

Murray City Municipal Council Chambers Murray City, Utah

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. for a meeting held electronically in accordance with Executive Order 2020-5 Suspending the Enforcement of Provisions of Utah Code 52-4-202 and 52-4-207 due to Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus issued by Gary Herbert on March 18, 2020 and Murray City Council Resolution #R20-13 adopted on March 17, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

Kat Martinez	District #1
Dale Cox	District #2 – Council Chair
Rosalba Dominguez	District #3 – Council Vice-Chair
Diane Turner	District #4
Brett Hales	District #5

Others in Online:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Jan Lopez	Council Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Jennifer Kennedy	City Recorder
Danny Astill	Public Works Director	Pattie Johnson	City Council
Ben Ford	Wastewater Superintendent	Cory Wells	Water Superintendent
Danny Hansen	IT	Matt Erkelens	Forestry Supervisor

Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order – Councilmember Dominguez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eva.

Approval of Minutes

Council Meeting – March 17, 2020

MOTION: Councilmember Turner moved to approve the minutes. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Martinez.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Special Recognition

1. Consider a Joint Resolution of the Mayor and Municipal Council of Murray City, Utah Declaring Friday, May 1, 2020 as Murray Arbor Day. Matt Erkelens and Mayor Camp presenting.

Staff Presentation: Mayor Blair Camp

Mayor Camp recognized the Shade Tree and Beautification for the work they do. He read the Joint Resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Hales moved to adopt the Joint Resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor, said even though the Arbor Day event cannot be held this year, they will still plant a tree to honor Arbor Day.

Citizen Comments – Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Council. Citizen Comments were submitted electronically to city.council@murray.utah.gov.

Corbin Whitaker – Murray City, Utah

“Regarding Wesley Road, I am working with my neighborhood to get that walking park in. How can I do my part to make sure this happens?”

Allen Bergeson – Murray City, Utah

“I live in the neighborhood of Wesley Rd. There is an empty lot on Wesley Rd 5090 South. There is about 5 1/2 acres of wetlands, trees and animals and would love to see this land preserved as a park for the community's use and enjoyment. Thank you for all you do. Please consider this request.”

Kevin Sullivan – Murray City, Utah

“Hello Rosalba! My wife and I are constituents of yours living at 5268 Wesley Road. I am emailing you to support the proposition of Murray City creating a park on the vacant property between Wesley Road and the Country Club Estates Mobile Home neighborhood.

I recognize that the property is currently privately owned (and has changed hands a number of times), and that developers are eager to maximize its profitability. I also recognize that doing so would increase Murray City's tax base.

Developers have had difficulty creating a viable plan to build in that area. I believe Tanner Ditch running through the property has created some difficult engineering impediments.

I would propose, as an alternative, that Murray purchase the land (which may be possible soon because of current events impacting the value of property) and retain the property as parkland.

If you take some time from your day and visit that property, you will be pleasantly surprised by its rough, natural beauty. Make sure you wear sturdy boots and pants. Once you enter the area, the first thing you'll notice is an unimpeded view of our beautiful Wasatch Front. Exploring through the vegetation, you will also likely stumble into deer and other wildlife. It's almost like a miniature wildlife refuge. A small walking path and maybe a pavilion for picnics are all that would be needed to allow almost anyone to enjoy its beauty.

Currently the nearest "park" for my neighborhood, Revere Drive, the trailer park, and Cobble Creek condominiums, is the grassy field at Twin Peaks Elementary School. I know it is heavily relied on for folks to relax, as I live across the street from it. It's wonderful to have it, but it's all we have. And it's still school property.

Creating a walking, natural, scenic park in the wild property east of Wesley Road would be a blessing for everyone in the neighborhood, and even further afield. The folks in the trailer park, where many children and humble families live, would have a lovely preserve where they can walk as families and learn about nature.

