

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director
Keldon Brown, Police Chief
David Packard, Human Resources Manager
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Megan Zollinger, Recreation Director
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director

Excused: Dianna Andersen
Brent Bullock
Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator
Sheri Britsch, Library Director
Deon Giles, Park Director

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

4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION

Mayor Fugal called the Work Session to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

A. Kym Wilson Discussion on Funding for the Teen Program.

Kym Wilson was present at the Work Session to request funding for a Teen Program and additional funding for the Miss Pleasant Grove Program. The City has been very generous and she was grateful for all that has been done. The reason she does this work is to benefit young women. She saw the change in participants and praised the level of City support. Ms. Wilson discussed what the Miss Pleasant Grove Program currently needs. Over the last couple of years, there have been comments about why Pleasant Grove participants are not placing in the Top 10 at the Miss Utah

Pageant. She asked if the goal is for participants to place or serve the community. Ms. Wilson personally felt that service to the community and what was achieved during that year of service was the priority. If there is a desire for participants to reach the Top 10 as well as serve the community, more assistance needs to be provided to participants as well as additional funding.

Ms. Wilson reported that it costs a great deal to go to Miss Utah. The young women would need to pay \$3,000 to \$5,000. A ticket for four nights for a parent to watch their child compete would be approximately \$300. A lot of family members are left out of that experience because it is not always possible to purchase tickets. The organization pays for most of the fees for contestants to participate in the Miss Utah Pageant, which includes the franchise fees, housing, and food; however, many of the contestants need to fundraise for the additional costs. She stated that it would be helpful to take some of the pressure off of the participants and their families. Having additional help would also be beneficial as it is difficult to prepare someone for the Miss Utah pageant and put together a production for Miss Pleasant Grove at the same time.

Currently, \$25,000 plus an additional \$5,000 from the CARE Tax was received. \$15,000 of that went toward the float and \$9,000 went to scholarships. That left approximately \$6,000 to run the program for the year. That includes production, music, printing, wardrobe, and supplies. Ms. Wilson was asking for an additional \$10,000 to supplement families and assist with the Miss Utah Pageant process.

Ms. Wilson also requested funding for a Teen Program. There is the Little Miss Strawberry Days and the Miss Pleasant Grove Programs but there is nothing for young women between the ages of 13 and 17. There was a desire to reach Junior High aged girls. The intention was to instill confidence in young women in that age group as it is an especially difficult time. She brought three young women who previously participated in Little Miss Strawberry Days. Each wanted to explain why there was a desire for a Teen Program.

Vivian Petersen reported that she participated in Little Miss Strawberry Days for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She met a lot of wonderful people and participated in life-changing service activities. She wanted to have another opportunity in the City. The Miss Teen Pleasant Grove Program would give her and others the chance to be of service.

Addi Dredge stated that Little Miss Strawberry Days changed her life. It helped build confidence and allowed her to serve in ways she did not realize she could. It was wonderful to be able to have an impact on the community. The work taught her the importance of being kind and inclusive.

Kennedy Petersen stated that she was Little Miss Strawberry Days in 2021. She loved the experience because she was able to serve alongside Miss Pleasant Grove, make connections with others, and be involved in the community. She supported a Teen Program because a lot of girls in that age range struggle with self-confidence.

Ms. Wilson explained that the idea was to have a separate scholarship fund for the teens but the program would be run simultaneously so participants would be included with the younger and older groups. There would be a lot of young women serving the community at the same time. She

introduced Jody Nichols, who agreed to serve as the Teen Director should the Teen Program move forward. Ms. Nichols stated that the ultimate goal was to shape the self-concept of young women. She loved the idea that every young woman in the community would have the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Fugal asked how many other communities in Utah County have a Teen Program. Ms. Wilson reported that Orem, Provo, Lehi, Eagle Mountain, and Lindon have similar programs. Not all of the cities have something like Little Miss Strawberry Days. It was noted that participants in the different programs have been positively shaped by the experiences and learned important life skills. Ms. Wilson reiterated that she was asking for an additional \$10,000 for the Miss Pleasant Grove Program as well as \$10,000 for the implementation of a Teen Program.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reviewed the current Agreement with the City Council. Approximately five years ago, the City entered into an Agreement with the pageant to make it clear what the City would give and would receive. He read from the Agreement, which stated that the City agreed to participate as a sponsor of the Miss Pleasant Grove Pageant with an annual payment of \$25,800. The City recognized that it would not receive full value for the services in return but would have the value of having those opportunities available locally for Pleasant Grove residents. Sponsorship funds were intended to cover all costs currently being paid for by the City, including but not limited to, all expenses related to the parade float, scholarships, advertising costs, clothing costs for the royalty, the auditorium rental, video, and sound technician costs, as well as costs for the Miss Utah Scholarship Program and parade fees. The City agreed to provide links on the City's website to the Miss Pleasant Grove website and allow application forms to be downloaded from the City's website. The City also allowed for the use of City facilities.

