

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
February 4, 2020
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Brent Bullock
Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director
Kyler Ludwig, Assistant City Administrator
Sheri Britsch, Library Director
Britt Smith, Police Captain
Dave Thomas, Fire Chief
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director

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

4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION

1) Introduction of New Employees.

Mayor Fugal called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

City Attorney, Tina Petersen introduced Josh Bishop as the New City Prosecutor. She briefly described his background and reported that he will be assisting with criminal and civil matters.

2) Discussion on Central Dispatch.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington stated that about three months ago, they were having difficulties staffing the Dispatch Center to cover all shifts. As a result, staff began researching ways to enhance dispatch services. This was not a reflection of dispatch itself, but of the economy. It is not difficult

to find and keep full-time Dispatchers, but it is difficult to attract part-time Dispatchers. If the City chooses to change to a fully-funded dispatch, they will need to hire four new full-time Dispatchers. This would come at a higher cost to the City, but other cities have found success using this model. Another option was to contract with Central Utah 911, which provides dispatch services to 21 entities in the area. Staff had been in discussions with Central Utah 911, specifically regarding the potential for Pleasant Grove Dispatchers to transition to Central Utah 911. Administrator Darrington reported that any decision made regarding Dispatch will affect the employees and they needed to be sensitive to that. They currently have five full-time and more than 10 part-time Dispatchers. The City would mitigate their concerns and the impact as best they can.

Administrator Darrington introduced Mike Veenendahl, Maureen Stone, and Seth Atkinson from Central Utah 911. He reported that when an entity joins Central Utah 911, they do so via an Interlocal Agreement and enter into a partnership with the other entities involved. A packet of information was provided to the Council, which included a letter of intent from Central Utah 911, information regarding the business, and employee benefits. The three options before the Council were to keep the dispatch service as-is, change to a fully-funded service, or join Central Utah 911. If they keep the existing service, they will have to raise pay by \$2 to \$3 per hour to be comparable to other cities and agencies. A fully-funded service would increase the Dispatch Fund by roughly \$157,468 annually. There would be a buy-in cost to join Central Utah 911, but there was an opportunity to use some of their assets against that buy-in cost. It was noted that there was some one-time money available in the Dispatch budget.

As staff spoke with Central Utah 911, it was paramount that City employees have an opportunity to move over to that organization. Central Utah 911 confirmed that they would have to hire new Dispatchers when new entities join the organization. If the Dispatchers want a job at Central Utah 911, it would be available to them. Representatives from Central Utah 911 had already met with City Dispatchers and explained their options.

Administrator Darrington addressed the information packet, which outlined the buy-in cost of \$354,900. The estimated value of the City's assets was \$189,900. When the Public Safety Building was designed three years earlier, they had a discussion with Central Utah 911 about dispatch, but they opted to keep the current service because the cost was similar. Since then, they had hired a new full-time Dispatcher and the State of Utah changed the formula for the distribution of 911 money, which sent less money to Pleasant Grove.

Staff discussed the potential of leasing the City's dispatch space to Central Utah 911 as a sort of backup location. The latest proposal was to lease the space for \$30 per square foot, which calculated to approximately \$18,000 annually. It was noted that the City would retain the use of the breakroom and office space. Central Utah 911 would use the area where the consoles were located. Staff suggested that five years' worth of the lease money could be paid upfront against the buy-in cost. If this were to go toward the buy-in cost, Pleasant Grove City would be left with \$75,000 of the buy-in cost. Administrator Darrington explained that some of the dispatch equipment (radios) in the Public Safety Building would need to be switched out in five years. It could also be applied to the buy-in cost. Staff proposed setting aside \$75,000 in an escrow to complete the buy-in cost, if needed. The

Council would not be making a final decision tonight, but if they were in favor of heading in this direction, staff would finish negotiations and finalize those numbers.

Administrator Darrington addressed the level of service if they were to switch to Central Utah 911 and noted that administrative calls would be sent to the Non-Emergency Police Department phone number. It would be in the City's best long-term interest to go with Central Utah 911 but there were employees to consider. He asked the Chiefs to comment on the potential change.

Police Chief, Mike Roberts had been watching the Legislature for some time and it was clear that things would be changing, small dispatch centers like PG's are not encouraged anymore. The City cannot fully fund a Dispatch Center, which would be the ideal solution. As an alternative, he recommended going with Central Utah 911.

Fire Chief, Dave Thomas commented that the Fire Department has a close and professional relationship with Dispatch. There were advantages to going with Central Utah 911 that would be of great value to the department. Moving to Central Utah 911 was in the best interest of the City, economically, but it would also have a positive effect on the Fire Department. He was supportive of the change.

Council Member Williams was in favor of continuing negotiations with Central Utah 911.

Council Member Jensen supported having a fully-funded dispatch service, but stated that they would not be able to fund it. He asked the chiefs how things would be different if they switched to Central Utah 911, aside from the financial savings. Chief Roberts responded that there is a personal relationship between the Dispatchers and the departments and they may not have that with Central Utah 911.

Council Member Andersen acknowledged that it is a difficult decision. She had reached out to other entities who contract with Central Utah 911 and none were dissatisfied. She was in favor of continuing with negotiations.

Council Member Bullock voiced concerns when this option was first discussed. He wanted to be sure that they protect their employees. Other than the fact that employees would have to travel or move to Spanish Fork to be part of Central Utah 911, this seemed to be a good situation for the Dispatchers. He was also in favor of continuing negotiations. Council Member LeMone agreed.

Administrator Darrington described the timeline moving forward.

- 3) **Discussion on City Ordinance Invoking Street Improvements.**
- 4) **Public Safety Building Final Construction Numbers.**
- 5) **City Council and Staff will Review and Discuss Items on the Agenda.**
- 6) **Staff Business.**

7) **Adjournment.**

ACTION: Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the work session at 5:32 p.m. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Work Session Minutes of February 4, 2020 were approved by the City Council on March 17, 2020.

Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

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