

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
January 17, 2023
4:30 p.m.**

Council Members: Cyd LeMone, Mayor Pro Tempore
 Dianna Andersen
 Brent Bullock
 Eric Jensen
 Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
 Deon Giles, Parks Director
 Tina Petersen, City Attorney
 Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
 Denise Roy, Finance Director
 Sheri Britsch, Library and Arts Director
 Neal Winterton, Public Works Director
 Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator
 David Packard, Human Resources Manager
 Keldon Brown, Police Chief
 Shawn Whitaker, Assistant Recreation Director

Excused: Mayor Guy L. Fugal
 Drew Engemann, Fire Chief

The City Council and staff met in the Community Room, 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION

In the absence of Mayor Guy Fugal, Mayor Pro Tempore Cyd LeMone, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

a. Recognition of Leadership Academy Graduates.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, presented the Pleasant Grove Leadership Academy's 9th graduating class. The Academy has been offered for the past 12 years (with a hiatus during COVID) providing opportunities to enhance and expand leadership skills primarily for current or newly appointed Department Heads or Supervisory positions but other employees as well. The class consists of eight to 10 employees and meets weekly for 2 ½ months to discuss leadership principles. The training is based on the book, *Endurance*, by Alfred Lansing about an Antarctic expedition. During the class, each member is responsible for a one-hour presentation on a chosen

leadership principle. For example, John James presented an excellent presentation on trust and Neal Winterton's topic was optimism. The class also views a documentary. The 10th session was to begin the following week. Class members receiving certifications of completion included Aaron Wilson from the Public Works Department; Amber Ard from the Library; DaSheek Akwenye from the Recreation Department (he is no longer employed by the City); Jacob Hawkins from the Planning Department; Jake Larsen from the Fire Department; John James from the Parks Department; Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator; Mara Buhlar from the Court System; Neal Winterton from Public Works; and Rob Higginson, the City Prosecutor. A photo was taken of the group.

b. Discussion of Flock Camera Program.

Police Captain, Britt Smith, introduced Territory Sales Manager, Kraig Gardner from Flock Safety. Captain Smith reported that he spent most of his career with the Police Department in Investigations. Being able to read license plates was always high on his investigation wish list as sometimes that information is the only lead needed to effect an arrest. They were present to introduce the Flock Camera Program which consists of software and cameras. He stated that it is a new, affordable program to capture license plate information that will provide them with a distinct advantage. He shared examples of crimes where had a license plate reader been in place, the crime would have been quickly solved but now often remains unsolved. Mr. Gardner was invited to provide additional information about the Program.

Mr. Gardner appreciated the opportunity to speak to the group. He noted that police are challenged to solve cases in an environment where crime levels are continually rising. One solution is the use of an Automatic License Plate Reader ("ALPR"). His company initially started the camera program while working with a Homeowners Association ("HOA") that is seeking a more secure environment. As the HOA does not have a lot of money, the company developed a structure-free reader that allows it to be placed in a variety of locations. Mr. Gardner showed one of the readers and described its internal components and how it works. The reader is strategically stationed on poles and takes a photo of the back of a passing vehicle showing the license plate, make, and model. The vehicle occupants are not photographed and the photos are not used for enforcement purposes. Only the objective picture of the rear license plate is relayed. That data is deleted every 30 days. The system is used proactively to alert the Police Department of the presence of a stolen vehicle so there can be a rapid response time.

The system is also used to investigate crimes where the suspect vehicle is caught on camera. This provides the Police Department with information on similar vehicles found in the area for further investigation. The information is available for 30 days and then deleted. When the systems are known to be in the area, they act as a crime deterrent. Mr. Gardner also reported that an explanation of how the system works can be posted on the Police Department's website for the community to view and better understand how the system is used. He presented exhibits of the data captured in various locations. He also identified other communities that have installed this program including Springville, North Ogden, Lehi, and Salt Lake City. They are currently in discussions with several other cities.

There was discussion regarding strategies to collect information from license plates that are obstructed. Council Member Williams asked for more detail on the technology. Mr. Gardner confirmed that the software is patented and secure. Encrypted data is transported to a cellular provider where it can be accessed through a portal. Nothing is stored in the camera itself. Their company works with the cellular provider to ensure speed signal requirements. The linked police department receives information via text messages. The 30-day deletion is automatic. If there is a circumstance where that information is needed after the 30 days, there is a lookup tool that can be opted into that connects the department to other cooperating law enforcement agencies that may provide additional assistance.

City Attorney, Tina Petersen, asked how the company responds to Freedom of Information requests. Mr. Gardner stated that they serve as custodians for the stored data but to retrieve it there would need to be a reported case number or a previous recording plate on the NCIC database. The City would not have access to Float's data beyond what is included in the report. Ms. Petersen stated that because only the back of the vehicle is tracked and the information is not used for traffic enforcement she did not see a lot of liability issues for the city.

