



## MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 for a meeting held electronically in accordance with the provisions of Utah Code 52-4-207(4), Open and Public Meeting Act, due to infectious disease COVID-19-19 Novel Coronavirus. Council Chair, Ms. Dominguez, determined that to protect the health and welfare of Murray citizens, an in-person City Council meeting, including attendance by the public and the City Council is not practical or prudent.

### **Council Members in Attendance:**

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

### **Others in Attendance:**

Blair Camp	Mayor	Janet Lopez	City Council Director
Jennifer Heaps	Chief Communications Officer	Jennifer Kennedy	City Recorder
Doug Hunter	UAMPS	Pattie Johnson	City Council Office Admin.
Blaine Haacke	Power – General Manager	Russ Kakala	Streets Superintendent
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Rob Wood	HBME
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Bill Francis	The Imagination Company

Ms. Dominguez called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. with the following statement:

Considering the continued rise of COVID-19-19 case counts in Utah, meeting in an anchor location presents substantial risk to the health and safety of those in attendance because physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain in the Murray City Council Chambers. The Center for Disease Control states that COVID-19-19 is easily spread from person to person between people who are in close contact with one another. The spread is through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks and may be spread by people who are non-symptomatic. The intent is to safeguard the lives of Murray residents, business owners, employees and elected officials by meeting remotely through electronic means without an anchor location.

The public may view the meeting via the live stream at:

[www.murraycitylive.com](http://www.murraycitylive.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/Murraycityutah/>

Citizen comments or public hearing comments may be submitted by sending an email in advance or during the meeting to [city.council@murray.utah.gov](mailto:city.council@murray.utah.gov). Comments are limited to less than three minutes, include your name and contact information, and they will be read into the record.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Dominguez called for comments or a motion on the minutes from October 20, 2020, Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hales moved to approve. Mr. Cox seconded. Passed 5-0.

**Discussion Items:**

**Independent Audit Discussion for Fiscal Year 2019-2020** – Ms. Moore confirmed all Council Members received the draft CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Wood, with HBME, LLC (formerly Hansen, Bradshaw, Malmrose & Erickson); a certified public accounting firm, discussed the audit. To view the presentation, visit:

<https://youtu.be/Kte6vdCpUj4?list=PLQBSQKtwzBqLxiqGGqdVorSUzCOAEmh-2&t=231>

Mr. Wood worked tediously with Ms. Moore, the City's audit committee, and City staff for months to sample, test, and study the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report). He explained the State audit was required by law because of the debt that the City holds. He noted the document was 149 pages long; and due to time constraints, the following sections were highlighted:

**Fund Statements Section:**

- Pages 9-10: Independent Auditor's Report. Mr. Wood detailed that overall, there were no findings; he stated that as an auditor he gave the City the best opinion that could be given.
- Page 11-25: Management Discussion and Analysis. Consisting of 15 pages to provide year-to-year comparative information. Various tables were included to depict City Fund financial statements.
  - Table - Page 15: Government-Wide Financial Analysis. Summary of governmental activities, and enterprise activity; such as, water, storm water, sewer, golf, and power; along with trends and assets. He noted the City government grew by over \$1 million; and business activity increased by \$9 million, as well as, in capital assets.
  - Summary of long-term debts: Net pensions liabilities/URS (Utah Retirement Systems) retirement plan, and related net position of each department.
- Page 16 - Government activity: Revenue function and comparisons; and expenses by function:
  - Net position. There was a slight increase before transfers between governmental and enterprise funds. Overall:
    - Governmental funds = \$5 million in FY 2020 compared to \$4.6 million in FY 2019.
  - Transfer between funds was needed for transferring resources for capital project funds:
- Page 24 - Long Term Debt; outstanding revenue bonds. A decrease was noted between 2019 and 2020 governmental activities. And there was a net Increase of \$6.2 million to attain the water bond from the State of Utah; Mr. Wood said the interest rate of 1% was very good.

**Basic Financial Statements Section:** Statement of Net Position.

- Page 27 - Expanded Summary Schedule; this includes where cash, investments, and accounts receivable are coming from; also, components of capital assets lands; uncompleted projects, current liabilities, accrued interest on bonds, and a breakdown of net pension liabilities.
- Page 30-32 – Balance Sheet Governmental Funds. Fund balance statements were noted for the GF (General Fund), Capital Projects Fund, RDA (Redevelopment Agency), Library Fund, Cemetery Fund. All fund balances reflected strong, positive healthy balances. There were no deficits; each fund was noted for having a strong, healthy fund balance - able to stand alone.
- General Fund FY 2020 ended at \$11,758,000. State requirements are that the balance needs to be between 5% and 25% of the GF current year revenues – found on page 34.

