

**Pleasant Grove City  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Work Session  
June 21, 2022  
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen  
Brent Bullock  
Eric Jensen  
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator  
Deon Giles, Parks Director  
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder  
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director  
Kyler Ludwig, Human Resources Director  
Mike Roberts, Police Chief  
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief  
Sheri Britsch, Library and Arts Director  
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director  
Tina Petersen, City Attorney  
Denise Roy, Finance Director

Excused: Council Member Cyd LeMone

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

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**4:30 P.M. WORK SESSION**

Mayor Guy Fugal called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**a. Kimberly Schroepfel.**

Victim Services Advocate, Kimberly Schroepfel, reported on the statistics showing the work her service has provided. Calls requiring a personal response and involving safety issues have all increased. These calls pertained to domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, the Department of Child and Family Services (“DCFS”), and child abuse. She announced that American Fork now has a Social Worker who works with Pleasant Grove and other cities on more difficult cases. Ms. Schroepfel reported that the Social Worker’s role is to follow up on calls and ensure that services are being provided.

Ms. Schroepfel reported that between July 1, 2021, and today, she and her part-time Advocate served 327 victim clients, of which 222 were new clients. By comparison, they had 100 fewer calls during that same period last year. In terms of contacts, they had 728 victimizations with 205 of those contacts involving multiple victimizations (i.e., children in the home). They assisted 47 individuals with claims for reparation funds to help with relocation, therapy, mental health costs, and funeral costs for victims but noted a reluctance to seek funding due to fear that their private information might somehow be disclosed. To date, they have received a total of 6,050 calls for services in the form of referrals, advocacy, and criminal justice assistance this year, compared to 4,791 last year. Their biggest service categories were criminal justice assistance (with 1,900 services) and domestic violence referrals/information (2,391 services). She commented that she would be unable to do her job without her part-time Assistant.

Ms. Schroepfel stated that their statistical information was reported to the Utah Office of Victims of Crime. The police were continuing to use the questionnaires regarding identifying risks related to abuse or strangulation. She was also recently involved in high-profile cases, which take a lot of time. She offered to provide the Council with the statistical data, including the breakdown by category. She noted that they are very busy and the support she receives from the Police Department and City Council was appreciated. There was discussion regarding the impact of the work on their own mental health. Council Member Bullock commended Ms. Schroepfel for the work she is doing and recognized that the agency needs more help.

**b. Discussion on Property Tax Rate.**

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reported that each year the County sends Pleasant Grove the new assessed valuation and adjusted tax rate. If the valuation goes up, the tax rate is automatically lowered to keep the property tax rates neutral. If the Council desires to change the rate beyond what is designated by the County, they would need to go through the Truth in Taxation process.

Option 1 in the handout showed the current County valuation results. Valuation increases are normally 10 to 12 percent but this year the valuation increase was 32.12%. The assessed valuation in 2021 was \$2.7 billion and the new County assessed valuation was \$3.7 billion. He noted that the average home valuation in Pleasant Grove is \$551,800; however, if the home is a primary residence, its value is reduced by 45% on the tax bill, resulting in the property tax rates being based on 55% of the home's value.

Administrator Darrington reported that the desire of the Council in the past has been to hold the rate. The tax rate last year was .0011600. This year's new rate was reduced to .0008780 to remain neutral. If they were to hold the rate, the impact of the 32.12% valuation increase on the City for new revenue would result in a gain of just over \$1 million, which would increase the cost by \$85.58 a year (or \$7.13 per month).

Administrator Darrington provided the Council with additional options to increase the rate by 20, 15, and 10 percent. With a 20% increase, the gain for the City would be \$652,754, with an increase to each resident of \$53.29 per year (\$4.44 per month). With a 15% increase, the gain to the City would be \$489,565, with a yearly increase to the resident of \$39.97 (\$3.33 per month). With a

10% increase, the gain to the City would be \$326,377, with an increase to the resident of \$26.65 per year (\$2.22 per month).

Administrator Darrington reported that staff did not receive these numbers from the County until the previous week, but a rate needs to be set soon. He noted that there had been insufficient time to get the matter on the agenda, which made it necessary to conduct a Special Meeting prior to June 30. The rate is usually provided to the public the third week of July in the form of a letter indicating the past rate, what the current rate will be, the percentage increase, and the increase for the year. He pointed out that the 32.12% increase is a general number and not all residents will see such a precise increase. Property rates were applied using a specific formula that resulted in rate variations depending on property features. The optional information provided could be used to extrapolate a range of numbers to determine what number the Council was comfortable adopting. Staff's intent was to hold the rate. He stated that similar to other cities, the Council could select a dollar amount increase with the percentage increase being determined from that amount.