If it's done right, the area could be a shining example to municipalities all over the country, illustrating our city's ability to find the perfect mix of business, residential, and recreational property. Because of its raw, natural state, I can even envision the area as the focus of nature study. The many children attending Twin Peaks could benefit from the learning experience the park could provide.

Rosalba, I understand economic and developmental realities. But I hope you will take me up on my offer to go look at the property, and entertain, even if briefly, the vision of preserving some of the very rare undeveloped land in our valley."

Susan Byers – Murray City, Utah

"We Want to Preserve the Wetlands and the animals. (Deer, Fox, & Pheasant)"

Jessica Sturm – Murray City, Utah

"I live in the neighborhood near Twin Peaks Elementary School and there are plans to either build a neighborhood behind some of the houses here, or a walking path. As an avid outdoor space user, I would urge you to build a walking path. This area is beautiful, with a natural river, many huge mature trees and gorgeous views of the mountains beyond. Something for the community at large would be very beneficial to all."

Stephany Howell – Murray City, Utah

"I understand that there is a possibility of a small park on Wesley Road. I think this would be a nice enhancement for the area. There is no other park in the area. Please consider this in your budget."

Bruce Dube – Murray City, Utah (1st Comment)

"Good morning and I hope this finds you healthy and well during these difficult times. It has come to my attention that the PUD (Spring Creek PUD – 5100 South Wesley Road) will have 15 houses which will add ~ 30 vehicles transiting Wesley Rd and ~60 more residents to this neighborhood.

Wesley Rd is already a busy access road for the neighborhood and with that development, there will be construction traffic at first, then more traffic from the new residents. That PUD will add an additional 37.5% houses north to south along Wesley Road.

We currently enjoy a relatively quiet neighborhood and we would like to keep it that way. The Spring Creek PUD will have a mini "Olympia Hills" impact on our neighborhood.

I am OPPOSED to that development and will contest its approval. Would not the interests of the neighborhood be better served if that site was made into a walking park and the wetlands were included into the design? Please let me know your thoughts."

Bruce Dube – Murray City, Utah (2nd Comment)

"I am writing you to express my opposition to the proposed Spring Creek PUD on Wesley Road.

If that Spring Creek PUD is abandoned due to uncertain economic conditions, I propose the following:

I recommend and hope that Murray City purchase that parcel and design and build their new Northeast Park at that location and also incorporate the surrounding open space and wetlands into that design."

Ralph Wieben – Murray City, Utah

"First my sincere thank you to the Murray City Council and Mayor and your staff. I first got to know Murray City when I worked for 3M HIS and later when I moved here in 2014. I find Murray tends to find that rationale middle ground between the extremes, and I appreciate that!

I write today as a self-confessed grouchy ole retired guy that lives along the Jordan River Parkway. I have several issues, but the common thread is THE Jordan River PARKWAY!

The Jordan River Parkway is (thankfully) an underappreciated Gem! As I said, I worked 13 years just up the road at 3M HIS and I think we had a picnic down here once. Otherwise, I had no clue this beauty existed, until I was fortunate to find a home along it! Now I cherish it and frankly DEMAND that we as a community appreciate and preserve it for generations to come!

My specific concerns boil down to use and enforcement. Murray Parkway Avenue is clearly posted 25 mph. In addition to the many private vehicles I watch ignore the speed limit, why do I consistently see, MPD, Murray Park vehicles and Garbage Trucks cruise it at well above 35? Would seem difficult to enforce a law, when the enforcers do not honor it! As much as I despise speed bumps, has Murray City considered a few well-placed speed bumps on this road??? OR maybe one of the PERMANENT flashing speed limit and "your speed" signs?

Secondly, the signs clearly state that the Jordan River Parkway is a NO VEHICLE area. Why then do I see MPD Motorcycles AND Patrol Cars drive it? In all my time living here (6 years now) I have seen officers on foot, less than five times. Why do I see Murray City Park vehicles cruise it?