In return, the pageant would recognize the City in publications and on the website. Additionally, a minimum of 20 tickets to the pageant would be provided to the City and royalty would participate in any Strawberry Days events as requested by the Strawberry Days Association. The royalty would also participate in the summer parade as Miss Pleasant Grove as well as participate in miscellaneous City sponsored events and activities. The extra \$5,000 was the result of the CARE tax. The current total is approximately \$30,000 each year. With respect to administration, the decision about additional funding was a policy decision to be made by the City Council.

Council Member Jensen asked if it would be possible for the City to take over the float and be in charge of that instead. Administrator Darrington explained that the City has always paid for the float but it was determined that it would be best for there to be a set amount that the pageant program could work with. He was not sure who in the City would take care of a float in that scenario. Ms. Wilson shared additional information about the float and where it is stored. Administrator Darrington preferred to see those responsibilities remain with the pageant program.

If the City Council wanted to consider funding the \$20,000 request or part of that request, City Staff could look at the budget, propose a budget amendment, update the Agreement, and bring it back to the City Council for consideration at the next City Council Meeting.

Mayor Fugal acknowledged that two Council Members were not present at this meeting but wanted to get feedback from the Council Members who were present. City Attorney, Tina Petersen,

reminded the Council that it is possible to discuss issues during the Work Session but it was not appropriate to make any final decisions. Mayor Fugal explained that this would only be a discussion item but it could be listed as an action item at the next meeting.

Council Member LeMone wanted to see the program grow but seeing participants make the Top 10 in the Miss Utah Pageant was not a high priority for her. She thought the priority should be serving the community. She commented that \$50,000 is a lot for one program in the City when there were many other needs to consider. Council Member LeMone wanted to support the program but wanted to consider the matter further.

Council Member Jensen has seen the growth in the young women who have participated in the programs. He had also seen the benefits provided to the City. There are a lot of wonderful programs in the community but Miss Pleasant Grove is a notable one. He was supportive of the program but was not sure what that would mean monetarily. The Teen Program would benefit the community and young women in that age range. He looked forward to discussing the matter further with the full Council at the next City Council Meeting.

Council Member Williams supported the Miss Pleasant Grove Program and believed that changes needed to be made and the Teen Program would be appropriate. Young women need to be directly involved in the community. Funding was something that needs to be considered further and discussed further.

Mayor Fugal believed that the \$30,000 contributed had been money well spent. A lot of time and effort has gone into the program. He understood the request for additional funds to further support the young women in the community. It might also be time to look at a Teen Program. Council Member Williams believed Pleasant Grove has something special in Ms. Wilson. He was impressed by what she was able to put together and assist the young women. Mayor Fugal noted that the item would move forward. There would be communication with the other Council Members about the request. Administrator Darrington explained that there would be a meeting with Ms. Wilson and the Agreement could be amended. The matter would be brought back to the Council as a Resolution. The Council could discuss what is desired at that time and decide how to move forward.

B. Discussion on Swimming Pool Options.

Administrator Darrington reported that a lot has been going on with the swimming pool. There have been extensive discussions with an Engineer who specializes in swimming pools to determine what could be done to ensure that the pool remains open. The main issue with the pool pertained to settling on the west side. He asked the Engineer if there was a temporary fix, what the cost would be to build a new pool and the cost of an indoor pool. There was a temporary fix that could be considered. The cost of a new pool was estimated at \$8 million and the indoor pool was estimated to cost \$18 million to \$22 million. Administrator Darrington reported that there had also been a meeting with the County. The pool had been open this year, and the chemicals were mixing, but there was settling and water that goes over the edge. To the County Health

Department, that was of concern due to potential slip hazards. There was discussion about the location of the settling in the swimming pool.