- Page 34 - GF Current Year Revenues = \$46,858,791. The fund balance was a little over 25%, so it was rounded down slightly. Mr. Wood confirmed revenues are well managed and well maintained, and explained:
  - The balance was slightly high, due to recognized COVID-19 money in GF FY 2020 of \$684,000. COVID funding was used to reimburse ongoing cost related expenses and salaries, which helped the City's net position.
- Pages 38-39 – Statement of New Position – Proprietary Funds. The statement reflected net change breakouts; current assets, differed outflow of resources, liabilities and inflows:
  - The GF net increase ↑ \$439,000.
  - Capital Projects ↓ \$3.99 million, due to construction costs, for example, the new fire station.
  - RDA reflected a savings.
  - Library ↑\$933,000. Saving for a new building in two years.
  - Net position of proprietary Funds: Mr. Wood noted all with healthy balances:
    - Water = \$27.9 million.
    - Wastewater = \$19.6 million.
    - Power = \$54.9 million.
    - Storm Water = \$9.8 million.
- Page 39 - Non-major enterprise funds = \$49 million. These include:
  - Solid Waste Fund, Telecom, and Golf Fund.
    - Overall, each fund had positive changes in the past year; and all are performing well.
  - Internal Service Funds: Central Garage and Risk Fund; both operating well; able to stand alone.
- Page 40 - Change in Net Position – Proprietary Funds. The financial sheet reflected how funds are performing overall and determines if rate changes are necessary to cover operation expenses and services. Mr. Wood reported:
  - Positive balances were noted in the Water Fund, Wastewater Fund, and Power Fund.
  - Storm water ↓ \$879,000.

**Financial Notes Section:** Pages 73-90 - This section provides details that describe what the City follows; and practices for keeping good accounting standards; who makes up governmental entities, and what funds are involved. The notes also included details on investments with the State Treasurer and their PTIF, (the Utah Public Treasurers' Investment Fund); also investments with Morton Asset Management, who manages CDs (certificate of deposits), and corporate debt securities, and helped the City to attain a better rate of return than the PTIF. Mr. Wood noted specifically:

- Page 69-73 - Note #12: Long Term Liabilities.
  - Page 73 - Governmental activity: Bond Debt and Premiums. Reflected no change, and bonds of \$925,000 were paid off.
  - Proprietary funds: Bond money of \$907,000 was paid off this past year. The State bond of \$8 million would allow the City to complete more projects.
- Page 77 - Note #17: Status of pensions, and URS; Mr. Wood explained documentation was for paper entries related to each passing payroll, including employee and employer contribution information. Everything was in full compliance with URS.
- Page 90 - Note 20: Subsequent Events.
  - Due to events since July 2019, COVID-19 money was received from Salt Lake County. Two deposits for \$1.456 million were made to the City. Much of this money would cover salaries and benefits of Murray's public servants during the pandemic, which frees up budgeted money for other things.
  - Disclosure of bonds for the new city hall. The \$30+ million-dollar bond would be utilized as

construction begins.

**Required Supplementary Information Section:** Mr. Wood confirmed the requirement that it is the Murray City Council that adopts the annual fiscal year budget; amends the budget throughout the year from June, to June; with final amendments and final adoption of the budget for the City to adhere to. Comparisons were viewed between the *Original budget*, the *Final Budget* and *Actual Amounts*:

- Page 91 - General Fund - Budget to Actual:
  - Actual revenue = \$595,000; higher than anticipated; all department expenses reflected positive changes, and there was nothing significant to report.
  - Net savings = \$4.57 million. The amount helped increase fund balances the past year and was more savings than expected. It was thought that the fiscal year would end with \$7.4 million, but the budget ended at \$11.89 million. He said this meant that the City is operating well within the parameters set for the General Fund.
- Page 92 - RDA - Budget to Actual. Mr. Wood reported the department had \$1.26 million less in expenditures, which was due to timing of projects that have not occurred yet.
- Page 93 – Library Fund – Budget to Actual. There was positive change in the Library Fund. Overall, with total expenditures, there was a savings of \$161,000.

