



**MURRAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Murray City Center**

5025 South State Street, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance: Council Members and others:

Kat Martinez – Chair District #1
Diane Turner – Vice Chair District #4
Pam Cotter District #2
Rosalba Dominguez District #3
Garry Hrechkosy District #5

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Tammy Kikuchi	Chief Communications Officer	Jared Hall	CED Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Rob White	IT Director	Ben Horsley	Granite School District
Kim Sorensen	Parks and Recreation Director	Laura Brown	Deputy Recorder
Danny Astill	Public Works Director	Russ Kakala	Streets Superintendent
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Ben Gray	IT
Steve Hogan	Granite School District	Sheri VanBibber	Murray Youth Gov/Chamber
Loran Pasalich	Murray Chamber	George Wilkinson	Murray Chamber
Stacy Pasalich	Murray Chamber	Roy Bartee	4800 Lofts
Anthony Fletcher	4800 Lofts		

Conducting: Ms. Martinez called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole – May 17, 2022 - Ms. Turner moved to approve. Mr. Hrechkosy seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray Area Chamber of Commerce** – Ms. Cotter introduced Murray Chamber of Commerce board members and ambassadors in attendance, reported ribbon cutting ceremonies she attended and gave appreciation for all new businesses locating to Murray. She asked Ms. VanBibber to speak about the MYCC (Murray Youth Chamber of Commerce) and Murray Youth Council which is a group of 85 Murray students. Ms. VanBibber explained events and work projects the MYCC is involved with like homeless student outreach, the Utah 2022 Legislative Session, various internships, State apprenticeships, the Murray Children’s Food Pantry, and the new Spartan Store. Last year students received \$14,000 in scholarship funding and \$6,000 this year. MYCC assisted at the Murray American Red Cross Blood

Donation Center, assembled rice packs for frontline workers at all Murray rehab centers and the Senior Center; and volunteered to help with Christmas needs for the Veterans Center. The annual Haunted Woods is a significant fundraiser that supports all MYCC projects, which raised \$20,000 last year in three nights. Ms. VanBibber noted that funding is given back to communities by way of supporting agencies like the YWCA, the South Valley Sanctuary, Taylorsville, and Midvale Family Shelters; and helps with scholarship funding for students.

- **GSD (Granite School District) Boundary Changes** – GSD Chief of Staff, Mr. Horsley said Murray families and students could be impacted by the boundary study they are conducting. As part of the legal process, GSD communities and elected officials were notified about the study as they potentially consolidate or close schools and adjust boundaries.

He explained GSD population numbers have been in decline for the last 20 years and current enrollment is slightly over 60,000; they lost 8,000 students in the last 10 years which is equal to an entire high school. GSD is sufficient in secondary schools, but the bulk of their elementary schools are cavernous which is why an independent demographer was hired prior to the pandemic to study factors that influence future student populations.

Mr. Horsley said because GSD is the most mature school district in Utah, factors like declining birth rates in Salt Lake County, less residential growth, families moving to newer subdivisions and parents choosing other school options are issues taken into consideration for future growth and development. Although 10,000 new apartment units infiltrated the GSD, schools are still seeing a decline in elementary populations because not many school aged children live in these housing developments. Roughly 10,000 children districtwide attend Charter Schools, but many return to GSD for middle school. He compared GSD net enrollment losses and gains to other school districts and reported GSD schools located in Murray lose on average 500 children per year.

He reviewed the process for the Population Analysis Study. First, boundary study areas are chosen; then, areas are presented to GSD board members for study approval; and finally, solutions are presented to communities for public input. So far, there have been 40 public meetings with over 600 comments received between February and May of 2022.

He outlined aspects for changing a boundary and closing a school. He discussed the Van Winkle/700 East Corridor Study that is related to Twin Peaks and Woodstock elementary schools in Murray. The next study phase for the area is to develop alternatives and proposals that will be presented publicly in the Fall of 2022 where boundary adjustments and closures will be considered. He stressed that the study does not mean schools would be closing but that many things will be analyzed as the study moves forward. He noted that studies for Cottonwood, Skyline and Olympus high schools have been paused for now.

Ms. Dominguez led conversations about class sizes, what happens to land when schools are closed and if historical population numbers are considered when schools are constructed. Mr. Hogan explained student/teacher ratios and class size is determined to be 27.25 per teacher, based on a required per-student State formula. He said after Granite High was demolished and the land was sold, they realized the value in owning open green space. A new philosophy was adopted which is to maintain ownership of all property and work with the County and municipalities to preserve land.

