

**Pleasant Grove City  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Regular Session  
August 2, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

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

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

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

---

**6:00 P.M. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Guy Fugal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed those present and noted that all City Council Members were present.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Captain Britt Smith.

**3) OPENING REMARKS**

The opening remarks were offered by Council Member Todd Williams.

4) **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Council Member Jensen moved to APPROVE the meeting agenda. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

5) **OPEN SESSION**

There were no public comments.

6) **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. **City Council Minutes: No Minutes at this time.**
- B. **To Consider Approval of Payment Reports for July 28, 2022.**

**ACTION:** Council Member Jensen moved to APPROVE the Consent Items. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

7) **BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

There were no appointments.

8) **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

9) **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

- A. **Public Hearing to Consider for Adoption of a Resolution (2022-042) Adopting the Proposed Certified Tax Rate for the City of Pleasant Grove for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023); and Providing an Effective Date. Presenter: Administrator Darrington.**

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported that one month earlier they held their annual meeting with City Council to set the Certified Tax Rate based on the County's assessed valuations. When the County increases the assessed value, the tax rate is reduced to keep tax revenue neutral. He noted that the calculation does not account for new growth. At the June City Council Meeting, the Certified Tax Rate, which is set by the County, was .0008780. If the Council was considering a tax rate increase this year, the tax rate would be .0010536. That proposed tax rate accounted for a 20% property tax increase.

Administrator Darrington reported that the proposed increase would be \$4.50 per month for the average property value in the City of \$551,800. The increase would generate \$682,754, which would be used to fund critical services such as Fire, Police, and Street Maintenance. He reported that they will be funding two firefighter positions, two police officer positions, and \$250,000 for

road maintenance. Information regarding how the money was to be used was provided to all residents. An Open House was also conducted with approximately 50 in attendance. Administrator Darrington presented information regarding the demand for increased Fire Department services. Over the past 12 years, calls have increased by 700 per year, which demonstrated the need for additional services. Currently, Pleasant Grove has one firefighter per 1,000 residents. It was noted that firefighters are not all full-time. There are four full-time and two part-time firefighters per shift. There has been some difficulty keeping the department fully staffed. With the addition of two full-time firefighters, the City will be able to increase to five full-time and two part-time firefighters for two of the shifts, which will result in better staffing. Administrator Darrington reported that the Police Department is using data from nearby cities and has the lowest staffing in the area. He stressed the need for more officers to increase the level of service.

Administrator Darrington referenced the Certified Tax Rate and commented that when property values rise, the tax rate automatically drops. Since 2012, the tax rate has been 0.0020. The rate currently being proposed is 0.0010. Because the City Council determined to increase the tax rate, it is necessary to participate in the Truth in Taxation process and conduct a public hearing. Staff took the steps necessary to provide proper public notice. He pointed out that the rate being put forward by the City Council is lower than last year. The assessed valuation reflected a 32% increase. He stated that the bill shows how much of the increase would be attributed to the City.

Administrator Darrington presented a chart showing the tax rates of the cities and special districts in Utah County. He reported that Pleasant Grove's last tax rate increase was 21 years ago. The tax rate increased during that period but those increases pertained to bonds issued to pay for various capital projects. Those increases were not included in the County's figures. He reported that Pleasant Grove, Springville, and Salem are the three cities in the County that have not increased taxes over the past 21 years.

Administrator Darrington answered various questions regarding tax increases. He reported that tax revenue was \$1.6 million in 2004 and \$3.2 million in 2021. The proposed increase was attributed to new business or new construction that was added to the tax rolls. He reported that the increased revenue did not cover the additional needs of the community since new services need to be added. City salaries and benefits also increased. Those increases, coupled with increased inflation, decreased the City's spending power. 90 cities and districts in Utah were also going through the Truth in Taxation process and increasing the tax rate. 19 of those entities are in Utah County. Administrator Darrington stated that they are exploring ways to show how the additional funds are being used to address road issues. He noted that there is already a three-year Road Budget Plan in place to improve City roads. The additional funds could result in some improvements getting done earlier or different types of improvements being selected.

Administrator Darrington noted that questions were raised with regard to the proposed 20% increase while the tax notice reflected 15.51%. He explained that the tax rate shown covered two different funding rates. One portion reflected the tax rate that the City could modify through a vote by the City Council. The other portion was identified as the GO Bond portion of the property tax, which can only be modified by a public vote. He explained that when the increase was calculated, both funding types were included, which lowered the total percentage.

Police Chief, Mike Roberts, reported that the Police Department's greatest need is in investigations where one new officer would be assigned. Currently, they have three Detectives and one Sergeant assigned to investigations, however, due to the large caseload, they do not have the manpower to investigate all of the outstanding crimes. The additional officer will be on-call and help with burnout in current detectives and assist with the workload. The second additional officer will help with patrols and during the swing shift, which is when crime is more likely.

Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, reported that additional firefighters will be used to increase the number of staff on shift, which will help with emergency response times. They looked forward to having the additional staff to decrease response times.