Administrator Darrington reported that there were issues with settling at the pool. When the inspection was done last year, the City was allowed to operate for another year but the pool needs to be fixed to open again in 2024. The dilemma was how to level out the pool without tearing everything out. The Engineer proposed a solution involving additional decking to level the pool. Sample images were shared with the Council. There would also be a new gutter added along with a step that would fluctuate in size to ensure that the pool area is level again. With the new gutter system, the pool could be filled more and it would be possible to skim and rotate the water as needed. It was not an ideal solution but a functional option. The proposed step would be four to seven inches in size depending on the location. The overall cost would be \$1.5 million on the high end. Administrator Darrington reminded the Council that the other options would be much more costly.

While looking into the different options there was discussion with pool contractors about redoing the Mechanical Room. Administrator Darrington reported that the boiler broke down on August 1 of last year and a new boiler was obtained. There are a few items in the Mechanical Room that are relatively new but there are some items that are 30 years old. The intention was to change out some of the older items. The cost of replacing the necessary items was \$300,000 to \$500,000. If that was done in addition to the decking and gutter option, it would likely cost the City approximately \$2 million. In anticipation, money was set aside last year with an understanding that something would need to be done with the pool. He believed there was approximately \$1 million available. There was also the revenue over expenditure from the last fiscal year, which would be known within the next month or so. He did not believe it would be necessary to borrow money for the project.

The final design was not yet done for the project but it needed to be done soon because there would be a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) put out for the project work shortly. Council Member Williams asked how long it was expected to take. Administrator Darrington hoped that the proposal process would be done in early October. Once the bid is awarded, there was a desire for that work to move ahead immediately, with demolition sometime that same month.

Council Member Jensen asked what was happening with the County. Administrator Darrington reported that there would be an application process with the County and the County would determine whether the solution was appropriate. If approved, it would be possible to move forward. If the County was not supportive of the solution, there would need to be another discussion about how to move forward with the swimming pool work. Council Member Williams asked if there had been discussions with the School District. Administrator Darrington explained that there had been in the past but there was no interest in a pool. He shared information about the existing Agreement with the School District.

The process would continue to move forward unless the City Council is not supportive of the solution. However, it was important to remember that without this solution, the pool will likely not be open next year. The County would decide whether the solution proposed is appropriate.

As soon as the design is done, the RFP will go out and the application submitted. Once the application is submitted, it will be returned within about seven days. Council Member Williams asked if the County had given any indication as to whether there was support for the proposal. Administrator Darrington reported that there was a conference call with the City, County, a contractor, and the Water Design Engineer. He clarified that the cost estimates had been received from the contractor but the full design plans were not yet available.

Council Member LeMone asked if a second opinion had been obtained. Administrator Darrington reiterated that there had been discussions with the County about the potential options. According to the County, the skimming issue needs to be resolved as well as the water on the deck. Council Member Williams asked if it would be possible to lower the deck instead of raising it. Administrator Darrington explained that it would require everything to be torn out. Council Member Williams expressed concerns with the proposed step. If the side of the deck is dropped down, the ability to skim would be increased, and the deck would slope.

Administrator Darrington reassured the Council Members that nothing would be built unless the County grants pre-approval. That was the purpose of the application process. According to the Water Design Engineer, this was the best option outside of tearing everything out. Council Member Williams asked for input from Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger. Director Zollinger noted that this is a five to 10-year fix. She was concerned about the step that was proposed because someone could stub their toe, however, she also did not want the swimming pool to be closed next summer. The advantage was that the pool would be open and the service offered to the community. Once the initial work is done, it would be possible to plan for a more long-term solution.

There was discussion about an estimate to redo the deck. Administrator Darrington reported that the swimming pool was 30 years old, which was a useful life for a swimming pool. Director Zollinger referenced the Mechanical Room. Having that work done would be extremely beneficial. Administrator Darrington liked the idea of asking the engineer about a cost estimate to redo the entire deck. However, there were unknowns about whether there would continue to be settling. Council Members reviewed an aerial image and discussed the idea of redoing the deck area. Administrator Darrington offered to take all of the feedback and comments to the engineer to discuss the various options. He also offered to obtain a cost estimate for a new deck.

C. Staff Business.

There was no Staff Business.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 5:37 p.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN the Work Session. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Council minutes of September 19, 2023, were approved by the City Council on October 3, 2023.

Kathy T. Kresser

Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

(Exhibits are in the Recorder's office.)