**Statistical Section:** Page 107-128. The section provided details for understanding the overall financial health in conjunction with the financial statements, notes, and required supplementary information. For example, current and past information related to ten-year analysis; significant sales tax contributors, and property taxpayers. Mr. Wood stated this part of the audit is required to attain the COA (Certificate of Achievement for Excellence) in governmental financial reporting, established by the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association.) He commended Murray for receiving the COA for 39 years; and stated the City would celebrate 40 years of excellence next year - because he did not expect that to change. He pointed out the statistical report provides the public with clear information about trends histories.

**Compliance Section:** Two required reports were given to Murray City:

- Page 129 – **Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance, and Other Matters, Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With the *Government Auditing Standards*** - For example, complying with State, and federal laws, grant agreements, and whether money is spent appropriately. They consider how duties are segregated, how the process flows between major financial transactions, like payroll, cash disbursements, tax collection, and journal entries. Information is also confirmed with third parties the City does business with. Mr. Wood was happy to report that after tedious analysis, there was only one journal entry in the past year; he felt Ms. Moore and her financial staff are doing an excellent and outstanding job for a city the size of Murray in bookkeeping. The report states that:
  - No material or significant deficiencies were found in the way Murray is conducting business.
- Page 131- **Independent Auditor’s Report on Compliance and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance as Required by the *State Compliance Audit Guide***. To ensure State Code is followed on: budgetary compliance, adequate fund balance percentage, budget approval guidelines; the Open and Public Meeting Act Training; and how the City uses restricted tax funding like Class B&C road funds. Also, fraud risk assessment, cash management, report filing with the State’s treasury office, and investment holding reporting. Mr. Wood was happy to report that:
  - After all testing, no deficiencies, or control weakness were found.

Mr. Wood congratulated the City for being in full compliance; and as a result, the City has zero findings.

In closing, he reported conversations with the Murray Audit Committee about how guidance standards for auditing and tracking Cares Act money would be implemented. He said the City received and spent enough federal and State funding during FY June 30, 2020 that a single audit is expected. Therefore, he would return to file a separate report; and is waiting on the government to finalize details for conducting this specific audit.

Overall, he had no recommendations for improvement, except that capital assets be presented differently in the future. Mr. Wood said this information was difficult to track and test; so, he will work with the City to find a better way to present this information to provide better clarity for next year.

Council Comments and Discussion:

- Mr. Cox said hats off to Ms. Moore and her staff for doing an excellent job.
- Ms. Turner concurred; and appreciated great thoroughness in the audit.
- Mr. Hales agreed and requested next year the CAFR be displayed publicly during the presentation. Mr. Wood hoped next year the meeting could be held in person; as there was difficulty presenting the report with his phone electronically in the zoom meeting.

Reports from City Representatives to Interlocal Boards and Commissions:

UAMPS (Utah Association of Municipal Power Systems):

- IPA (Intermountain Power Agency) - Mr. Haacke reported that the annual IPA meeting was held virtually this year; topics were health of the IPA project, the current situation, and future plans for closing the existing plant in 2025. Plans are that a new natural gas plant will be designed and constructed parallel to the existing coal fired plant, using both a mix of hydrogen and natural gas. Mr. Haacke informed the Council about the following:
  - Negotiations underway about three issues:
    - Organizing staff to operate the underground salt cavern storage area.
    - Finding a company that will construct the natural gas pipeline 50 miles west of the plant from the Currant River main trunk-line.
    - Hiring a third-party hydrogen manufacturer that will construct a hydrogen plant next to the existing plant. Hydrogen will be made and stored in salt caverns to be used for a later time.
  - Due to the proliferation of renewables in the area like solar and wind, green energy could be used in the production of hydrogen to break-up oxygen; this process requires a fossil fuel, which is why hydrogen has never been feasible. The possible use of renewables is a game changer in utilizing the plant after the coal plant closure.
  - As a sub-board member of IPSC (Intermountain Power Service Corporation) for the IPA, Mr. Haacke learned that IPP (Intermountain Power Plant) is concerned about maintaining existing employees. With the plant closure, seasoned employees are leaving to find new jobs. Financial incentives will be offered to keep them interested until the plant shut down in 2025. Once the new plant is completed, the plant will downsize from 280 full-time employees to approximately 120. Many are reaching retirement age, so the hope is to keep them longer.
  - IPA debt that began in 1985 will be paid off in 2024; this means the coal plant will operate with no debt; so, the resource price will drop from \$60 MWh (per megawatt hour) to approximately \$40 MWh. In the past, one-third of the price was associated with debt, so this would now make it affordable for the City to call-back power in the year 2024, and 2025 if necessary. Murray staff will monitor the situation over the next several years.

