

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
October 6, 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
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director
Kylar Ludwig, HR Director
Mike Roberts, Police Chief
Dave Thomas, Fire Chief
Denise Roy, Finance 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) RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES

Police Chief, Mike Roberts introduced Justin Penrose to the Council. Justin Penrose reported that this was the third department he has worked for. He grew up in Springville, Utah and later moved to Texas to join the military. He left the military to pursue the study of law enforcement at Central Texas College. After school, Mr. Penrose worked in Cameron, Texas, and then relocated to Orem, Utah where he worked for one year where he was recruited by Chris Petersen. Mr. Penrose was grateful for the opportunity to work for the City of Pleasant Grove. Council Member LeMone thanked Mr. Penrose for his service.

Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas reported that the Community Development Department is now fully staffed. Lauren Droubay will begin working full-time and will help at the front counter. Ms. Droubay reported that she studied Behavioral Science and has a minor in Communications. She joined the department three weeks ago.

Director Cardenas reported that Gail Conelly has been hired to head the New Code Enforcement Division. Ms. Conelly reported that she grew up in Washington and previously worked in retail management. After joining law enforcement, she worked at the Pierce County Sheriff's Department as a Community Service Officer for three years. She later joined the City of Lakewood where she did Community Policing and Code Enforcement.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington reported that water tests were conducted over the Labor Day weekend that came back positive for E. Coli. The City was actively involved in mitigating the situation. He noted that numerous employees came forward to help address the issues that arose. Administrator Darrington pointed out that the boil order that was in place was lifted 10 days later.

Administrator Darrington reported on recent fires near "G" mountain on U.S. Forest Service property. The Fire Department was in command for the first 12 hours and helped with evacuations and setting up shelters. Administrator Darrington felt that City employees should be recognized for their great work.

Public Works Director, Marty Beaumont acknowledged the Water Department and stated that the weekend was hectic. He thanked the employees for their commitment to resolving the E. Coli problem. Director Beaumont reported that he met with Water Quality Specialist, Jason Poulsen to isolate all of the information needed to respond to the Division of Drinking Water. Director Beaumont was impressed by the employees' drive to get work done and he appreciated them for going the extra mile to ensure that City residents are comfortable. Council Members LeMone and Williams thanked Director Beaumont and his team for their work.

Fire Chief, Dave Thomas concurred with Administrator Darrington that the City's employees are the best. He reported that the fire on the mountain actually began at the edge of the federal lands. The City's firefighters received reinforcement to handle the fire from American Fork and Lone Peak. They spent the night on the mountain controlling the fire. Chief Thomas acknowledged Paul Eddington, Richard Willis, Jack Pixler, Gage Echols, Nick Houston, Scott Ash, and Jake Larsen for being key players and the first on the scene. Chief Thomas reported that he a special coin made for those who have provided excellent service.

Chief Thomas reported that all full-time employees and the command staff took key positions in controlling the fire and ensuring that no homes were lost. They received several Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC") calls requesting 100 of fire engines to help fight the fires in California. For some reason or another he was not able to send anyone at that time.

Chief Thomas reported that he then received a call and Oregon needed assistance and Deputy Chief Drew Engemann; Battalion Chief, Chase Gutsman; Wild Land Firefighters, Curtis Hutchins, and Zack Larsen were sent to help. Chief Thomas was impressed by the fact that the Walmart store in Reno and another small store refused to charge them for their purchases. The four men spent 15 days protecting homes and property and carrying out their duty as firefighters. Chief Thomas also recognized City Recorder, Kathy Kresser's family for their efforts in helping fight a structure fire that occurred on Sunday, and save their neighbor's home.

Chief Thomas acknowledged Justin Whatcott and his help fighting the fire. Mr. Whatcott has worked for the City for the last 19 years and began in the Parks Department. He later joined the Fire Department where he worked his way up from a Lieutenant to a Captain. Mr. Whatcott was the Commander on the “G” Mountain fire and the Incident Commander on the structural fire. Chief Thomas stated that Mr. Whatcott is now working full-time for American Fork City as a Battalion Chief and was able to coordinate dozens of units and people while fighting the fires. He thanked Mr. Whatcott for his service.

Council Member LeMone reported that over the next few weeks there will be a scheduled route where residents can come out and wave to staff as an expression of their appreciation. He pointed out that the goal was to have great community participation. Administrator Darrington reported that they want to make sure the City is not the next COVID-19 hotspot in the state. He appreciated John Clayton for his help creating an Everbridge reverse 911 for those impacted by the boil order. Mr. Clayton did a great job of making sure residents were aware of the situation.

Administrator Darrington acknowledged Lynsey Eddington for her help contacting schools and businesses to inform them that water fountains could not be used. When the boil order was lifted, she used the Everbridge reverse 911 to organize a robust reply and let people know that the water was safe to drink again. Ms. Eddington also helped provide shelter through the Red Cross for the “G” Mountain Fire. Administrator Darrington thanked Ms. Eddington for her efforts.

Administrator Darrington recognized Recreation Director, Tyler Wilkins for assisting the Emergency Management Team. He also thanked Chief Thomas for keeping the City informed of ongoing activities and the fire situation. Administrator Darrington recognized Social Media Manager, Lisa Flinders for her work keeping residents informed by sending notices regarding the boil order and the fire. Ms. Flinders actively engaged the public and answered questions that arose. Administrator Darrington thanked City Attorney, Tina Petersen for acting as City Administrator in his absence. She also assumed the role of Public Information Officer and addressed all media inquiries.

Administrator Darrington summarized Director Beaumont’s contribution to the boil order and making sure residents have clean water that is free of E. Coli. He reported that Director Beaumont spent most of his Saturday negotiating with the State to allow the City to enforce the boil order for one street and not half of the City. He thanked Director Beaumont for his efforts. Administrator Darrington thanked staff and the City Council for going the extra mile to ensure that the two emergencies were properly taken care of.

2) STAFF BUSINESS

3) ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the Work Session at 5:28 pm. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Work Session Minutes of October 6, 2020, were approved by the City Council on November 10, 2020.



Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

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