I am retired but not an idiot. I worked, I served 3 years in the Army, my Dad was a Facilities guy for decades in the AF and later for a corporation. I have an understanding of maintenance AND security concepts and realities. Security first, I LOVE seeing MPD in the area! I just don't understand HOW one can say they "patrol" an area, when it is done from inside a vehicle with windows up! You block sound and smell ... not to mention the focus then upon the various internal distractions like the radio ... computer ... phones ... pagers.

Want to PATROL? Get out of the cars and WALK! Not two abreast either, now you are chatting! How about one on the paved path and one down by the river!? NOW you can see, hear and smell what is happening! Cuts down the options for nefarious individuals wanting to avoid you too!

The motorcycle option is only slightly better! That helmet and sexy engine rumble do not allow for tactical hearing! Again, why not park the motorcycles and walk!?

I understand that you may be able to "patrol" more square feet on or in a vehicle, but you are just checking the box! You did NOT PATROL ANY of the area!

Park vehicles, I realize they have work they are doing and need equipment. I am not suggesting they park by 5300 and carry their equipment to the work site. BUT do they REALLY have to DRIVE the parkway from 5300 to the Germania Pavilion??? How about stay ON THE ROADS and maybe jump the curb WHERE / WHEN you need to? Or drive TO the Pavilion, then jump the curb? OR? Hea go green! Get a few fat tire bikes and bike trailers!

Simply asking that WE as a City set a good example of respect and preserve the Jordan River Parkway for generations to come! Set a good example! Officers pedaling a bike can also hear, see and smell more! Officers WALKING a community are healthier, learn more AND establish valuable community relationships!

Now a separate but related concern, the increased use of battery powered transportation! Again, the parkway is clearly labeled NO MOTORIZED vehicles! WHY then are we allowing the MANY battery driven scooters, boards and bikes? They ARE in fact MOTORIZED. I watch rude people all the time. People on conventional bikes and boards can be rude. But

when you are moving more rapidly and silently, it seems even easier to be rude! There are old and young, able bodied and not so able bodied WALKERS out there! WHY are they put in jeopardy by City Motorcycles, Cars, Trucks AND individuals traveling rapidly on MOTORIZED vehicles??? I do NOT see a "speed limit" resolving this situation. WHO is going to enforce said limit? We lack the person power to properly enforce the speed limits on the roads! I had hoped to come speak to the council and mayor, but understand you are doing these now virtually. Good move! Stay safe and go wash your hands!"

Public Hearings

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

1. Consider a resolution approving the 2019 Municipal Wastewater Planning Program Report. Cory Wells and Ben Ford presenting.

Staff Presentation: Cory Wells, Water Superintendent and Ben Ford, Wastewater Superintendent

Mr. Ford said this item was presented and explained thoroughly during the March 17, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting and nothing has changed since that time.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Hales moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

2. Consider a resolution approving the donation of in-kind services to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's 2020 "Light Up Navajo" initiative project. Janet Lopez presenting.

Staff Presentation: Janet Lopez, Council Director

Ms. Lopez said this project was presented to the City Council about a month ago, but it is being presented again so the City can hold a public hearing. The Navajo Tribal Utility Project is a proposal for the Murray Power Department to send linemen, journey line workers and apprentices to the Navajo Nation to assist in constructing new power lines to residential homes in the middle of the Navajo reservation near the four-corners area. There are over 15,000 homes which have never had power service.

The City's cost to participate consists of an in-kind donation of labor necessary for the project and using a City power truck and bucket truck. They would be working alongside linemen from other cities, with the hotel expense covered by APPA (American Public

Power Association).

Two dates were originally set – one of those has already been cancelled and the second is unknown at this time.

The City Council addressed this business item about a month ago, however, we need to allow the public a chance to comment on this project.

Councilmember Martinez asked if they were looking into rescheduling this program for the fall. Mayor Camp said his understanding is they are not because there was a window they had to accomplish this, but that is subject to change.

