

Murray City Municipal Council Chambers

Murray City, Utah

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:32 p.m. for a meeting held electronically without an anchor location in accordance with Utah Code 52-4-207(4), due to infectious disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. The Council Chair determined that conducting a meeting with an anchor location presents substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location because physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain in the Murray City Council Chambers.

The public was able to view the meeting via the live stream at www.murraycitylive.com or <https://www.facebook.com/Murraycityutah/>.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	Council Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Danny Hansen	Senior IT Technician

Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order – Councilmember Turner called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jennifer Kennedy.

Approval of Minutes

None scheduled.

Special Recognition

None scheduled.

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

Brent Barnett – Read by Jennifer Kennedy

To understand the needs of our city, it is important that you know the facts on the Vine Street apartment project:

1) A HORRIBLE IDEA

Architects can create beautiful drawings for any building. This doesn't change the fact that this project is a horrible idea for the citizens in the neighborhood.

Height. The height of this proposed structure is just ridiculous. If built, it would tower over the residences on the street, leaving people's homes in shadow most of the year.

Buffer / Transition Zone. There is absolutely no buffer or transition zone as would be expected with good zoning practice.

There are hundreds of potential sites in the city for such a project. Such a project should never be allowed to intrude in a neighborhood of single-story residences.

2) INSENSITIVE ZONING

The Vine Street proposal is a clear demonstration of how insensitive the city has been with the downtown zoning.

Given the many years the city has been completely insensitive to any desires of this important neighborhood, it is about time that the neighborhood spoke up.

3) ZONING MUST PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

The number one rule of zoning is to protect the character of neighborhoods. The zoning on Vine Street has completely violated this fundamental rule. The city shows no ability to understand the importance of neighborhood character in zoning decisions.

We need city leaders who can clearly demonstrate understanding of good zoning and good planning.

4) EFFECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

The Vine Street project is another embarrassment for Murray. It again highlights the city's indifference to neighborhood and citizen input. This is another in a series of failures, a pattern of allowing our neighborhoods to be negatively impacted by misguided zoning.

The residents of this neighborhood have every reason to be angry with Blair Camp. And why shouldn't they be angry? Blair Camp has taken no initiative to address the many concerns of the neighborhood.

a) No Personal Involvement

It is only logical that an effective mayor would make an effort to work personally with the citizens in the neighborhood to find good solutions for the area. Yet this has not happened.

b) No Qualified Planning Experts

The mayor could have easily brought in a qualified planning expert to work with the neighborhood. This has not happened.

c) No Work With City Council Representative

An effective mayor could have also at any time worked with the city council representative in the neighborhood to find solutions for the property that would work for the neighborhood. Again, this has been ignored.

5) NEIGHBORHOOD INFLUENCE

Finally, let us acknowledge that the will of this neighborhood has been repeatedly ignored. It seems that unless the residents of the neighborhood organize - as have urban neighborhoods in other cities - the Murray central neighborhood will continue to get stomped on and marginalized by the city government.

Thanks for your work for our city.

Consent Agenda

None scheduled.

Public Hearings

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

1. Consider an ordinance related to the Murray City Center District; repeal of 2011 Design Review Guidelines and enactment of new 2020 Design Guidelines.

Public Hearing Postponed

2. Consider an ordinance relating to land use; amends the General Plan from General Commercial to Mixed Use and amends the Zoning Map from C-D to M-U for the properties located at approximately 861 E. Winchester Street and 6520, 6550, 6580 South 900 East, Murray City, Utah. (Boyer Company)

Application withdrawn

3. Consider an ordinance amending the City's Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Budget.

Staff Presentation: Brenda Moore

Ms. Moore requested the following amendment to the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the following grants and donations in the General Fund with no financial impact:

1. Increase revenue and Victims Advocate emergency expenses for receipt of beard growing donations. \$1,000.

2. Receive and allocate Utah Department of Health CARES grant \$3,600 for Kids Zone mobile room divider.
3. Receive and allocate an additional \$1,451 received from the EMS grant.
4. Receive and allocate an HHS provider relief grant \$11,787 for the purchase of a hands-free CPR device.
5. Receive and allocate Create in Utah CARES grant \$5,000 for Arts programming.