- SMR (small nuclear reactors): Mr. Haacke said he is no longer informed about CFPP (Carbon Free Power Project) updates since Murray dropped from the project in October 2020. Besides Murray, seven other cities dropped out; and remaining cities continue to monitor the situation. Rumors are that plant configurations will downsize to six modules, instead of 12; capacity might go from 60 MW (megawatts) to 77MW; and DOE (Department of Energy) funding will be spent faster than expected. Mr. Haacke said he still feels confident that the decision made by the City Council and the City to vote against staying with the project was the right one; he said time will tell that maybe the timing was not quite right for nuclear energy.
- Large Scale Solar: The City voted to enter into the large solar plant last year; designed in the Navajo Nation. Construction is going well; the earliest the City will attain generation is in the year 2022, where the City will purchase 5 MW of energy from the 15 MW plant. The cost per megawatt will be \$30. Mr. Haacke noted because the plant is popular among many cities, UAMPS is considering a second plant, to be located in Box Elder County.

**Trans-Jordan Landfill** – Mr. Kakala discussed the following:

- Annual Audit: The recent audit came back with a *good standings* grade; there were no inefficiencies or concerns to report.
- New transfer station: Last year the City entered into an agreement with Sandy City Suburban Improvement District to attain seven acres of land needed for the development of a new transfer station in Sandy City; plans are well underway. The seven acres will be combined with three existing acres to provide ten acres. The 50-year land lease includes an option to purchase the land for \$1 after the lease expires. Sandy City will receive a host-fee of \$1 per ton, equaling \$200,000 per year. All Trans-Jordan city members agreed to the terms that will provide the second transfer station, which is part of a long-term planning process, and needed for Trans-Jordan Cities to continue disposing of solid waste well into the future. Plans are proceeding that include a budget increase to tipping fees over the next six to seven years to meet construction goals and objectives set forth once Trans-Jordan is closed. The new transfer station will be used to transport Murray's trash to the Bay View Landfill.

**COG (Council of Governments)** - Mayor Camp said the committee meets four times per year, and reported pertaining monthly information:

- August – There was an opening on the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention) Board, where Mayor Rob Dally from Holladay City was appointed. Despite having a full board, there will be no 2021 TRCC funding available. In addition, the County's *Emergency Response Plan* aimed at addressing homelessness for the upcoming winter was discussed. Temporary and emergency winter housing needs were considered; sites were identified in Midvale City, and Millcreek Township.
- November – Homelessness topic continued. Also due to social distancing, the annual Legislative General Assembly was held virtually, where only two State representatives were invited. Representative Winder discussed bills he would present at the upcoming Legislative Session; and Senator Harper spoke about numerous bills; both confirming that numerous laws will be proposed next month. Mayor Camp affirmed the City would be watching issues closely, to determine how cities will be impacted.

In addition, a presentation was given about The Point, which is a development in Draper City near the State Prison. The Point of the Mountain State Land Authority Futuristic provided conceptual drawings and plans that included business parks, high tech housing, transportation, and green space. For more information visit the website:

<https://pointofthemountainfuture.org/>

**CVW (Central Valley Water)** - Mayor Camp shared background information about the current rebuild construction project at the facility. Current construction issues were noted:

- Over the 20 years, restoration and repairs are needed that will total \$150 million; this includes upgrades to all piping in the entire collection system, and at all treatment facilities.
- The project is well underway; various pictures were displayed to explain that improvements will replace aging and degraded mechanical and electrical equipment; and rehabilitate corroded pipes by providing collection systems that will meet future needs of the community. The rebuild will provide compliance to new State and federal regulatory requirements.
- The State of Utah DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) requires that wastewater facilities install processes to further remove phosphorous, and lower limits of ammonia and other pollutants. The cost to comply with these additional requirements, to upgrade the treatment process is an estimated \$100 million over the next seven years. Construction photos reflected the demolition of old treatment facilities; and new plants being constructed.
- The calendar-year budget for 2020-2021 was approved and adopted in October of 2020. The budget includes:
  - Wage adjustments. After conducting a market wage study, it was determined that wages had fallen behind comparatively in the industry; 57 adjustments were needed.
  - COLA (Cost of Living) increases were made; employees will receive a 1.7% raise.
  - Career ladder increases of 1.7%; and merit increases of 2% occurred - affecting 26 employees.
  - Increases affect 6% of the overall budget, but the total increase in wages = 2.1%. No new positions were needed. Wage increases were made possible by the elimination of one position, and creative accounting measures.
  - Health insurance decreased 3.77%, by changing to a higher deductible, the provider offered the rate.
  - Overall operating budget increased 3.27%.
- Flow metering. A 12-month rolling average is the process by which CVW determines the cost that each member entity pays to CVW. Wastewater flows are metered and assessed at certain point areas in the system- coming from entities, and into CVW. Due to outdated meters, an issue was realized after new flow meters were installed in November of 2019 when new significant discrepancies were found in assessments; including Murray.
- As a result, on October 15, 2020 a workshop was held with affected entities, to resolve back charges. However, due to the lack of good data, and because it would be a hardship for entities to pay-up appropriately, board members reviewed various corrective actions. Mayor Camp said the problem is complicated; however, for 2021 budgeting purposes the CVW Legal Counsel proposed that the 12-month rolling calculation from January 2021- August 2021 be suspended, as defined in the Interlocal agreement; as long as a corrective billing is finalized by September 2021. Therefore, for budgeting purposes, the same rolling 12-month average charged in 2020, would be used for budget estimates needed for 2021. After correct rolling averages are established with good data, actual flows would be realized, and the 12-month process would resume.
- Murray Public Works staff believes there will be minimal impact to the City; and based on past flows, the City may actually save money, once the correct flow is calculated.

**UTOPIA** (Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency) - Mayor Camp reported the Murray buildout was ahead of schedule; compared to the installation map on the UTOPIA website. For example, areas scheduled for installing in-ground fiber in 2022 are already complete; although not operational yet.

Mayor Camp displayed the UTOPIA October 2020 subscriber report to discuss availability and subscription totals. Various graphs and charts illustrated the following:

- Residential availability in Murray - just under 8,000 homes.
- Proposed residential availability in Murray - approximately 11,000 homes.
- Total Murray subscribers, including businesses – approximately 3,400. Mayor Camp noted that from August 2016 to August of 2020 the trend for new subscribers was a steady climb.
- Murray residential take rate: A steady climb was also noted in August 2016, which went from less than 25% up to just below 35% in August of 2020.
- Recent residential take-rates: Mayor Camp pointed out that all member cities increased in residential subscriptions in July, August and September of 2020; comparatively Murray came in at 34.40%. He thought perhaps COVID-19 had a positive impact on UTOPIA, due to stay at home mandates, and the need for more at-home access to technology.

Mr. Hales asked why WVC (West Valley City) had far less subscribers, and thought it was due to a larger, spread-out demographic. Mayor Camp thought WVC had a lack of high take-rate areas, where cost effective fiber could be installed; and that logistically Murray had more potential comparatively. He believed in rapid time WVC would follow the growing trend, as UTOPIA reaches the end of the overall build out. Mayor Camp invited Ms. Moore to discuss UTOPIA financial matters.

**UIA (Utah Infrastructure Agency)** – Ms. Moore discussed the following:

- UIA would be purchasing their last bond; a public hearing would be held on December 14, 2020 for the final bond of \$50 million that would allow them to finish buildouts in Murray, and all remaining original UTOPIA/UIA cities.
- UIA is now generating enough revenue from current connections to cover the bond payment; they will not be asking Murray City for any more pledge funds.
- An audit committee was recently established to assist with the process of a Risk Assessment Audit.
- In February or March 2021, the City would receive \$70,000 in Op-Ex (operations expense) reimbursement. Ms. Moore explained it was not included in the budget, because received revenue is not a budgeted requirement; the money will be rolled back into General Fund reserves.
- COVID-19 benefited UTOPIA/UIA connections. On average, during March, April, and May of 2020, 1,000 new connections per month occurred, which has now slowed to 700 per month. Ms. Moore would ensure that the City is made aware of new connection totals, as they continue to build-out in Murray's newly constructed neighborhoods, and as new areas open up.
- The financial audit has not been released yet, which will be filed by the end of December; UIA debt coverage is looking good.