Currently they are working with Millcreek to develop a dog park where Roosevelt Elementary in South Salt Lake used to be, and they lease property to Salt Lake County where another school old school was. He explained historically when a school was constructed, high growth always settled after peaking so they do not construct large elementary schools anymore.

- **An ordinance permanently closing and vacating an unused public utility easement at 447 West 4800 South, Murray City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah.** – Mr. Turner explained that developers made the request for the City to vacate a public utility easement. He shared a map to explain where the easement was dedicated to the Murray Power Department in 1962 for supplying power to three houses. Mr. Turner said it was no problem for the City to close and vacate the utility easement because power lines and homes no longer exist, and the City has no use for the small strip of land.
 - **Reports from Murray City representatives who serve on interlocal boards, committees, and commissions.**
 - **CVW (Central Valley Water)** – Mr. Astill reviewed how wastewater fee increases accounted for the required reconstruction project of the CVW facility. Although phases of the project are ongoing, many have slowed considerably due the need for significant amounts of concrete that has been in short supply. As cement arrives little by little the contractor works with CVW staff to keep other areas of construction moving along. Overall cost increases for the project have leveled, but one more bond will be required to finish the rebuild. CVW will work together with Capstone, State legislators and the county representative to find additional funding or grants that would help with the expense.
 - **TJL (Trans-Jordan Landfill)** – Mr. Kakala said the design phase of the new Sandy Transfer Station is 50% complete and plans should be finalized by October of this year. TJL bonded for \$20 million to pay for construction and the project should be ready in 2024. There was a \$2 increase to all tipping fees so member cities will now pay \$22 per ton and public guests will pay \$37 per ton.
 - **JRC (Jordan River Commission)** – Mr. Sorensen reported as part of the approved budget, annual membership fees for cities would increase to \$3,600 this year. Fees provide 1.6% of the JRC budget. He explained the JRC gets funding from the State Legislature. This years' legislature appropriations include:
 - \$210,000 for local law enforcement patrol along the trail.
 - \$10,000 for conservation programs to purchase trees, seeds, and plants.
 - \$205,000 for the Jordan River Recreation Zone.
 - \$75,000 for maintenance grants.
 - \$25,000 for program grants.
 - \$250,000 for weed management.
- AS part of the *Get to the River Festival* Murray will hold an event at Germania Park on September 10 2022 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plans are for a virtual race, an information booth about recreation opportunities, a chalk art competition, tree planting and ice cream treats.
- **NeighborWorks** – Mr. Hall reported NeighborWorks is finalizing additional home loans to increase their affordable housing mission initiative to buy more land and hope to provide more down payment assistance loans. He said the *Paint Your Heart Out* program is going strong; there is a

new mentoring program being developed for youth and they are moving forward with community land trusts, which is the concept for NeighborWorks to own land and sell homes at more affordable rates through a trust. NeighborWorks is also working with a company called Fair Credit who helps restore bad credit and assists with small business loans for economic development.

- **WFWRD (Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District)** – Ms. Turner said that operations were status quo at WFWRD; the budget was recently approved, and recycling is still producing good revenue for the organization.
- **Association of Municipal Councils** – Ms. Turner reported that in March there was a legislative update to discuss bills related to affordable housing, rental incentives and first responder mental health issues. In April, Commercial Real Estate was the subject of discussion. In May they learned about community services and in June they reviewed Municipal Public Finances related to current economy, inflation, rising prices, labor shortages and supply change problems.
- **Utah League of Cities and Towns LPC (Legislative Policy Committee)** – Ms. Dominguez shared about past monthly meetings. Topics of discussion included: city support of permanent housing for the unsheltered; the creation of a new division within the Sandy Justice Court that will monitor the effectivity of court system functions; an economic overview from Zions Bank where representatives said inflation should decrease within the next 6-12 months; and the housing market should begin to plateau slightly. Lastly, executives with the Division of Water Resources spoke about the concerning drought situation and the shrinking Great Salt Lake that impacts the County and the State of Utah.
- **City Council rules and Travel Policy** – Ms. Martinez reviewed proposed changes which included:
 - Removal of outdated committees.
 - Language to make the council process clear about who is to be notified when a council member cannot attend a meeting.
 - Adjusting meeting times and places as the Council no longer holds public meetings in the City Hall conference room.
 - Clarification on when agenda items must be submitted from the administration to the council office.
 - A process for accepting emailed public comments and guidelines for receiving in-person comments.
 - Changing the City Council’s travel policy that will now mirror the travel policy used by all city employees.
 - A list of National conferences council members may choose to attend. The same number of conferences will be offered.
 - Clarification that Council members will be responsible for reserving rooms outside of conference dates with their own personal paying methods.

Adjournment: 5:45 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III