

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
August 21, 2018
5:00 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Lynn Walker
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Deon Giles, Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director
Dave Thomas, Fire Chief
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Sheri Britsch, Library Director
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director
Kyler Ludwig, Assistant to the City Administrator
Mike Roberts, Police Department

The City Council and staff met in the Library, Main Level, at 30 East Center Street.

5:00 P.M. WORK SESSION

Prior to addressing the Work Session items, Police Officer, Mike Roberts, reported on an incident that occurred behind John Hancock Elementary School that week.

a) Discussion on Republic Services Regarding Recycling.

Administrator Darrington explained that there had been some changes in the world of recycling that have affected Pleasant Grove City. He introduced Reece DeMille from Republic Services who would be updating the Council on the status of recycling and what they expect in the future. The existing agreement between the City and Republic Services runs through June 30, 2020.

Mr. DeMille reported that China has been buying over half of all recycling products in the world, however, a few years ago they began placing tighter restrictions on what they would accept because they had been receiving a significant number of contaminated items. They have now shut the doors completely and were not buying recycling from anyone. Recycling centers throughout the nation were trying to find alternative manufacturers and users to take the recycling. Mr. DeMille

presented calculations showing the commodity prices when they entered into the contract with the City in 2015 and where those prices are today. Republic Services charges the City \$5.20 per recycling container, \$3.43 for additional containers, and \$4.79 for the recycling program. If the City wants to pass on the current \$59 tipping fee to the residents, they could charge \$0.59 more per month for every household in the City or could charge the fee only to households that are participating in the recycling program and charge \$0.88 more per month per home.

Council Member Jensen stated that if the trend continues, it would not make sense to stay in the recycling business. Many citizens, however, are committed to recycling and may not understand why the City would discontinue it. If the City decides to remain in the program, they will have to cover that additional cost.

Council Member Williams stated that the situation the world is in could create good business opportunities for those who want to find a way to make recycling more manageable and cost effective. The current problems they are facing could not be resolved in a 30-minute work session. He asked Mr. DeMille what other cities and states have done in response to the change.

Mr. DeMille stated that cities' responses have varied. Some have chosen to foot the entire tipping fee, some split the cost with Republic Services, some have passed the cost onto the residents, and others have left the program.

Council Member Williams asked if cancelling would be more cost effective for Republic Services. Mr. DeMille said that it would not.

Council Member Andersen suggested that the City consider providing a few locations where recycling could be stored until there is a solution to the recycling issue. Administrator Darrington stated that Republic Services would continue to pick up curbside recycling until the contract expires in 2020. He suggested that the City continue with the current contract and then renegotiate a price or exit the program when the contract expires. He noted that 67% of Pleasant Grove residents are part of the recycling program and they do give people the option to opt out.

Council Member Andersen preferred to take an opt-in approach and she suggested that they consider changing the model when the time comes.

Administrator Darrington commented that staff would sit down with Mr. DeMille and craft a few options showing how the City can handle the increased fee.

b) Update on Parks and Recreation Tax.

Administrator Darrington explained that the City recently put together a Parks and Recreation focus group to consider the viability of the potential tax. They considered how much money would be generated and what projects they should consider using the funds for. The group consists of five residents, the Mayor, two City Council Members, Deon Giles, and Administrator Darrington. He reported that if the tax were implemented, it would be a .1% increase on the sales tax, which equates to one penny for every \$10. The funds generated by the tax would be earmarked for projects dealing with parks, recreation, and cultural arts. The focus group discussed a name for

the tax and settled on CARE Tax. The City's request was approved by the State and County and staff had prepared language for the ballot.

Council Member Williams asked Administrator Darrington to explain why the City had to go through this process to implement the tax. He explained that the County has the first right to do this type of tax, but Utah County has not imposed the tax. Cities now have the right to impose the tax individually. They anticipate that the tax will generate about \$3.25 million in 10 years. The focus group discussed committing to the first four years of funding to specific projects so that the residents will know what the money will go toward when they vote on the tax. In the first four years, they should generate \$1.3 million. The group decided to put that money toward several smaller projects rather than use all of the funds on one project. They had chosen to commit the funds to small park enhancements, pickleball courts, the Discovery Park remodel, the Downtown Park, upgrading fitness equipment at the recreation center, and batting cages. The group had also discussed setting aside a specific amount every year for arts programs, but that number had not yet been determined. Council Member Andersen asked if this would become an enterprise fund. Administrator Darrington responded that it would be more like a Special Revenue Fund.

Attorney Petersen reviewed the ballot language, which was set by statute. She explained that the City could clarify the meaning and intent of the tax in the information material they would send out. She then addressed the timeline of what would occur between now and Election Day. The City Recorder had already begun advertising arguments for and against the ballot position, and requests must be submitted before 11:00 a.m. on August 31. The arguments for or against the proposition are limited to 500 words in length and cannot list more than five names as sponsors. Those arguments are due before September 10. The City Recorder will then send the arguments to the opposite side who will have an opportunity to write a rebuttal, which will be due before 11:00 a.m. on September 21. The voter information packet will be prepared and sent out between September 25 and October 1. The Council will need to hold a public hearing for the proposition no more than 45 and not less than four days before Election Day.

c) City Council and Staff will Review and Discuss Items on the Agenda.

Administrator Darrington briefly addressed the agenda items and requested that Items 9A and 10B, regarding the Larry Myler project, be continued indefinitely. Staff continued to work with the applicant on the Development Agreement and needed additional time. He also stated that there will be a Closed Meeting to discuss a legal matter at the end of the meeting.

ACTION: Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the Work Session. Council Member LeMone seconded the motion. The motion carried with the unanimous consent of the Council at 5:50 p.m.

The City Council Work Session Minutes of August 21, 2018 were approved by the City Council on September 4, 2018.

Kathy T. Kresser, City Recorder, MMC

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