Mayor Pro Tem LeMone asked about the cost. Mr. Gardner reported that the yearly cost is \$2,500 per license plate reader, which includes the camera and software. There is also a \$350 service fee to install each camera. He stated that cameras will need to be placed at the periphery and key points in the City. There is also an option for a more advanced search tool that costs \$2,500. The company is willing to install a pilot program with approximately 20 cameras to allow the Police Department time to evaluate their effectiveness and be allowed to cancel within a specified time period. The pilot program was being offered in new markets like Utah.

Administrator Darrington stated that if the City Council was agreeable to the program, the next step would be to have the Police Department provide a proposed budget. The cost for 20 cameras would be approximately \$50,000 per year. The pilot program typically lasts for 30 days. Contracts are typically for two years, however, the company was willing to consider a one-year contract. The Council Members expressed support.

c. Staff Business.

Assistant Recreation Director, Shawn Whitaker, informed those present of a local magazine article on the Recreation Department and shared copies. The pool leak was located and estimated that it was releasing 80,000 gallons of water per day. They were testing the pipes following the repair, which included filling the pool. If the repair is satisfactory, they will cover up the repair area and the pool will open on time for the 2023 season. They were not doing any work to address the settlement issues at this time. Administrator Darrington stated that the settlement issue is much larger and will cost more than budgeted. There will be an investigation and engineering with an estimate to come. The Health Department has authorized them to simply address the pool issue.

Mr. Whitaker described the work being done on the interior of the Recreation Center consisting of tile work, painting, flooring installation, and a new lobby desk. In addition, there will be digital signage. The entryway will be new and a glass wall is going into the lobby area. There will be a series of new gates to provide entry based on membership status. The system was expected to be

available in March or April. Next year, they plan to have a new membership card that will include a photograph to increase security. A Fitness Fair took place that was well attended and resulted in an increase in membership. Sturdier new fencing was being installed around the slide pool. Boilers were also being installed. Administrator Darrington thanked Mr. Whitaker for all his work on this significant project.

Police Chief, Keldon Brown, commented that this has been a busy time for the police. He reported that Officer Winder will be leaving the force and taking a job with the County. He provided details on a carjacking/kidnapping case involving the Mapleton City Mayor's nephew. An arrest was made and the suspect was in custody. He commented that things are going well in the Department and he feels the support of the community. He planned to take part in the next Leadership Academy. He was asked to provide an update on what he has learned after being on the job for 60 to 90 days. He stated that currently, he sees the need to strengthen community relationships. He met with the Junior High School Principal and both he and the Department need to strengthen their relationship and will be more visible in the schools. He also met with an apartment manager who had recent contact with the police, which resulted in identifying issues that need to be addressed.

Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas, reported that he sent an email before Christmas about finalizing the General Plan. He was in the process of receiving comments from the Council and Department Heads. He would be meeting with the General Plan Committee to review the comments on February 2, 2023. After that, a public open house will be held to present the draft and seek comments. The final version will then be prepared. Once the version is final, staff will begin drafting ordinances for specific zones, addressing density, sign standards, and architectural design. The months ahead will be busy. He noted that today the department will provide an Excel spreadsheet showing a daily progress update for projects available for review. The information will include the name of the project, the goals, the status, and any delays.

Library and Arts Director, Sheri Britsch, reported that the following day the Arts Commission will appear on *Good Day Utah* on Fox 13. The segment was triggered after seeing the Ballroom Dance Class information. The dance teacher and one of the Art Commission Members, Brady Hoggard, will be interviewed. Mr. Hoggard will speak about the work of the Art Commission. Director Britsch also reported that she has 10 tickets to attend the Sundance Film Festival in Salt Lake City at 9:30 p.m. on January 27, 2023. There will be a drawing for those tickets.

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported on the status of water monitoring. He explained that the water year starts on October 4, 2022, and the water storage areas consisting of Deer Creek, Jordanelle, and Utah Lake began with low water levels. Much of the water currently is in the snow, which is significantly above average. He noted that with increased precipitation, the water levels have risen but remain below level. Run-off typically does not begin until the Spring. Even with the recently increased precipitation, they still need to be concerned about recovery from the drought. Council Member Williams commented that residents are being impacted by flooding basements from rain and asked for comment on the impact of the increased amount of groundwater. Director Winterton stated that there are groundwater systems in the City that are functioning but the systems that are in place cannot keep up with the increased precipitation in the form of rain. Most of that water is runoff. He reported that there now is more infrastructure, which can lower the groundwater level in some locations and puts them in a better position to deal with the runoff.

There is, however, no way to control the rain or individual grading that complicates and interferes with runoff. They need to be prepared for the runoff in the spring as conditions now are similar to those experienced in 2011 when there was record-high runoff. Public Works staff thanked the City Council for their work.

Human Resources Manager, David Packard, reported that the first round of interviews for the Recreation Director position were to take place the following Thursday. The final round of interviews was scheduled for January 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Megan Cowley was hired as the New Front Desk Receptionist. Mr. Packard expected the Night Custodian position to be filled the following week. Interviews for the Public Works Infrastructure Manager/GIS Coordinator took place the previous week and an offer would be extended soon.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 5:46 p.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN the Work Session. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Council Work Session minutes of January 17, 2023, were approved by the City Council on February 7, 2023.



Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

(Exhibits are in the City Council Minutes binders in the Recorder's office.)

