

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
October 5, 2021
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Marty Beaumont, Public Works Director
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Tyler Wilkins, Recreation Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Sheri Britsch, Library and Arts Director
Kara Kresser, Planning Tech
Britt Smith, Police Captain

Excused: Brent Bullock, Council Member
Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Kyler Ludwig, HR Director
Mike Roberts, Police Chief

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 Past Mayor Lloyd Ash.

Mayor Guy Fugal honored the accomplishments of Mayor Lloyd Ash, who passed away recently. He and Mayor Lloyd Ash knew each other for a long time and shared many good experiences. Mayor Ash was known as the creator of the Purple Turtle, which is an icon in Pleasant Grove. He accomplished much while serving as on the City Council and as Mayor of Pleasant Grove. He was instrumental in the creation of the Library, working with the architect, and supporting the project with suggestions and ideas throughout construction. For example, he created an enjoyable Reading Room out of unused dead space, which room was ultimately named after him. Over time,

the Reading Room transitioned to different functions and is currently the office for Library and Arts Director, Sheri Britsch. Mayor Ash was responsible for the development of a new Fire Station. At its dedication, he gifted a mural depicting Frank Mills, Smokey, and Little Joe, to hang in the back of the Training Room.

Mayor Ash was known as an innovator and problem solver. He had a special place in his heart for the Public Works and Parks Departments and was a strong advocate of City employees. He believed that if the employees do not enjoy their work, a problem exists that needs to be solved. His actions fostered the value of helping those in need into City employees. Mayor Fugal stressed what kind of man and mayor, Mayor Ash was. Mayor Fugal hoped he would be able to live up to Mayor Ash's example of being an advocate for City employees.

The Mayor then presented Mayor Ash's family with a plaque in his honor. His wife, Linda, thanked everyone for the dedication service, noting that he loved working with the City. Mayor Ash's son commented that he had seen his dad in action at the Fire and Police Departments, and it was clear his dad loved to work with the City Council and the employees. His daughter stated that her father was filled with numerous ideas and ways to accomplish them. She was amazed by his many accomplishments.

2) Tamara Oborn, Communities That Care Presentation.

Tamara Oborn was asked by Council Member Andersen about obtaining Interns. Volunteer Interns help with the work being done and are always welcome. She was currently working with McKay Isham on Intern recruitment efforts. Ms. Oborn reported that the purpose of everything they do with the Community Coalition comes from prevention science. They explore evidence-based data to identify all of the risks and protective factors in the community and then identify risk factors that lead to problem behaviors in youth. Once that is done, programs and approaches are established to relieve or resolve the identified issues. A new area of interest comes out of studies on Adverse Childhood Experiences ("ACE"), which pertain to childhood trauma, potential future issues, and measures to counter those traumas.

Ms. Oborn shared the latest data on suicides in Utah, based on 2019 statistics. Using a chart, she noted that the biggest change in the statistics was in the 10 to 24 age range, which showed an increase in the number of suicides by 10 to 15 percent. Most at risk are youth between the ages of 18 to 24, which has increased by 35 percent. Council Member Williams asked why the statistics show that males have a significantly higher rate of suicide. Ms. Oborn stated that the method of suicide for males is more likely a gun. If this had been a chart of suicide attempts, females would be three times higher, but the method selected by females is less lethal. The rate of suicide has either leveled off or is slightly lower in Utah but youth suicides are increasing in number, as are the numbers nationwide. She stated that Question, Persuade and Refer ("QPR") Suicide Prevention Training is available and recommended, with classes offered monthly. Ms. Oborn also provided data that 65% of children in Pleasant Grove report moderate depressive symptoms. Of those, 10.5% reported severe depressive symptoms and 30% live in situations where there is increased family conflict. These are important risk factors used to develop their programs or approaches.

The services offered by Communities That Care fall within three basic domains consisting of community, family, and peer and individuals. For the domain of community involvement, a

primary function of the Community Coalition is to identify risk and protective factors. The Coalition is involved in community events and provides opportunities to share information about available classes, services, and written literature. It remains active in the Vape Prevention campaigns including billboards, signs, and web-related events. They also joined Alpine School District's lawsuit against a vape company, which could potentially bring in a few million dollars. If successful, some of the money from the litigation could be used for additional preventative measures.

With regard to the family domain, it is obvious that what goes on in a family has a significant impact. The Coalition is actively involved in the presentation of multiple courses. A five-week parenting course has been quite successful. United Way one-hour courses concentrate on "staying strong" every day. There also is child sexual abuse prevention training as well as QPR classes. The classes are open to anyone and are offered once a month.

Communities That Care also sponsors family events including a suicide prevention event at Water Gardens Theater and at Cook Center for Human Connection, where there was a question-and-answer format regarding suicide prevention. This month is Drug Prevention Month and they hope to work with schools regarding getting vape sensors into the schools, drug prevention training, and anti-vape education. The Coalition has also been involved in White Ribbon Week school programs dealing with internet safety. Another area of concentration has been Social Emotional Learning ("SEL") training at elementary schools, which concentrates on how thoughts can affect actions and feelings. The volunteers teaching the classes to the schools are trained in the content and undergo background checks. The program is free to the schools and is something that must be requested by the schools. Currently, three elementary schools, Mount Mahogany, Valley View, and Grovecrest, have participated in the training. There was discussion regarding how more schools could get involved in the program and what steps are needed to get the work out to schools. She expects the program to grow as more schools get involved.