Councilmember Dominguez said she has been in communication with the Navajo Council and the Navajo Nation is shutting down except to essential workers. No one can go onto the Nation. She received an update today saying this initiative has been postponed and they will be in contact with the heads of the projects at the cities. A high number of the population there have already contracted COVID-19. This project is amazing and she looks forward to seeing it move forward in the future.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Samantha Eldridge – Murray City, Utah

I support the Light Up Navajo resolution as a resident of Murray. However, is the council communicating with the Navajo Nation and NTUA regarding the status of this project? I have family residing in San Juan County and the Navajo Nation is dealing with a state of emergency with a disproportionate amount of Navajo Nation members testing positive with COVID-19. I would not want to unintentionally put the Navajo Nation in harm by potentially exposing them to the corona virus by any member of our crew who is asymptomatic.

Councilmember Dominguez closed the public hearing.

Mayor Camp said all the City's communication with the Navajo Nation are going through APPA.

MOTION: Councilmember Cox moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Business Items

1. Consider a resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council approving a restated Interlocal Agreement between Murray City Corporation (“City”) and Salt Lake County (“County”) for the lease of a Park and Ride Station, and allowing for the County to install and maintain, or cause to be installed and maintained, a bicycle repair station. Danny Astill presenting.

Staff Presentation: Danny Astill

Mr. Astill said the City has had an agreement with Salt Lake County, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and the canyons for many years for the Park and Ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Murray City owns all of that property including additional property on the other side of Big Cottonwood Road above Wasatch Boulevard. It’s all part of the City’s watershed that feeds the City’s springs which are located below Wasatch Boulevard. The original agreement has reached its sunset date and the County would like to install a bike repair station at the Park and Ride. There are about 1,000 bikes a week that go through that area. Salt Lake County will install the bike repair station, but Cottonwood Heights City will maintain it.

MOTION: Councilmember Hales moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

2. Consider a resolution expressing support for the Murray Area Chamber of Commerce.

Staff Presentation: Dale Cox, Councilmember

Councilmember Cox said Joseph Silverzweig reached out to the city about putting together a task force to help local businesses in Murray. He read the resolution and thanked Councilmember Martinez for volunteering to be on this task force.

Joseph Silverzweig, Murray Area Chamber of Commerce, said social distancing has to remain a priority however, the city government and the people of Murray depend on thriving local commerce. When we come out of the shutdown, we need the local economy to spring into action, create jobs quickly, and to drive the local retail activity that Murray City depends on for their operating budget. The Murray Area Chamber of Commerce is creating the Murray Area Economic Recovery Task Force, a temporary ad-hoc committee. The committee will consist of local business leaders, local government officials, community leaders and other essential members of the community. This resolution asks the Council to support the effort and contribute one member of the Council to attend the meetings.

Councilmember Martinez said she is looking forward to sitting on this task force.

Councilmember Dominguez thanked Mr. Silverzweig for his efforts. She asked who can join the task force.

Mr. Silverzweig said they are trying to keep the membership fairly small so they can have efficient conversations. Anybody who is interested could send a message to the Murray Chamber. They would be happy to consider any interested members of the community. They are hoping to get a member of the Midvale City Council to join this task force as well as someone from the Midvale City Mayor's office.

MOTION: Councilmember Turner moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Martinez.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Mayor's Report and Questions

Mayor Camp thanked the Murray Area Chamber of Commerce for taking on this initiative on behalf of the business community. He supports the Murray Chamber for their proactive approach to the economic well being of Murray area businesses.