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported that the additional funding will largely deal with road maintenance on selected roads. He noted that the bulk of the funding comes from the Gas Tax, which was to be used exclusively for roads. The additional funding will pay to repair and maintain City roadways. He explained that properly maintained roads have a longer service life. Road maintenance costs have increased due to the rising Consumer Price Index.

Mayor Fugal opened the public hearing.

*John Kirk* addressed public safety and suggested that the City increase the number of firefighters and police officers. He explained that he has a background in answering 911 calls. He stated that increased staffing will:

- Increase police response times;
- Increase the City's self-reliance;
- Be fairer to neighboring communities who are required to respond to calls;
- Increase the department's ability to address and follow up on child sex crimes, which are 11% percent of the County rate; and
- Give increased attention to the mental health of the officers who need downtime between calls.

Mr. Kirk expressed his support for the proposed 20% increase.

*Dixie Carpenter* questioned whether property taxes would be increased if Provo City left the school district and no longer offered or provided services.

*Jim Adams* provided Pleasant Grove Police Department statistics from the State of Utah's Electronic Reporting System ("ERS") regarding the high number of crimes in different categories from 2020. With limited police staffing and increased casework and calls, the Pleasant Grove Police Department needs seven additional officers rather than the proposed two. He thought the Fire Department was similarly short-staffed. Mr. Adams encouraged the Council to support the tax increase.

*Chris Ruiz*, a Pleasant Grove Detective currently assigned to schools as a Resource Officer, expressed his personal concern about the lack of resources and manpower shortage. He stated that

it is his responsibility to protect all 12 schools in Pleasant Grove, including the high school, junior high school, five elementary schools, and five charter schools. This ratio was both concerning and unsafe. He stated that both the high school and the junior high should each have one police officer assigned, with a part-time officer involved in teaching the Nurturing, Opportunities, Values, and Accountability (“NOVA”) program. He stated that the Police Department is grossly understaffed and that seasoned officers are leaving in mass. The pay also needs to be more equitable. Detective Ruiz expressed concern with the number of officers who have left the force in the past four years and stated that the force is a farm league for the County that hired, trained, certified, and provided experience to officers just to see them transfer out. He commented that he wanted to work to resolve budgetary hindrances and make progress.

*Brenton Carlson* spoke in support of funding additional officers and firefighters. He stated that his vehicle was stolen and did not think it should have taken five days to locate it. The issue was important to him and he urged the Council to consider the victims who are financially impacted by crime.

*William Carlson* reported that he has lived and worked in other areas and has seen that the community has good Police and Fire personnel. He did not want to see the quality of service decrease and felt that hiring more Public Safety personnel would help keep the good employees. Mr. Carlson did not want to increase taxes but recognized that without more staffing additional problems will arise. He suggested they move forward and set the highest possible standards.

*Joe Garlic* commented that he thought Pleasant Grove was doing okay and appreciated the work done by the Police and Fire Departments. He did not object to the tax increase this year but did not want to see it occur annually. He noted that many others were raising taxes as well. Last, he stated that City the property at 600 West currently presents a fire hazard.

*Kimberly Schroepel* reported that she serves as the Victim Services Coordinator for the Police Department. She sometimes is not called as the officers do not want her exposed to awful things. She stated that Victim Services provided over 7,000 services this past year noting calls and claims impacting children have risen substantially. She stated they are already up 300 calls for service.

*Jocelyn Crane* commended the police officers and offered them her full support. She was happy to pay the increased tax. She asked that the City invest in preventative programs and stated she would be willing to pay more for those services.

*Brittany Powell* asked that the details of how the increased funds for road improvements are spent be transparent to the public. She also voiced concern with priorities. She commented that she forgot to pay a recent ticket involving her dog that resulted in a warrant being issued for her arrest. She felt that the focus should have been on more serious crimes.

*Tyler Powell* asked if the Council was taking proactive action and why the issue was being raised now rather than previously. He asked if the City’s needs were being identified and addressed. He disagreed with the percentage but was confident that it is needed. He asked that a better plan be put in place going forward.

*Howard Carpenter* had sympathy and respect for the officers who often deal with people who should have already been in jail. He stated that a police officer does not know what situation he may be in on any given day and officers are sometimes reluctant to act due to threats of accusations of wrongdoing.

*Sandi Carter* comment on the remark about being proactive and stated that the person who commented must have missed a lot of what has taken place in the City over the past several years. She thought they were back where they began 10 years ago with people wondering why taxes should be raised. Ms. Carter realized that the highest percentage of taxes goes to the school district and Pleasant Grove's portion is relatively small. In the past, the City Council and Police and Fire Departments were made to be the enemy when increases were proposed. She stated that they are having difficulty keeping police officers as they are not paid enough. She recently heard that four Pleasant Grove Police Officers recently interviewed with Utah County and all of the officers have to moonlight. She expressed her support for the proposed tax increase.

