

**Pleasant Grove City  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Work Session  
May 4, 2021  
5:00 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  
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director  
Kyler Ludwig, HR Director  
Mike Roberts, Police Chief  
Drew Engemann, Deputy Fire Chief  
Sheri Britsch, Library Director  
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director  
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder  
Tina Petersen, City Attorney  
Denise Roy, Finance Director

Excused: Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director

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

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**5:00 P.M. WORK SESSION**

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, introduced the new Administration Intern, Teresa Facer. Ms. Facer is a recent graduate of Brigham Young University's MPA program and is seeking to learn more about local government. She was hired as an unpaid Intern with a stipend typically given at the end of her service. Ms. Facer reported that she is a 20-year resident of Spanish Fork and graduated in December 2020. She was seeking to gain experience after having not worked outside the home for years other than as an Accountant. She is the mother of four.

**1) RANKED-CHOICE VOTING ("RCV") PRESENTATION**

Administrator Darrington stated that if the Council wishes to pursue Ranked-Choice Voting this year, notice needs to be provided to the County by the end of the week.

Taylor Morgan made a presentation and distributed handouts to the Council Members. He reported that two cities, Vineyard and Payson, opted into a pilot program for Ranked-Choice Voting in 2019. The program has since been expanded and extended by the State Legislature and 20 cities in Utah will be participating in it in their 2021 municipal elections.

Mr. Morgan reported that he previously worked in the State Elections Office where he interfaced with County Clerks throughout the State to ensure compliance and efficiency with the election process. Reasons to support changing the election process were described. It provides taxpayer savings and reduces the cost by 50%. There is no need for a primary cycle and only a general cycle in the fall. This results in shorter, less expensive campaigns for candidates. He indicated that the State has certified and approved the software for Ranked-Choice Voting. Josh Daniels County Clerk and current Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner are proponents of it.

Mr. Morgan reported that Ranked-Choice Voting enables voters to express their will more fully. Voters rank their favorites in order and votes are never wasted. There is always a majority winner. Ranked-Choice Voting eliminates the spoiler effect and deters candidates from negatively campaigning against opponents. It is about building support and not opposition to other candidates.

Mr. Morgan stated that Payson and Vineyard tried Ranked-Choice Voting and a State-wide survey was conducted with participating voters expressing overwhelming approval. Both voters and candidates had a positive experience and wanted to see the program continue. Due to the success of Ranked-Choice Voting in 2019, the Legislature expanded the program and in 2020, the Legislature and Governor Herbert encouraged all cities to try it. In March 2021, House Bill 75 passed and further expanded the program and clarified how a city would opt-in to participate in the pilot. The new opt-in deadline is May 10.

Mr. Morgan described how Pleasant Grove could opt-in. The Council would take a vote and, if so desired, indicate their intent to opt-in via any means of communication to the Elections Office and the County Clerk. He reported that 20 cities have opted-in. A video was shared that Vineyard City made promoting and explaining Ranked-Choice Voting to citizens during the 2019 election.

Council Member Jensen identified problems in the past where people had one or two favorites. He asked if they lose their voting voice after the second round. Mr. Morgan gave an example of a five-candidate race and explained that if someone likes two of the five candidates, they only have to vote for the two in the preferred order. A voter can vote for as few or as many candidates as are on the ballot.

Council Member Williams asked what happens during the third or fourth round. Mr. Morgan explained if a voter only supports two candidates and neither is chosen, the voter can choose not to vote for any of the remaining candidates. Mr. Morgan gave an example of the primary election that would force support for the most viable candidate, compared to voting for a favorite and weighing in on others. In response to a question raised, Mr. Morgan stated that there were two cities in the test group consisting of Payson and Vineyard. The process was described.

Council Member Williams asked why a change was recommended. Mr. Morgan recognized there is a system in place that works. He reiterated that Ranked-Choice Voting reduces costs by 50% because there is only one cycle rather than two. Ranked-Choice Voting eliminates the need to run a primary. Campaign time is also reduced, thereby reducing campaign signs being displayed and political materials being distributed. By reducing the time, it could broaden accessibility to candidates. Ranked-Choice Voting more fully expresses the will of the voters and encourages a more civil, issue-based campaign. The structure discourages negative competition.

Council Member LeMone supported keeping the voting process simple and stated that after speaking with candidates involved in Ranked-Choice Voting, they did not understand the process and were not aware of how they won or lost. She wanted to eliminate confusion for voters and candidates. She acknowledged the cost savings but was not sure that was enough to abandon the current method. Mr. Morgan stated that that has been the most common reason cities are not opting into the pilot. Data from Vineyard and Payson indicated that voters were very supportive of the process, wanted to see it used in the future, and had no problem understanding the process. Nearly 90% of candidates also liked it and wanted to use it again. Mr. Morgan reported that State funds are available for voter outreach and it is not a permanent choice but a one-cycle opt-in.

Council Member LeMone asked if there was data from voters and candidates to support his stance. Mr. Morgan stated that it is in the slide deck and more detailed data is available as well.

Council Member Bullock recognized that Ranked-Choice Voting shortens the process considerably. Mr. Morgan explained that there would be no need for a primary election or for candidates to file to run or begin to campaign until August or September. He indicated that cost savings was a key advantage. Because it is a pilot, if it is not a positive experience for voters, the current process can be resumed in 2023.

Council Member Andersen asked how community education will be done. Mr. Morgan stated there are resources available from Utah Ranked-Choice Voting. The State Legislature has also appropriated approximately \$200,000 in State funds for cities that opt into the pilot. Pleasant Grove City is potentially one of the larger cities that may participate and funds are based on the number of voters in the City.

