

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
Tuesday, August 1, 2023
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
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director
Keldon Brown, Police Chief
David Packard, Human Resources Manager
Sheri Britsch, Library and Arts Director
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator

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. All City Council Members were present.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Andersen.

3) OPENING REMARKS

The opening remarks were offered by Mayor Fugal.

4) APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reported that the public hearing on Item 9A was continued to August 15, 2023.

ACTION: Council Member Jensen moved to APPROVE the meeting agenda with the continuance of Item 9A to August 15, 2023. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

5) OPEN SESSION

Douglas Gordon, the Owner of Utah Grand Finale Fireworks at the Water Garden Theaters, requested approval to move his new custom-made fireworks business container from its current location to a safe public location in the Pleasant Grove commercial area. He has been in business at the Water Garden Theater location for 10 years but has been advised that the container must be moved. He noted the presence of other containers in various locations. He was advised to call Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas, regarding the matter.

Tyler Wilkins, as part of his church ward responsibilities, received a request for transportation assistance from a woman whose husband was seriously injured in an automobile accident requiring extensive hip and leg surgeries. Upon discharge from the hospital, she found she had no way to transport him or negotiate the stairs into the home. He contacted the Pleasant Grove Fire Department and spoke with Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, who quickly arranged with Chief Engineer, Kyle Hardy, for a safe transfer to his house. Mr. Wilkins expressed gratitude and thanks for the Fire Department's willing assistance.

Doug Anderson, who lives in the Little Denmark neighborhood, was present to speak on the proposed tax increase. It was confirmed that the item is scheduled for discussion later in this meeting.

There were no further public comments. The Open Session was closed.

6) CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **City Council Minutes:**
 - City Council Minutes for the July 12, 2023 Special Meeting.**
 - City Council Minutes for the July 18, 2023 Special Meeting.**
- B. **To Consider Approval of Payment Reports for July 27, 2023.**

ACTION: Council Member Andersen moved to APPROVE the Consent Items as read. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. **To Consider for Approval the Appointments of Mark Bezzant, Frank Mills, and Brian Andrew as Metropolitan Water District Board Members.**

Mayor Fugal stated that Mark Bezzant, Frank Mills, and Brian Andrew are being considered for re-appointment as Board Members to the Metropolitan Water District Board. He asked for a motion.

ACTION: Council Member Jensen moved to APPROVE the reappointment of Mark Bezzant, Frank Mills, and Brian Andrew as Metropolitan Water District Board Members. Council Member Brent Bullock seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

8) **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

9) **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

- A. **Continued Item. Public Hearing to Consider for Adoption (2023-15) to Create City Code Section 10-15-49, Water Efficiency Standards and to Amend the Landscape Requirements included in Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. The City is proposing to include New Landscaping Requirements with the Intent to Conserve the Public's Water Resources by Establishing Water Conservation Standards for the Installation of Grass and Turf as Outdoor Landscaping in all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Zones within the City for New Construction. (CITYWIDE) (Pleasant Grove City Application) Presenter: Director Cardenas. Continued from the July 18, 2023 Meeting.**

The above item was continued to the August 15, 2023, City Council Meeting.

- B. **Public Hearing to Take Public Comment Regarding the Adoption of an Ordinance (2023-16) Authorizing Harvesting of Urban Deer in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife Resources of the State of Utah and Providing for an Effective Date. (CITYWIDE) Presenter: Assistant to the Administrator Brower.**

Assistant to the City Administrator, Kyler Brower, reported under Rule R657-65, the State allows the Division of Wildlife Resources to implement Urban Deer Control Plans with cities, which are to be updated every three years. Pleasant Grove City has received a Certification of Registration, which provides the authority to have an urban deer control plan. A public hearing for comment is required by the Code.

The plan itself allows the City to remove urbanized deer from the City between August 1 to October 15. Urbanized deer are deer that cause crop damage or accidents. Deer who simply come down from the mountains because of the weather are not to be removed under this Rule. This past year, the closing deadline was in December but that date has since been moved to October 15, as the presumption is that deer have come to the lower land because of weather.

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

This past year, five deer were mitigated by Public Works Department personnel who have been specifically trained to do the mitigation.

ACTION: Council Member LeMone moved to ADOPT Ordinance 2023-16 authorizing the harvesting of urban deer in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife Resources of the State of Utah and providing for an effective date. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10) **ACTION ITEMS READY FOR VOTE**

- A. To Consider Approving a Permit to Exceed the Noise Ordinance for Staker Parson Companies for the Purpose of Construction Roadway Improvements along State Street (US 89) from Orem to Pleasant Grove (UDOT Project #F-0089 (564) 340)), Beginning at 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. August 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. Presenter: Director Winterton.**

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported that the road work to be done by contractors for the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) will be performed at night for traffic safety. Because noise from the work will exceed the City’s noise restrictions, the contractor has requested a permit to exceed the Noise Ordinance for its work beginning in August and continuing through October. The work to be done includes milling edges, upgrading pedestrian ramps to be compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (“ADA”), and an overlay of asphalt on State Street.

