing the amount of water needed to preserve surrounding landscape areas and reducing the amount of energy required to heat and air condition surrounding homes. Removal of more than 52 large trees will increase the use of water and energy resulting in additional costs to homeowners.

Ms. Haglund said this area is zoned R-1-10 and the city code requires that homes be set back 25 feet from the sidewalk. The city's forced acquisition of property from homeowners will create numerous noncompliant homes.

Ms. Haglund noted she had 285 signatures on a petition against the project. She realizes that eliminating the project is probably out of the question, but she thinks there are a lot of options where the city could reduce the impact and still get what the city is looking for.

Ms. Haglund said she feels this is money looking for a project instead of a project that needs money. She has been a longtime advocate for a continuous sidewalk down Vine Street so children can walk safely to and from school. However, she doesn't think there has been a study or anything else done that justifies the need to widen Vine Street. She thinks that a big, huge, wide, sterile street will only increase the desire to drive faster. She noted that there was an accident yesterday from someone going too fast on Vine Street. She asked the Council not to enter into the Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County.

Susan Cohen – Murray City, Utah

Ms. Cohen said she thinks they need sidewalks on Vine Street. She fears that if Vine Street is widened to 81-feet, it will become more of a thoroughfare. Speed is also a concern of hers. As the road is widened and becomes a thoroughfare, it becomes faster paced which will increase accidents. People already drive through there very quickly and if Vine Street becomes wider, with a turning lane in the middle, then there's really no reason for people to slow down. She agrees that something needs to be done, but she thinks the project needs to be looked at in pieces rather than doing everything at one time.

Darrell Troester – Murray City, Utah

Mr. Troester said he doesn't know if the scope of this project is appropriate or not, that is what the Council gets to figure out. However, the need for a sidewalk and curb and gutter is pretty evident. He and his wife walk their dog along Vine Street and there are a number of places with no sidewalk.

Roger Haglund – Murray City, Utah

Mr. Haglund said his only hope is to mitigate some of the taking away of the trees that line Vine Street. One of the problems of making a street this wide is it completely destroys the feeling of a neighborhood. If you drive into Salt Lake City, into the University of Utah along 1300 East, the traffic is horrendous. However, Salt Lake City refuse to raise the speed limit because they want to maintain a neighborhood feel for the people across each side of 1300 East. It ends up making people use 700 East, which is ideal, because 700 East is four lanes wide. There is an alternative from getting from 2000 East down to 900 East and down to State Street into the center of Murray, its I-215; there is no need for a three-lane street on Vine Street.

Mr. Haglund noted that the proposal for Vine Street has parking where no one will ever park. He told the Council that if any of them lived on Vine Street and were going to have their front yard be brought closer to their house because the street was going to take out 15-20 feet of their property, he thinks they would be a little bit more interested in mitigating the damage to the street and the neighborhood.

Mr. Haglund said it's already hard to cross Vine Street because the speed limit is 35 MPH and widening the street to 81 feet is not going to make that easier. He has stated before that there is a need for sidewalks and gutters along Vine Street.

Mr. Haglund said he thinks if this project had started at 900 East and gone to 2000 East all at once, more people would have been against it. But it's been piecemealed along the way, and they are the last stretch. He hopes they can work with the city to mitigate the neighborhood destroying aspects of this project.

Dr. Jothan Manoranjan – Murray City, Utah

Dr. Manoranjan said his concern is this project is an undo expenditure and the money could be used in other places. He doesn't see the traffic volume being enough to justify widening the road.

Beverly Crangle – Murray City, Utah

Ms. Crangle said this project will cause her to lose about 1/3 of her front yard, which is giving up a lot of landscape. She wonders where the traffic will go. If Highland Drive to 900 East is widened, she believes traffic will back up at 900 East. She said she only waits through one stoplight, at the most, on Vine Street where ever she goes. It will be uninviting to widen the street and take away the trees for the people who walk and bike along Vine Street.

Ms. Crangle said there are two elementary schools that are encouraging children to walk and bike to school, but there are so few crosswalks on Vine Street that children have to cross Vine Street against the traffic.

Ms. Crangle read from the World Resource Report stating that wider streets increase accidents in city's safer by design. Safe urban design is about reducing motor vehicle speeds. Reducing street widths creates a safer pedestrian experience. Other studies show the most significant relationship to injury crashes is street width and street curvature, and Vine Street has a curve. As

street width widens, crashes per mile, per year increase exponentially.

Ms. Crangle asked the Council to consider adjusting the width to the Vine Street proposal.

Kathleen Stanford – Murray City, Utah

Ms. Stanford asked the Council if they could say no to this plan since it was voted in by a different City Council.

Juan Magana – Murray City, Utah

Mr. Magana said he agrees that Vine Street should be widened, but not to 81 feet so speeds will increase. It needs to be wide enough to add sidewalks and so residents can see traffic when they back out of their driveways.

Public Hearings

Staff and sponsor presentations, and public comment will be given prior to Council action on the following matter.

1. Consider an ordinance relating to land use; amends the General Plan from Residential Neighborhood Business to Mixed Use and amends the Zoning Map from R-N-B to M-U for the property located at approximately 160 West Winchester Street, Murray City, Utah. (KC Heating & Air, applicant)

WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT.

Staff Presentation: Melinda Greenwood, Community and Economic Development Director.

Ms. Greenwood said the applicant requested to withdraw their application.

Business Items

1. Consider a resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Murray City and Salt Lake County for the sharing of election services for the City's 2019 Municipal Election.