The Mayor and his staff monitor the pandemic information every day. A Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Pandemic Leave Policy was drafted and signed by the Mayor on March 24, 2020. This policy pertains to the use of paid leave and prohibited work related travel. On Friday, March 27, 2020 Governor Herbert issued his "Stay Safe, Stay Home" directive and on Sunday, March 29, 2020 Salt Lake County issued a public health order which they called, "Salt Lake County, Stay Safe, Stay Home". The City acted immediately to comply with that order and the Parks Department had all the parks closed by Monday morning. On Wednesday, April 1, 2020 the City closed the remainder of the city facilities, including City Hall, to the public. This was to ensure that social distancing recommendations were maintained for all employees and customers. Only the Cemetery and Justice Court remain open to the public. The Justice Court are under the rules and authority of the Administrative Office of the Courts, so they are working under modified rules from the state.

Government functions are considered an essential service under the County order. The City has made it a priority to continue to provide these essential services to our citizens. We are encouraging online utility payments or the use of the utility drop box, urging phone calls and remote meetings rather than in person exchanges, and emphasizing the importance of social distancing at work.

The City has had a small number of employee's self-quarantine for various reasons and about a dozen employees have been tested for the virus; all tests have come back negative.

On April 1, 2020 Mayor Camp issued three new Emergency Executive Orders in response to COVID-19. The first order related to city travel, emergency paid sick leave, and family medical leave. That order also repealed the Temporary COVID-19 Policy that was put into effect on March 24, 2020. The second order related to the Open and Public Meetings Act during the COVID-19 outbreak and allows the City to hold electronic remote public meetings. The third order addressed delinquent utility payments related to COVID-19. It temporarily suspends utility shut-offs for delinquent accounts and temporarily waves late fees. This order goes through the end of April and will be re-evaluated on May 1, 2020.

The City's website has been updated with an emergency COVID-19 notice on the front page. Clicking on that notice takes viewers to a page that is devoted to COVID-19 where city updates are provided as well as links to other informative websites. Additionally, the Mayor's office receives daily updates from Salt Lake County and the Mayor has a weekly video conference with local mayors to discuss this crisis.

The CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings or face masks in public settings where social distancing is hard to maintain. He has encouraged Department Heads to make these face coverings available to employees to utilize during the delivery of essential services where social distancing is difficult. The City will continue to monitor and respond appropriately to the COVID-19 situation.

All the amphitheater productions for June have been cancelled. These productions take months of preparation and rehearsals and that can't happen right now because of social distancing requirements. A decision has not been made for productions after June.

The Trans Jordan Landfill is closed to the public as of March 30, 2020 until further notice. Commercial haulers are still allowed, but not residential. Mayor Camp hopes this is a temporary closure as he believes the ability of residents to utilize the landfill is an essential service, especially with the upcoming spring cleanup period.

There was a power outage on Sunday night in the area of 700 West and 5300 South that effected 150 customers. It was caused by a transformer that was leaking that had been undetected until it failed.

The Fire Department has moved to the new Fire Station. After the pandemic is over, they hope to have an open house for that facility.

Even though the library building is closed, they continue to provide services including story time on Facebook live.

Councilmember Dominguez asked how the Police Department is helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as they come into contact with people in the community.

Mayor Camp said Chief Burnett has been proactive in giving instructions to the officers. They do not come in for briefings, they do it in the parking lot where they can keep a distance from each other. They are coming into City Hall a lot less. He is also having them clean their patrol cars more

often. They are going to be able to utilize a sanitizing company that has offered to sanitize the patrol cars for no charge. The officers have also been told to not engage in conversation with other city employees when they are at City Hall.

Councilmember Martinez thanked the Mayor for his emergency orders. She asked if the Police Officers have been made aware of the facemask recommendation and if they are trained to treat individuals with different masks with understanding.

Mayor Camp said the facemask recommendation was discussed in the Department Head meeting this morning and Chief Burnett is aware of the concerns.

Councilmember Dominguez asked if all the City buildings were closed.

Mayor Camp said all the buildings except for the Cemetery and Court are closed. There is a box in front of the Public Works building where building plans can be dropped off. Staff can then follow-up over the phone or zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Jennifer Kennedy, City Recorder