

Heber City Corporation  
75 North Main Street  
City Council Meeting  
03/19/2009

5:30 p.m.

WORK MEETING

The Council of Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah, met in **Work Meeting** on March 19, 2009, in the City Council Chambers in Heber City, Utah.

Present:	Mayor	David R. Phillips
	Council Members	Jeffery Bradshaw Elizabeth Hokanson Eric Straddeck Nile Horner Robert Patterson
Also Present:	City Manager	Mark K. Anderson
	City Recorder	Paulette Thurber
	City Engineer	Bart Mumford
	City Planner	Allen Fawcett
	Chief of Police	Ed Rhoades

**Wasatch County Council Work Meeting to Discuss the By-Pass Alignment – March 25 – 3:00 p.m.:** Anderson reminded the Council about this meeting. He said it appeared they were going to executive session for acquisition of property. He encouraged the City Council to attend that meeting. Mayor Phillips asked for a follow up e-mail to remind the Council.

Councilmember Horner wondered what happened to the committee. Councilmember Bradshaw had volunteered to be on the committee. Mayor Phillips made a note to get in touch with the County tomorrow. He said the County was anxious to move forward.

**Center Street Open House – March 24 – 7:00 p.m. – City Offices:** The Council was reminded of this meeting.

**Review Proposed Budget Cuts and Potential Fee Increases:** Anderson referred to the materials he had distributed. He discussed the second page. The \$78,679 figure needed to be closer to \$250,000. The department heads had met with Anderson to talk about budget cuts. Anderson indicated the City would be cutting capital projects, not replacing people and limiting training. He said there was not a lot of fluff in these numbers.

Page six showed some things that could be cut out of the budget for next year. Anderson reviewed each line of that page. Anderson said he had talked with McKrola about stopping WWET from doing the secondary and ditch irrigation duties. McKrola said he thought that could be done with some coordination between the City and WWET. The shareholders owned the ditches but the City took over the maintenance. Councilmember Horner said no doubt the City was paying too much to WWET.

Mayor Phillips felt Steve Tozier's men could take care of this but wanted to make sure the City did not cut someone's water off. He wanted to make sure there was coordination as needed.

Anderson talked about the police grant and would like to get that on line, if possible. The grant would help pay for a replacement for Sgt. Clegg. The grant included wages and benefits for three years. The City would get these officers for three years for only the cost of basic equipment. Then the City would be required to keep those people for one additional year. Chief Rhoades said the equipment cost was \$45,000 a year which included a car. He said he sent the grant request for three officers. Chief Rhoades said with Wal Mart coming on board and other issues, the City needed more police officers. Anderson said if the City got the grant, the Council would have to decide how many officers it would employ. Chief Rhoades did not think his department was over staffed. He said he had three people waiting to apply when and if those positions come open. Anderson said anything the City paid over the base wage would attract many applicants.

Chief Rhoades said the police were having a retirement luncheon for Mike Clegg on April 1. He stated he would send e-mails to the Council to remind them.

Anderson said he would like feedback from the Council on these items he had suggested. Councilmember Patterson thanked Anderson and the department heads for their work getting these proposals ready for the Council.

Anderson talked about ways to increase revenue. He reviewed page 7, a memo from Wes Greenhalgh, that recommended increasing the fire inspection fee. Mayor Phillips reviewed the history of the fire district wanting to do these inspections. Discussion about the proposed \$60 fee. Discussion that maybe the fee should be \$60 for new businesses and \$30 for annual re-inspections. Mayor Phillips said he wanted to do what was fair and not just raise fees to be raising fees. He wanted to have a fair fee. Anderson said he would like to talk to Greenhalgh some more and try to determine what the fee increase might produce. Councilmember Horner said we needed to remember that the businesses out there were struggling just like the City. Greenhalgh talked about the last paragraph of his memo. He said Don Blackburn was willing to get the certification needed for re-certification because there was no one in town that could do that.

Anderson said Mark Rounds had just gotten back from a cemetery conference. He discussed the proposed changes from the Cemetery Department. He discussed the proposed fees as well as a

new fee for a headstone setting. Anderson said he would come back to the Council with an estimate of what the revenue would be from those proposed increases.

On page 10, there was a proposal from the Planning and Engineering Departments. Mumford had proposed some increases in engineering fees that would cover some of our staff time as well as fees billed from Horrocks Engineers.

Discussion about fee changes for services from the Heber Valley Animal Shelter. The proposal compared Heber's fees to Midvale and Sandy. Chief Rhoades said because of the large area we cover, our fees should be higher. He said the Animal Control Board was meeting next week and this recommendation would go to them at that time.

Anderson talked about pages 12 and 13. He said water impact fees were not operating revenue. He talked about depreciation expense. The difference between the revenue and expenses would be short. He may be asking for rate increases in the Water and Sewer Fund.

Anderson said it was still the goal to evaluate the business license fees. He also discussed the community garden. He would like to propose those fees be increased to \$20. He thought the City could charge a \$30 fee and then \$10 would be returned at the end of the season.

Discretionary item: Anderson pointed out the things that were built into the 2010 budget. He asked if the Council was comfortable with that.

Anderson talked about the concern of Paul Askins, from the Chamber of Commerce, in regards to the City providing the funds for the entertainment at the Concerts in the Park this summer.