With regard to the peer and individual domain, Ms. Oborn stated that they do not offer counseling services or crisis intervention but refer people to various resources. They have been advised by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC"), that anything they do with technology counts as peer and individual domain making such actions available for grant money funding. The Coalition is involved in web technology and social media and has launched a website. There are resources and information available to anyone who wants to participate. Ms. Oborn stated that any activity conducted by the Community Coalition must fall within one of the above three domains.

Moving forward, the Coalition's focus will be on how Pleasant Grove can be better served in prevention efforts. Data is analyzed to determine what has or has not been effective. It is also looking into a community evaluation tool that would better collect family input and potentially help with marketing. There is an exploration of additional options to assist in their work on prevention projects. The intent is to have a diverse Board to reflect a broader perspective. They are currently working with The Green House Center to get more clinicians and specialists involved. They are also approaching a broad scope of interfaith groups and fostering a connection with autism and special needs groups that are at high risk of addiction and suicide. The Coalition also continues to share information about what it does and what resources are available. Ms. Oborn reported that the Coalition is lucky to have a supportive City Council.

Council Member Williams noted that the previous week his daughter had the unfortunate experience of finding someone who suddenly had passed away. He stressed that it is important to get information regarding suicide prevention information out to everyone. There was further discussion about the QPR training and the availability of classes.

When asked what could be done to support Communities That Care, Ms. Oborn stated that sharing what they do is helpful. There are a lot of good resources and getting people to use them is always beneficial. Ending the stigma attached to social or mental health issues is also a key to helping people be willing to ask for help. Council Member LeMone hoped to see every school participate in the SEL program. There was general discussion regarding what steps could be taken to spread the word about this program. Developing relationships with the schools would be helpful. Discussion was held as to which schools might be contacted by members of the Council. It was pointed out that charter schools could also be contacted. Ms. Oborn indicated some schools have already indicated they are not interested in the program. Ms. Oborn again indicated that the program could be given at the high schools, but their focus right now is on the elementary school level. It was suggested that everyone at the meeting needs to take the QPR training.

Ms. Oborn has grant funds for two paid positions. Volunteer interns are always welcome. Suggestions were provided about sources for volunteer interns, who are always appreciated. Council Member Andersen stated that she had some contact with student-athletes at Utah Valley University, who are required as part of their study to have Intern experience. She noted that it might be a resource for volunteer Interns.

When asked about funding, Ms. Oborn stated that they have two primary sources consisting of the City-County partnership and the Drug Prevention Grant, which is their main source. She described the process and noted that over time there will be more applicants which may negatively affect the amount of availability. She also reported that the Coalition is looking for community and business involvement and investment with the hope of ultimately becoming self-sufficient.

Mayor Fugal mentioned that as he and several others served on a committee involved in naming a park, one suggestion for a name to be considered could be Cares Park.

3) Staff Business.

Utah State Representative, Jon Hawkins, reported that he attended a Utah State Legislative Committee Hearing the previous day where attendance was around 700 people. They discussed the issues of mask or vaccine mandates by the Federal Government and constitutional issues. Representative Hawkins stated that Utah will likely sue the Federal Government to get out of any mandated enforcement for masks or vaccines. He noted that there is no appetite for such a mandate in Utah at this time. They discussed housing issues, such as shortage and affordability, and tax issues. Some present who wanted to take on transgender issues. Other issues identified included options for moving or updating the State Mental Hospital and looking at digital welfare citizenship and safe technology issues. He also stated that redistricting is taking place and their District will be getting smaller due to the loss of population.

Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, reported that the new ambulance went into service the previous day. He offered to demonstrate the features to any interested Council Member. The mural, discussed

earlier, was not yet up. He noted that it measures approximately 22' x 23' and is very large. They are figuring how and where to mount it. He reported that it was painted by his former brother brother-in-law, Steve Adams.

Council Member Andersen wanted to hear from the Departments, as it helps her know what is going on. She expressed her support for them.

Police Captain, Britt Smith, reported that over the past two weeks there has been an adult suicide about once a week. He also noted that the Police Department recently made the news regarding an incident involving a person suffering from mental health issues who was arrested and then released. This same individual went on to stalk and harass his neighbors. The neighbors complained to the newspaper stating that the person was released from custody and the police did nothing. Captain Smith called the news outlet and gave the Police Department's perspective, which was that the issue belongs with the prosecutors and judges. He advised their Chaplin, who is a licensed therapist, to hire an unpaid Intern to perform community outreach. There is a need to reach out to a person, who is likely in need of mental health care, or the person's family to provide information about available resources. They are looking into the issue. There is a current need for a victim advocate as Jennifer May is moving. They also are in the process of hiring a new Police Officer to fill a vacancy.

4) **Adjournment.**

MOTION: Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN the Work Session at 5:31 p.m. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, Jensen, LeMone, and Williams voting "Aye".

The City Council minutes of October 5, 2021, were approved by the City Council on November 16, 2021.


Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder

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