Staff Presentation: Jennifer Kennedy, City Recorder

Ms. Kennedy said this resolution will allow the city to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Salt Lake County for the 2019 Municipal Elections. The not to exceed cost the County has quoted the city is \$56,451.92. Some of the services the County provides are ballot preparation, machine programming, delivering supplies and equipment, coordinating, vote centers and poll workers, and preparing canvass reports.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Brass.

Council roll call vote:

Mr. Nicponski Aye

Mr. Cox Aye

Mr. Brass Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hales Aye

Motion passed 5-0

2. Consider a resolution approving an agreement with Murray Depot LLC to clarify certain obligations and responsibilities with respect to the West Open Space Easement Parcel located on Lot 203 in the Birkhill Phase 2 Subdivision Project.

Staff Presentation: Melinda Greenwood, Community and Economic Development Director

Ms. Greenwood said Murray Depot is trying to clean a title report to purchase a property and close on construction loans. Because Murray Depot is receiving Federal Tax Credits for affordable housing, the lender is requiring a clean title.

Ms. Greenwood explained that in 2011 the city breached a conservation easement, located on lot 203, that was dedicated to them by allowing that property to be subdivided. The conservation easement stated subdividing wasn't allowed, but because the city allowed it to happen, the title report noted a breach of the easement and the title company and lenders are requesting it be fixed.

Ms. Greenwood said this agreement states the breach happened in 2011, outlines responsibilities, and stipulates that Murray Depot will build the trail that was requested back when that conservation easement was accepted by the city. There is also the potential of some encroachment on that easement with either fencing or parking lot lighting.

MOTION: Mr. Brass moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Nicponski.

Council roll call vote:

Mr. Nicponski Aye
Mr. Cox Aye
Mr. Brass Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hales Aye

Motion passed 5-0

3. Consider a resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and Salt Lake County ("County") for the transfer of County Transportation Funds for certain transportation projects within Salt Lake County – Vine Street Project.

Staff Presentation: Danny Astill, Public Works Director

Mr. Astill said this resolution is for Phase 1 of the Vine Street widening project which is between 900 East and 1300 East. The Wasatch Front Regional Council funded part of this project and the city will have to put some money towards the project also.

Ms. Turner said that many of the people who spoke during citizen comments were talking about Phase 2. She asked Mr. Astill if the design for Phase 2 has begun.

Mr. Astill replied there is no design for Phase 2. He said the Wasatch Front Regional Council has looked at the overall concept for this project. As they went into Phase 1, there was all kinds of property that the city needed to buy and other things that came up. The Engineering Department had several meetings with the citizens in that area regarding those issues. The city has done the best it can to meet everyone's needs and still create a safer way for people to get through that area.

Ms. Turner verified that there were community meetings for Phase 1 and that citizens were involved in that process. Mr. Astill stated that was correct.

Ms. Turner asked if that was the intent for the next phase as well. Mr. Astill said that was the intent for the next phase, but they don't know when those meetings will take place. He did say it would be after Phase 1 is complete.

Mr. Cox asked if there were modifications made to the Phase 1 project after the community meetings. Mr. Astill said yes, to meet the intent of the project and the property owner's desires. They did the best they could to meet everyone's needs.

Ms. Turner reiterated that what is being considered tonight is Phase 1 of the Vine Street project which is between 900 East and 1300 East.

MOTION: Mr. Nicponski moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Mr. Nicponski	Aye
Mr. Cox	Aye
Mr. Brass	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hales	Aye

Motion passed 5-0

4. Consider a resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and Salt Lake County ("County") for the transfer of County Transportation Funds for certain transportation projects within Salt Lake County – Hanauer Street Project.

Staff Presentation: Danny Astill, Public Works Director

Mr. Astill said this project has been on the city's radar for a while and coincides with projects happening in the downtown area. The city asked the County for additional funds to build this road and the County has committed those funds to the city.

MOTION: Mr. Nicponski moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Brass.

Council roll call vote:

Mr. Nicponski	Aye
Mr. Cox	Aye
Mr. Brass	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hales	Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Legislative Report

Staff Report: Dale Cox, Councilmember

Mr. Cox spoke about HB 441 Tax Equalization and Reduction Act. The intent of this bill is to lower the sales tax rate and broaden the sales tax base. They say income and other taxes will be lowered, but there is no real firm plan. They want to tax things like health insurance, lawyers, and other things that are currently not taxed. It effects the city because we have a strong sales tax area in Murray. Mr. Cox feels this bill should go to the interim for more study because nobody knows the unintended consequences. There are a lot of things in this bill that are hard to grasp.

Mr. Cox said SB 129 Public Safety and Firefighter Tier II Retirement Benefits has had some adjustments made to it. Years ago, the Legislature revamped all the state retirement and made it so that first responders can retire after 25 years with 37 ½% of their income, which very few people can live on. The main change is the city contribution increases from 12% to 14%. Mr. Cox is hopeful this bill passes.

Mr. Cox said HB 320 Container Regulation Act prohibits a local government entity from regulating or imposing a fee on an auxiliary container unless it is used on property owned by the local government entity. There are a lot of cities that are going away from using plastic bags at the store or putting fees on them. The plastic bags are not recyclable, and the landfills are filling up with them. The Legislature is trying to take the initiative away from the cities to be able to pass a law on this within their city.

Mr. Cox said HB 119 Initiative and Referendum Bill Amends many of the provisions of citizen initiatives, signature collection, information publications, public meetings for elected official explanation, and due process. There's already a very stringent process to go through to get a

referendum on the ballot so they are looking at adjusting that process.

Mayor's Report and Questions

No report was given by Mayor Camp.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer Kennedy, City Recorder