Council Member Williams commented that they met two weeks earlier and voted on items that resulted in raising utility rates. It appeared that they were going to need to tell the residents that property rates will be increasing as well. He expressed concern due to the current state of financial changes and a possible recession. He considered it premature to raise rates at this time. There was discussion on the required dates for notice and the need to make a decision. Administrator Darrington stated that notice would go out the third week of July with a public hearing on August 2. If the Council chose to go with the County's rate, no public hearing would be required, and the rate increase would be put in place. If a different amount was selected, a public hearing would be triggered along with the Truth in Taxation process. He stated that they are working with a group to provide informational material to the public on what the Council is proposing. The information was expected to go out next week, once a decision is made. A Special Meeting was scheduled for June 29, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**c. Staff Business.**

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton reported on the following:

- The previous Friday there was a serious water line break. The line was located beneath a storm drain that was encased in concrete. Staff did a good job with that repair.
- The Boulevard well test-pumping was to begin the following week. Once complete, the building, equipment, and appurtenances could be sized for bidding.
- upcoming projects were identified including sidewalk projects near Veteran Park and 400 East, construction on 1100 North, and awarding a Road Rehabilitation Project in the Mohican Lane area. He noted that it was part of a three-year Road Plan. Director Winterton indicated that he would make sure the projects are listed on the website so that the public is aware of what is taking place.

Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas reported on the following:

- The City is in discussions with Bird Scooters regarding their use in the City.

- New residential developments that were approved previously are now under construction. He reminded the Council that in the past driveways were not required, however, they are now along with two-car garages.

Fire Chief, Drew Engemann reported on the following:

- Strawberry Days was very busy for his department.
- There was a good turnout to the breakfast held last Saturday with 420 to 430 in attendance per hour. Macey's helped with food.
- Emergency crews responded on the last night of the rodeo when a bull rider was knocked out.
- There was a house fire the previous day on 1100 North. The fire was started from a hoverboard that was left plugged in next to a foam mattress. A woman and baby were upstairs, and it took three attempts for her to get down the stairs safely due to the heavy smoke and lack of visibility. All were safe. Chief Engemann reported that this is the third hoverboard-related fire. He urged residents to use caution when storing them.
- The department remains engaged in the hiring process. He noted that they may look for part-time or seasonal staff.

Parks Director, Deon Giles reported that the parks were well supported by the community during Strawberry Days. His staff cleaned up manure and trash but there was less than in previous years. There were eight to 10 truckloads of waste hauled out last year but only two truckloads this year. His understanding was that most of the contestants were from in-state, which he believed made a difference. Minor property damage either had been or would be repaired.

Library and Arts Director, Sheri Britsch, reported that they were busy with great summer programming. The Arts Commission was also busy with concerts in the parks.

Police Chief, Mike Roberts, stated that his department was busy with Strawberry Days. Police activity included rival gangs showing up to fight on Thursday, which was broken up by officers; Driving Under the Influence ("DUI") arrests; and Disorderly conduct arrests.

Chief Roberts reported on the following as a result of National Police Week:

- City Police Officers were commended for their efforts.
- The community brought food and treats, which were appreciated.
- The end-of-the-year annual training hours totaled 3,570 for the year. That number was considered significant for 28 officers.
- A fund-raising event for the Police Officer Association was scheduled for this Wednesday, June 22 at Chubby's where there would be an Eating Contest with American Fork Police Officers.

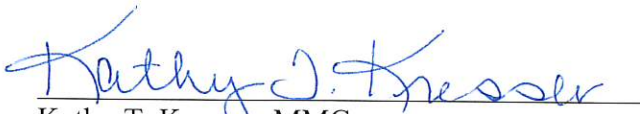
Human Resources Director, Kyler Ludwig, announced that this would be his last Council Meeting. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to work with them. A brunch was to be held in his honor on July 1, 2022.

Administrator Darrington reported that at the July 5, 2022, meeting, the Library Board will give an update during the Work Session. Items to be included on the agenda included a boundary adjustment, adoption of Local Building Authority (“LBA”) Bylaws, and a Hee Haw commercial project.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN the Work Session at 5:26 p.m. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Council minutes of June 21, 2022, were approved by the City Council on July 5, 2022.



Kathy T. Kresser, MMC

City Recorder

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