ACTION: Council Member Andersen moved to APPROVE a permit to exceed the Noise Ordinance for Staker Parson Companies for the purpose of construction roadway improvements along State Street (US 89) from Orem to Pleasant Grove (UDOT Project #F-0089 (564) 340)), beginning at 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. August 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Public Hearing to Take Public Comment Regarding a Resolution (2023-039) Adopting the Final Budget for FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) for Pleasant Grove City and Adopting the 2023/2024 Certified Tax Rate of 0.001231. Said Budget includes a Proposed Increase in Property Taxes. Presenter: Director Roy.**

Administrator Darrington, using exhibits containing tables, provided a summary of the actions taken leading to this public hearing. At their second meeting this past June, the City Council set a Certified Tax Rate that was higher than the previous tax rate. That action triggers a process called Truth in Taxation, which requires the City to advertise the proposed rate hike in the local paper (*The Daily Herald*) and hold a public hearing on the matter. This meeting constitutes a public hearing. He displayed a copy of the notice that was sent out several weeks ago to every address in the community providing notice of the proposed tax increase, notice of an informational open house, and Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) providing additional details pertaining to the rate hike. In addition to the mailing, the notice was posted on the City’s website and social media. The open house went forward last Tuesday with approximately 25 people in attendance. Administrator Darrington also spent a couple of hours on social media answering questions. He acknowledged that not everyone will agree with the property tax increase of \$4.72 per month for the average home in Pleasant Grove, which covers hiring a full-time firefighter, bringing the police wages into better alignment with market conditions, adding an additional full-time Library employee, and a new park.

Prior to the public hearing, the following basic information pertaining to the tax increase will be provided:

- Administrator Darrington will discuss the tax increase and the park.
- Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, will address the firefighter position.
- Police Chief, Keldon Brown, will address the competitive nature of police salaries and why Pleasant Grove needs to be more proactive in that regard.
- Library and Arts Director, Sheri Britsch, will discuss the need for an additional library employee.

Administrator Darrington also noted that they have documents comparing police salaries in Utah County, which show Pleasant Grove pays less. He commented that the ongoing battle regarding public safety wages continues to get more competitive as the need increases.

In relation to the tax increase, Administrator Darrington stated that the \$4.72 figure is for an average home in Pleasant Grove. Utah County has identified an average home in Pleasant Grove as having a value of \$542,000. If a person’s home is of higher value, that tax rate increase will be larger, and likewise, if the home value is lower, the amount of tax assessed will be less.

The proposed tax increase will generate \$734,321 per year, broken down as follows:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>% of Increase</u>	<u>Actual Dollars</u>
New Park	\$2.12	45%	\$329,321
Police Wages	\$1.46	31%	\$230,000
New Firefighter	\$0.71	15%	\$110,000
New Librarian	\$0.43	9%	\$ 65,000
Total	\$4.72	100%	\$734,321

Administrator Darrington noted that there had been some online confusion in that some people thought because both the park and the employee positions were introduced together, the salary

positions were included as part of the bond. The salary positions are not part of a bond but instead, come from money earmarked for the general fund. The bond pertains only to the park.

As there were more questions generated regarding the park, he addressed the park and the bond in more detail. The City was approached a couple of years ago by the Greg and Julie Cook Family offering a generous donation to the community in the amount of \$5,000,000 to be used for the park. Since then, the Cooks have been working with the City regarding the donation and how it was to be used. The initial discussions included funding a park with a splash pad and a playground. The park, itself, has evolved and now contains additional features.

Specific funding details were provided as follows:

- The total cost of the park is \$15,080,560, with the City's portion of the obligation being \$10,080,560.
- The Cook's donation covers the additional \$5,000,000.
- The yearly debt service payment is \$659,008.
- The bond covers the city's portion of the park as well as road improvements around the pipe plant, cemetery expansion, and land purchases. As those non-park portions of the bond will be covered by general fund money, they are not addressed by the tax increase.
- The city has existing funds, in the amount of \$329,687 to pay for the road improvements, cemetery expansion, and land purchase.
- The proposed property tax, directed to the park, of \$2.12 per month, generates \$329,321, which meets the city's responsibility.

In summary, this means that one-third of the park will be paid for by the donation; one-third will be paid for by existing general funds; and one-third will come from the tax increase. The residents of Pleasant Grove, therefore, are getting a \$15 million first-class park with a splash pad, playground, pump track, skate park, two futsal courts, a basketball court, nine-square court, a large pavilion, numerous small pavilions, and a large restroom for \$2.12 per month. He hopes the residents feel they are getting a good product.

