

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
April 30, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Guy L. Fugal

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

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director
Sheri Britsch, Library Director
Brent Waters, Recreation Superintendent
Kyler Ludwig, HR Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director

Anchor location: 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

Please Note: City Council Members and Staff member participated electronically or telephonically.

The session was broadcast live via YouTube.

Public comments were accepted during the Regular Business Session, either by personal presence at the anchor location mentioned above or through the comment session on the YouTube website.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fugal welcomed those present and asked for a roll call of the Council Members. Council Members Andersen, Bullock, Jensen, LeMone, and Williams were present electronically.

2) DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON USE OF CITY FACILITIES.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington reported that the state of the City is very fluid because of changing directives from the Governor. Staff was working hand-in-hand with other cities in the area to be consistent with the Governor and the State and County Health Departments. Thirteen days earlier, Governor Herbert suggested that the State move toward going to an “orange level” on the Risk Assessment Chart. The State was currently at a “red level.” Administrator Darrington listed the limitations associated with the “red level,” and described how that would change if the Governor declares the State to be at an “orange level.” The Utah League of Cities and Towns established a committee to research how this will impact recreational facilities, swimming pools,

playgrounds, parks, and programs. Administrator Darrington served on the committee. The Utah Parks and Recreation Association was working on a parallel track and trying to determine when the facilities might be able to reopen. Recreation Director, Tyler Wilkins was heavily involved with that effort.

Administrator Darrington reported that the Governor indicated that the State would be at an “orange level” beginning May 1, and the City needs to determine how they will respond. The new order contained specifics about fitness centers and gyms and there was one comment regarding swim pools. There was a conflict in that the new order discourages groups of over 20 people but opening the fitness center, even in a limited capacity, would bring in over 100 people. The swimming pool could open at half capacity, which equates to 350 people. Staff was concerned that it would be nearly impossible to practice social distancing with 350 people at the pool. Staff reached out to the State for clarification but they were referred to the County Health Department who has left it up to the cities to decide. While the new order allows fitness centers and gyms to open, the State recommended that they remain closed. Administrator Darrington was comfortable following this recommendation and keeping the Recreation Center closed.

Mayor Fugal reported that the mayors for the Utah County cities had a conversation a few days earlier regarding the change. Some cities decided to strike out on their own but Lehi and American Fork wanted to be on the same page as Pleasant Grove. They wanted to make decisions about opening recreation centers and pools together.

Administrator Darrington heard back from Provo City just before the meeting and they were planning to open their recreation center and pool on Monday. However, after speaking with the County they were rethinking the opening of the pool. They may keep the pool closed until the State is at a “yellow level”. He reported that Lehi and American Fork held City Council meetings the previous Tuesday and both decided to wait two more weeks and reevaluate whether to reopen.

Council Member LeMone asked why they decided to wait two weeks rather than one week or a few days. Administrator Darrington explained that the decision was based on future data. They wanted to see whether the COVID-19 numbers will change with the State slowly reopening.

There was discussion regarding the confirmed number of cases in Utah County and staff confirmed that this number was not broken down by city. Administrator Darrington reported that there would be risk associated with reopening City facilities. Currently, City Hall was open by appointment only. It was determined that most of the individuals that have business with the City can take care of it by phone or email. Staff had a tentative plan to reopen the City if that is what the City Council directs. They would limit numbers at the Recreation Center, do extensive cleaning between uses, and encourage social distancing. Staff had not yet calculated the cost to open the facilities in a limited capacity. It was likely that the City would be paying to keep the Recreation Center open.

Council Member Williams asked about the attendance numbers from April 2019. Director Wilkins reported on the numbers for last year by hours of the day. The numbers reported involved only those who hold memberships and did not include those who purchase a day pass. Throughout the day, there were more than 200 people at the Recreation Center at any given time. Director Wilkins reported that they discussed limiting the hours of operation for the Recreation Center. With regard

to the cardio and weight rooms, they could have 23 or 24 individuals in each room and still maintain social distancing. The Recreation Center in Uintah reopened but had found it difficult to mark spots for social distancing. Ultimately, they trusted that their patrons will be responsible. Staff and the Council were in favor of limiting patrons when they open the Recreation Center. Administrator Darrington reported that opening the Recreation Center will get employees back to work, although some may not want to come back because their payment from the federal government is more than they earn by working. Federal Funding was to extend to July 31. He believed they would have enough staff to open the Recreation Center if they chose to do so. Administrator Darrington asked if the Council would like to open the facilities now or wait two weeks and reevaluate.

Administrator Darrington briefly addressed the Library and stated that they could continue providing online services to keep the residents satisfied.

Council Member Andersen asked if they would be checking temperatures as people enter City facilities. Administrator Darrington stated that some other cities have done this for their employees and some citizens. A fever is the best indicator of the virus but it is not conclusive. They could implement that measure if desired by the Council.

Council Member Jensen felt that the population had allowed the media to drive their common sense over the last two or three months. From a business perspective, they had done a great job of moving forward. He wanted to see the Recreation Center reopen with precautions in place. He encouraged everyone to take time to do their own research regarding the virus and see what other communities are doing.

Council Member LeMone agreed with Council Member Jensen and stated that there is a fine line between making things work for the public and keeping everyone safe. She believed there were creative solutions to make that happen.

Council Member Bullock supported waiting a few weeks to see what happens in Utah County with things reopening.

Council Member Andersen stressed the importance of keeping employees safe. She trusted that the department directors will make the best decision for their employees. When they do open, they should take every precaution to keep things clean and safe. She suggested that Recreation Center pass holders perform a fever check when they enter the facility. She was also in favor of waiting for two weeks.

Council Member Williams commented that the decision is difficult because of potential liability issues. He was confident that the virus will not just disappear and suggested they look for opportunities to open parts of the City. He recommended they open what they feel is safe now and reevaluate the situation in two weeks.

Mayor Fugal was in favor of following staff's recommendation to remain closed for two more weeks.

Council Member LeMone suggested that the Council prepare a statement for the public regarding their decision. She had received numerous communications from residents asking about the state of the pool and Recreation Center. They should know that there is a reopening plan in place, even if the facilities are not opened immediately. Administrator Darrington agreed to formally draft the reopening plan and include it on the next agenda for City Council approval.

The Council discussed the pool and agreed that the opening should be phased. Staff wanted to work toward a phased opening beginning June 1. The intent was to begin training lifeguards so that they will be ready when they open.

Mayor Fugal asked if the Council wanted to meet as a group for their next Council meeting, as groups of 20 people would be allowed. The Council was favorable. They would discuss opening other parts of the City at the next meeting.

3) **ADJOURN**

ACTION: Council Member Bullock moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:07 p.m. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council minutes of April 30, 2020, were approved by the City Council on May 19, 2020.

Kathy T. Kresser, City Recorder

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