In the General Fund with no financial impact increase sales tax revenue budget by \$147,400 and appropriate the following expenditures:

1. Increase the City Council personnel budget \$36,900 for an employee payout, job overlap, and wage change.
2. Increase the IT small equipment budget \$100,000 for computer replacements.
3. Increase the Police travel & training budget \$7,000.
4. Increase the City Council professional services budget by \$2,500 for meeting broadcast service and miscellaneous expense budget by \$1,000 for parade taffy.

In the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fund allocate from reserves the following expenditures:

1. Parks equipment \$40,000 for a truck.
2. Senior Recreation building for \$45,000 for HVAC system.
3. Police equipment \$292,000 for police cars and related equipment
4. Public works \$25,000 for radar speed signs, \$20,000 to complete the transportation study and an additional \$200,000 to complete the Hanauer Street extension landscaping.
5. Transfer \$47,360 to the Golf Fund.

In the Golf Fund receive \$47,360 from the CIP fund and allocate \$37,360 for 2 sand trap rakes, and \$10,000 for a golf cart lift. Also, in the Golf Fund appropriate from reserves \$379, 775 for the purchase of golf carts.

In the Risk Fund add \$100,000 in professional services for litigation expenses from reserves.

A request to authorize the Director of Finance and Administration to transfer any amount of the transportation sales tax revenue that is above budget to the CIP fund at the close of the fiscal year 2020-2021 and transfer any amount from the General Fund to the CIP fund at the close of fiscal year 2020-2021 which exceeds the maximum fund balance as determined by Utah Code Ann section 10-6-116, and adjust the budget accordingly was requested.

Citizen Comments

No comments were received.

MOTION: Councilmember Hales moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Dominguez.

Council roll call vote:

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

Nays: None
Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

4. Consider an ordinance authorizing an interfund loan from the Power Fund to the Golf Fund.

Staff Presentation: Brenda Moore

Attachments:

Ms. Moore shared that the golf course needs to replace their current golf cart fleet, at a total cost of \$379,775. The Golf Fund will pay \$50,000 cash and is proposing to borrow \$329,775 from the Power Fund. The interest rate is 2%, loan term of 5 years with the first payment due November 1, 2021.

It takes approximately 1 year of golf cart fee revenue to pay for the carts. The fleet batteries are warrantied for 5 years, with the hope the lithium batteries actually last 6-7 years.

The 2% interest rate is more than the Power Fund is currently earning on its investments, and less than the interest rate which would be charged if the carts were financed by an outside company.

Citizen Comments

Nick Jensen, Read by Jennifer Kennedy

I saw an item on the council agenda for this evening about allowing Murray Power to loan funds to the Murray City Golf Course. I don't know the details, but I just wanted to voice my general opposition to the golf course.

Like most people, I don't play golf, so the whole golf course is unavailable to me. It's nice to have the green space there, but it's a huge amount of land to dedicate to just 1 activity. Golf is a dying sport. As a city, I think we should close the golf course and covert the space into something more useful that everyone can enjoy. Murray Park North, maybe. Semi-wild space like Sandy's Dimple Dell Park would be great, too. A few affordable houses with roads that connect neighborhoods currently separated by the golf course would be nice to have in the mix and make the city more navigable, too.

If Murry Power is loaning money to convert the golf course into something nice and useful, then I'm all for it. If it's to keep a dying, exclusive "sport" afloat until it's even more bankrupt, then I'm against it.

MOTION: Councilmember Dominguez moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Cox.

Council roll call vote:

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

Nays: None
Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Business Items

None scheduled.

Mayor's Report and Questions

Mayor Camp gave the following updates:

- Salt Lake County is currently dredging the sandbar in Murray Park.
- Public works has started a Green Waste Trailer Rental Program. To reserve a trailer residence will need to contact the Public Works department.
- Public Works will have wood chips available for pick-up for Murray City citizens and will be updating social media for pick up times and locations.
- Parks and Recreation department is moving forward with some spring and summertime activities (soccer and volleyball) if/when COVID guidelines and recommendations can be observed.
- The City (and surrounding cities) are moving forward with plans to host a 4th of July celebration.

Floor was opened for questions. None were asked.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Brooke Smith, City Recorder