Council Member Andersen asked if it would be similar to what Vineyard did. Mr. Morgan replied it is up to the individual cities. With regard to the deadline, Mr. Morgan stated that the City Council would need to vote and if approved, communication would be sent to the Utah County Elections Office and the State Elections Office indicating their decision to opt in. The communication would need to be received by May 10. Procedural issues were discussed.

Council Member Bullock expressed his support for participating in Ranked-Choice Voting.

Council Member Andersen identified the benefits as cost savings, money for voter education, shorter campaign times, high approval ratings, and not permanent. The cons included the process being new and different.

Council Member Williams did not like being given only six days to make a decision that impacts so many people. He considered that to be unfair. He found Ranked-Choice Voting to be confusing and difficult to understand. He suggested that election laws in the City be as simple as possible. He wanted to ensure that there is election integrity and not change the process, especially after the heated debate that occurred in November. He suggested that the Council first learn more about it.

Council Member Andersen stated that proponents of Ranked-Choice Voting tried to get the City involved but they were not interested.

Council Member Jensen stated he has been present on caucus nights and spent a great deal of time discussing the various options that included Ranked-Choice Voting. The result was confusion on the part of voters. He suggested waiting to see how it goes this year for other cities before making a commitment.

Council Member LeMone agreed and wanted to see other cities go through an election cycle and see how it goes. She did not think this year was the appropriate time to do it. The decision was made to wait for the next election cycle. Council Member Jensen was interested in seeing the data going forward.

## 2) STAFF BUSINESS

Administrator Darrington reported that the Employee Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The City offices will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. so that each employee can attend. Awards will be presented and door prizes given. Council Member Jensen volunteered the City Council Members to help cook hamburgers and hot dogs.

Council Member LeMone asked Administrator Darrington to verify employment dates. Administrator Darrington stated that sometimes hire dates are incorrect depending on when an employee began working full-time for the City. The dates are given to the department heads who verify with the employees.

Director Roy presented the budget for fiscal year 2021/2022. Director Roy presented the revenue and uses and state that \$12,568 is unallocated. Between now and when the budget is adopted in June can it be allocated or remain in the fund. Changes to Capital Projects were discussed. The backstop for the Pickleball Project was \$600,000 and the Council asked that \$300,000 be budgeted or used for additional fund balance. Pricing was obtained for the medians at \$90,000 with \$80,000 budgeted. With regard to sidewalk improvements on 300 South and Locust Avenue, Council Member LeMone asked that that line item be added.

Council Member LeMone clarified that a resident reached out to her and provided photographs of crumbling sidewalks in the area. She suggested that they be improved for safety purposes and based on the amount of traffic that is projected in the area. The proposal was sent to Director Beaumont and Administrator Darrington. The estimated cost of the sidewalk replacement was \$25,000, which would include a new sidewalk from Locust Avenue on the north side of Veterans

Park to the swimming pool parking lot. It was suggested that they repair everything on 300 South and Locust Avenue. The total cost was determined to be \$60,000 to \$70,000. The decision was made to budget \$82,000 for the entire project and account for the replacement of the entire sidewalk.

Administrator Darrington suggested that moving forward when there is a request from a Council Member that the name of the Council Member making the request be listed so that they can articulate the reasoning behind it.

Council Member Williams brought up the issue of Pleasant Grove Boulevard and stated that it continues to get busier. He asked about the potential to extend or widen it. Administrator Darrington reported that the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) will make a presentation to the Council at the next meeting on the widening of Pleasant Grove Boulevard. The City’s portion would be from North County Boulevard to State Street. The hope was that someday UDOT will take it as a State Road and widen it. Council Member Williams asked if they need to spend money on the medians. Administrator Darrington stated that the medians were not included in the price. He explained that the median between the interchange and North County Boulevard is not included in the price. The cost was for five medians.

Director Roy referenced the list of Enterprise Fund Capital Projects set forth on page 24. She reported that in terms of water, the Gateway Well is at \$4 million. They have applied for funding and if received it was anticipated that they will complete the Gateway Well project. She also provided a summary of the utility rates and the average monthly rate comparison showing what is proposed and how the average consumer will be impacted. The fee schedule was also included in the document.

Council Member Andersen asked if the project is approved and work on the project gets underway if there is a time limit of when the money must be spent on a capital project. Director Roy stated that in two weeks a budget amendment will be prepared to move the money from the General Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund. If the projects are approved, work can get underway.

Administrator Darrington reported that with respect to the CARE tax revenues, next year’s revenues have been allocated to the completion of the Pickleball Park. Once the money is rolled over there will still be \$140,000 remaining at end of the fiscal year. He hoped to create an eight-year Capital Plan for parks and recreation needs that will account CARE tax revenues, park impact fees, and anything else that is designated for parks and recreation only. In the Class C Road Fund, there will be \$1.9 million in fund balance that will coincide with the new three-year plan and the bond. The funds can be used to make road improvements next year.

Administrator Darrington explained that as part of the RDA Meeting the RDA budget needs to be adopted. Currently, there are two active projects in the RDA consisting of doTERRA and the Grove Tower. Both are generating more revenue than has been committed to contractually. If there is additional revenue they will pay down the obligation. There is a fund balance in the RDA and staff was working with Consultant, Randy Sant to explore options.

**ACTION:** Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the Work Session at 5:55 p.m. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Anderson, Bullock, Jensen, LeMone, and Williams voting “Aye”. The motion carried.

The City Council Work Session minutes of May 4, 2021, were approved by the City Council on June 1, 2021.



Kathy T. Kresser, MMC  
City Recorder

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