Councilmember Straddeck suggested Cowboy Poetry be cut to \$25,000. Councilmember Hokanson and Councilmember Bradshaw wanted to keep it at \$30,000. Councilmember Horner said he was fine with \$30,000 based on the benefit it brought to the City.

Discussion about amending the budget as the year progressed. The \$10,000 for the "other" category could change but the Council could start with this number. Anderson said this \$10,000 would probably not fund what it had funded last year.

Councilmember Straddeck said the City was cutting back all over the place and he did not feel right about some of these requests.

Discussion about WAEDA. Anderson felt Midway City might have difficulty meeting their commitment. When the City entered in the agreement with WAEDA, it was a 5-year commitment. Councilmember Horner had some of the same concerns as Councilmember Straddeck and said the Council had to make some hard decisions.

Anderson said the City might need to let people know, for example the Concerts in the Park, if it could not fund as requested. Councilmember Hokanson said the Council needed to look at the return on investment. High School Rodeo, Concerts in the Park, and Cowboy Poetry were events

where the City probably got back more than it put in. She stated if the City lost Cowboy Poetry, it would lose more than \$30,000. Councilmember Straddeck said the Council needed to be careful we didn't back ourselves into a corner. Everyone was tightening their belts. He felt some of the bands for Concerts in the Park might be willing to take a reduced fee for example. There was more to the argument than if we don't make up the shortfall, the event might not happen. Councilmember Horner said we needed to look at each event on a case by case basis.

Anderson suggested putting all the requests for funding together, and as a Council decide how much to give each entity based on the City's funds.

Councilmember Bradshaw said the concerts and the Farmers' Market went hand in hand. The Farmers' Market had really gotten good and he did not want to jeopardize that. He did not want to go cheap on that since it was such a popular event now. Councilmember Hokanson said the Pow Wow was harder to justify since it was not held in Heber City. Anderson said he would tell Paul Askins and Jason Giles the Council wanted to support the concerts. Councilmember Horner said we shouldn't just give it to them until they actually come and ask the Council personally. Councilmember Horner said he still had people that had come to him with concerns that the Farmers' Market and concerts would conflict with the County Fair.

**Discuss Pressurized Irrigation Improvements in the Center Street Project:** Mumford and Anderson met earlier today. An overhead was shown. Mumford had talked with Smedley about the Broadhead section. The best way to protect the City was if the City put in that line because Broadhead was not far enough along in their subdivision process to do that. In exchange for putting in the line, the City would want them to sign an agreement that the City would be in first position on any liens. He thought there would be some risk that the City would not be reimbursed at all for that Broadhead section. Anderson had two points with this issue: 1) The City might never be paid for installing that section of line, and 2) The cost would be approximately \$211,000.

Some residents using flood irrigation had some concerns about converting to a secondary irrigation system. There might be water savings from piping the irrigation water which could compensate for the fact that the City would not have the water rights from those owners. There was a question as to how the City would charge for the service that would allow the City to recoup the investment.

Anderson recommended putting in this improvement and look for opportunities that would make sense as resources were available; for example, looking for assistance through federal grants etc.

Mumford said if the City did not pipe the Broadhead section, some stretch of the ditch would still have to be piped. The cost would be about \$100,000. If the City pressurized the whole section, the cost would be about \$200,000 with hopefully 40% being reimbursed. He had talked with McKrola about dealing with people that did or did not want this. When it came to payments, they didn't want to pay City rates. McKrola suggested giving the public two options: one was to keep

getting water from Wasatch, and keeping their water rights; or getting on the City system and selling their water rights for a profit which could pay for the City system for many years. McKrola said the City's system could support the extra usage because of the greater water efficiency in the pressurized system.

Councilmember Horner liked the idea that people had a choice. Discussion about the current ordinance that said a person had to connect if pressurized irrigation was available. Mumford said he thought that ordinance would have to be modified. Anderson said if the City was going to put in pressurized irrigation, it would be most cost effective to do it now during this construction. However, there was not a compelling need because of shortage of water or a storage issue. Anderson and Councilmember Horner wanted input from citizenry. Mayor Phillips said the City needed to have a pending ordinance change to cover the City. The Council needed to be fair with everybody.

Anderson said in his mind the City had a right to recapture the costs of the infrastructure so the rest of the City did not have to subsidize this project that benefitted only a limited area.

Councilmember Horner suggested piping the ditch, which would be in the mow strip, and when the City decided what to do, it could hook on to the pipe and only the mow strip would need to be dug up.

Mumford said if the Council thought it would need pressurized irrigation in the next 5 or 10 years, there would not be a cheaper opportunity than now. Councilmember Straddeck and Councilmember Patterson said do it right in the long run.

Councilmember Bradshaw talked about the plan for the last number of years. The sewer plant was working on a plan for expansion. He thought within the next few years some money would be handed to the City to do pressurized irrigation throughout the City. This went along with the feasibility study. The City had a master plan and he thought it was foolish to let this opportunity go by.

Mumford said there would be a lot of problems that would be worked out. This could be seen as a pilot project. This would force the City to figure out how it would all work.

Four of the Council wanted to proceed. It was decided that the secondary irrigation ordinance needed to be revisited.

Councilmember Horner wanted to have public meetings in the next year or whenever this would be ready for service in order to get input from the residents.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Paulette Thurber, City Recorder