**VECC (Valley Emergency Communications Center)** – Mr. Hill is a on the VECC Board of Trustees, also known as Salt Lake Valley 911. His report included the following:

Dispatch update:

- In Salt Lake County, there are two dispatch agencies that cover all of the Salt Lake County. The largest is VECC, comprised of all cities in the County, except for Sandy City; including UPD (Unified Police Department), UFA (Unified Fire Authority). The second agency is the Salt Lake City 911 Center, which includes Sandy City.
- Last year, to combine efficiencies of the two call centers, VECC purchased new dispatch software compatible with Salt Lake City that is used by all fire and police agencies located in Salt Lake County. The new software recently went live and is working well for all fire agencies, including the Murray Fire Department.



- The new software uses an automatic vehicle locator system; when a call comes in, the closest vehicle is dispatched to cut down on travel time. Because Murray is located in the middle of the County, Murray Fire is getting dispatched more frequently to other areas, which is less desired. Chief Harris is working to resolve call-out issues, so Murray residents receive only Murray firefighters, when they call for help.
- Police departments are next for the new software. Murray City is first in line and over the next six months, Murray police will migrate onto the software. Ultimately all cities in the County will be dispatched using the same software, having access to the same information. Six years ago, the requirement was approved by the Legislature, and funding was provided.

Legislative Audit:

- An audit was conducted statewide on all 911 agencies. VECC was rated one of the poorest performing centers in the state of Utah. Mr. Hill explained the poor audit was not related to employee activity, but with the number of calls that came into Salt Lake County overwhelming VECC employees. This occurred because VECC was still using the old software at the time, so the call transfer time between VECC and Salt Lake City took longer, delaying police and fire responses.
- As a result, the Board asked VECC staff to create performance measures and goals to help increase performance at the call center.

A chart was reviewed to show how fast calls are answered, and how quickly calls are processed over a timeframe from 2019; the last three months; and last month. It was noted that VECC showed little improvement; although due to the new software, a slight improvement occurred in the transferring of calls. The hope is to hold VECC dispatchers accountable and continue to see improvements made; which is also important for the State Legislature to see.

Member Agency Fee Structure:

- Currently, VECC is billing Murray, and all member cities on the basis of yearly call volume; which is paid annually towards the operating budget of VECC. However, with the new software, a number of agencies, and member cities are questioning the fairness of call volume assessments. As a result, the board organized a focus group to look at other billing options to determine if the process should change. A study will be conducted over the next few months, and findings will be provided to the board during the budget process next fiscal year. Mr. Hill will report back to the Council as he learns about study results, that could change the way the City has historically paid VECC.

Ms. Dominguez wondered since Murray Fire Department was getting called out more, due to the new software and central location, would the annual fee be increasing. Mr. Hill explained the issue was being analyzed. Prior to new software, Murray Fire was responding only to Murray residents; and Murray citizens were not getting help from outside agencies; there was no vehicle tracking; so, if an emergency was located in Murray, VECC would dispatch the Murray Fire Department. But now with goals to improve overall response times, even if by 10 seconds; other agency vehicles technically closer are dispatched to Murray residents. Mr. Hill confirmed the City prefers responders from other cities not be utilized for distressed Murray residents; he said Murray citizens deserve to be served by Murray's local response teams. These are the issues that fire agencies are trying to resolve, so that the Murray Fire Department can assist its Murray citizens all the time.

**Metro Fire** – Mr. Hill stated there was nothing significant to report at this time.

**Economic Task Force** – Ms. Martinez reported with the rising number of COVID-19 cases, the primary function of the task force slightly shifted. It is now a way for City businesses and the Murray Chamber of

Commerce to maintain communication, and share resources; like grant information, small business loans, and other valuable resources as they become available. She appreciated Ms. Greenwood for her essential role in communicating with the Chamber.

She reported some Murray businesses are thriving, while others struggle to stay open; and COVID-19's impact on the economy has been uneven and unpredictable. The task force would continue to meet and discuss challenges as State mandates change and broader health recommendations evolve. As they continue to problem solve, they have collected a library of resources for business to utilize, so the task force can help in navigating through the implementation of those resources when possible.

Mr. Hales agreed COVID-19 has not affected everyone the same, economically; and he appreciated the Economic Task Force. He also commented that he was grateful to Budget Chair Turner, and Budget Vice-Chair Martinez, and Ms. Lopez for their extensive time spent on studying the budget this year.

**Announcements:** Ms. Lopez recognized Council Administrative Assistant, Ms. Johnson, for five years of employment with the Murray City Council.

**Adjournment:** 6:35 p.m.

**Pattie Johnson**  
**Council Office Administrator II**