*Brady Hoggard* was pleased and surprised that the comments were as positive as they were. He stated that The City receives a substantial benefit from increasing public services. He was unclear on the details of how the funding was to be used and asked for a more detailed breakdown. Mr. Hoggard stated that while no one wants to pay more in taxes he appreciated the explanation. He believes in economic growth and thought the focus going forward should be on commercial property to help relieve the tax burden going forward.

*David Nelson* expressed his love for the City and his willingness to pay more in taxes.

*Kenna Nelson* also expressed her love for Pleasant Grove. She stated that children here enjoy playing outside and feel safe. She was surprised to learn that there is only one police officer for all of the schools in the City. Ms. Nelson suggested that the crime statistics be published in a monthly newsletter. She expressed her willingness to pay more in taxes for better coverage at the schools.

*Darold McDade* did not have a problem with the proposed tax increase but wanted to make sure that other City Departments are being considered as well. He suggested that something be done to keep the motivation to stay here strong. He expressed his love for the City.

There were no further public comments. The public hearing was closed.

**ACTION:** Council Member Williams moved to ADOPT Resolution 2022-042 adopting the proposed Certified Tax Rate for the City of Pleasant Grove for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023); and providing an effective date. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Public Hearing to Consider for Adoption a Resolution (2022-043) Adopting the Final Budget for FY 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) for Pleasant Grove City and Providing an Effective Date. *Presenter: Director Roy.***

Administrator Darrington reported that adoption of the final budget usually takes place in June but was delayed due to the Truth in Taxation process.

Mayor Fugal opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

**ACTION:** Council Member Jensen moved to ADOPT Resolution 2022-043 adopting the Final Budget for FY 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) for Pleasant Grove City and providing for an effective date. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**10) ACTION ITEMS READY FOR VOTE**

**A. To Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Evermore Park's Local Consent Request to Apply for a Single Event Liquor License as Required for a State Liquor License for the Octoberfest Event being held August 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2022. Located at 382 South Evermore Lane, Pleasant Grove, Utah. *Presenter: Attorney Petersen.***

City Attorney, Tina Petersen, reported that the above matter involved a request for local consent for Evermore Park to apply for a Single Event Liquor License. It is a special event to kick off the Octoberfest Celebration to be held on August 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2022, where beer and wine will be served.

**ACTION:** Council Member Andersen moved to AUTHORIZE the Mayor to sign Evermore Park's local consent request to apply for a Single Event Liquor License as required for a State Liquor License for the Octoberfest Event to be held August 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2022, located at 382 South Evermore Lane, Pleasant Grove, Utah. Council Member LeMone seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**11) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. Continued Items from the Work Session, if Needed.**

**12) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE AUGUST 2, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Administrator Darrington reported that they should have the Parameters Resolution regarding the Hale Center Theater ready for review at the August 16, 2002, meeting.

**13) MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS.**

Council Member Jensen stated that it has been good to see citizens show up this evening. He has lived in the community for nearly 32 years and considered it a wonderful place to live. Specifically, regarding Mr. Powell's comment regarding why it has taken so long to raise taxes, he stated that taxes probably should have been raised sooner. The topic is a difficult one but is needed to ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of citizens are being addressed. Council Member Jensen agreed that more Resource Officers are needed in the schools and agreed with John Kirk's comment regarding mental health concerns. He also appreciated the comments about manpower and resources as well as the concerns expressed about other departments. He encouraged additional public input going forward.

Council Member Bullock reported that he began working as a police officer in 1967 in Pleasant Grove. The discussion regarding Pleasant Grove being a training ground was the same then as it is now. The reason for that was that no one wanted to raise taxes. He has continually recommended raising taxes since he began serving the City Council three years ago. He suggested that they address salary issues and stop being the training ground for the County and State. He gave examples of people who have trained here but left for higher pay. He also suggested that two or more Victim Advocates be hired to help with the workload.

Council Member Andersen was grateful for those who voiced their concerns. She asked that Director Cardenas provide Brady Hoggard with a RAP sheet on development. She agreed with Council Member Bullock and stated that they are doing a log of catch-up.

Council Member LeMone was surprised by the response and expected more pushback from the public. She was pleased that the public was supportive of the tax increase, want better services, and proper compensation. She recognized that they have a long way to go and that all of the departments need bigger wage increases but stated that tonight is a step in the right direction. She came to the meeting scared about the response but her vote was made easy after hearing the public comment. She was excited about the future of Pleasant Grove and was proud of what took place tonight.

Mayor Fugal stated they started with a 40% increase and ended with 20%. We are all facing uncertain economic times with the hope being that inflation will decrease. He noted that the action taken tonight was a starting point but will go a long way. He stated that the additional revenues will benefit all City departments.

**14) SIGNING OF PLATS.**

**15) REVIEW CALENDAR.**

**16) ADJOURN**



**ACTION:** At 7:38 p.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN. Council Member LeMone seconded the motion. Council Members vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Council minutes of August 2, 2022, were approved by the City Council on August 16, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy T. Kresser, MMC  
City Recorder