Administrator Darrington reported that the City Council bonded for the park last spring when it was clear that interest rates were going to rise as it was thought that such would be a better economic choice. The bond is a 25-year bond. Had they waited to bond, the increased interest rate costs would have been in the tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. They additionally would have been pushed back one year on construction, which they recognized would further increase the amount of construction costs and supply issues. The early bonding has saved all the increased costs, which were estimated to be in the millions. The park is now scheduled to be open next summer in 2024. If the City Council does not vote to increase the tax raise, the City will need to pull money from other services to meet this debt service requirement.

He asked Director Winterton to speak about the road work here in Pleasant Grove because there were a lot of questions about roads. In the past, road work in Pleasant Grove has been underfunded, but the City Council, several years ago, identified road work as a priority and has made significant changes to address the issue. Currently, the City is putting \$3 million into roads every year, which is a large improvement. Although the work is primarily on more heavily trafficked roads such as

2600 North, 1100 North, and 1300 West, the less traveled residential road problems are being addressed, via a rolling plan for improvements.

Director Winterton, using an exhibit showing a summary of roadway spending between 2008 and 2017, reported that in 2008, \$334,269 per year was spent on road work. A bond was obtained thereafter, and in 2009-2010, the amount of road maintenance work they were able to do increased. The City then concentrated on paying the bond back for the remainder of those displayed years. The exhibit shows that road maintenance funding during that period was underfunded. Switching to an exhibit showing a six-year history and four-year plan, Director Winterton provided the following information:

- Beginning in 2018, the funding numbers increased, and some debt was finally paid off.
- The City got another bond in 2020, however, COVID work stoppages and supply shortages caused a dramatic fall over the next year.
- In 2022, the road work completed cost \$4.5 million.
- In 2023, the numbers shown represent \$11.5 million spent of nearly \$15 million on road projects planned for the city. This amount highlights the successful decisions and actions taken by the city to adjust road funds.
- In 2024, there are \$8.5 million in projects planned, which includes utility and roadway coordination. The funding has increased from \$7 million for the past decade to \$39 million for this present decade.

An additional graph was shown representing roadway spending between 2008 to 2027, shows Pleasant Grove's commitment to roadway maintenance in Pleasant Grove.

Council Member LeMone asked if the costs represented here covered the cost of the water system. Director Winterton stated that it did not. He commented that in addition to the road work being performed, \$3 to \$5 million has been expended on the water/storm drain work. He also noted, when asked, that the 1100 North project cost (from start to finish) between \$3 to \$3.5 million.

Police Chief Brown, in addressing police salaries, stated that people expect that the police will respond to their call and will be trained and capable to deal with the problem. In Pleasant Grove, they compete with other cities to hire new officers. The market is competitive. It takes three to four years to train a new officer to assure they have a good solid base for police work. Since he has been here, they have dealt with a wide variety of cases (kidnap, murder, sex crimes, crashes, domestic violence, and so on). About the time they get the officer fully trained, they are lured away by higher pay elsewhere (i.e., a \$3 to \$6 per hour increase). He cannot blame them, as they need to take care of their families, but their leaving starts the department's training process again. Out of the last six hires, five officers have had less than 18 months experience. So, by increasing the base pay to be more competitive with the surrounding cities, they hope to retain officers with five to 10 years of experience. The Police Department morale is good, and none of the officers who have recently left, have left because of the atmosphere. They have left because of pay. He also advised that 60% of the supervisory force is retirement eligible. He needs to be able to find qualified levels of management to replace the ones retiring. They need to remain competitive. Pleasant Grove is a wonderful place to work, and they are working hard to provide the best service.

Fire Chief Engemann, in addressing the need for an additional firefighter, stated that they are losing three full-time people with a combination of 30 years of experience. They were able to hire two full-time firefighters this past year and seek an additional position so that they can fill all three shifts with full-time employees. He noted that on a national level, the recommendation is for one firefighter for every 1,000 residents. If they met that recommendation, they would need 40 firefighters in Pleasant Grove. They know that is not feasible and now have 15 full-time people with part-time people helping. As an aside, the Fire Department is open to helping people in need, such as the audience heard earlier about in the open session. They get calls for help and assist as they can. People are free to ask for such help.

Director Britsch stated that the Library helps create future citizens. The Library would like a full-time program coordinator position. From July 2022 to June 2023, the Library offered over 500 programs with 35,000 people in attendance. Programs range in size from 15 to 20 people for meetings such as book clubs, to hundreds in attendance for special events. The daily programs for kids are almost all run by part-time personnel. A part-time person is now mostly coordinating all the programs. A full-time position is what is required for the level of work involved.

Administrator Darrington, in summary, stated that the recommendation of City staff was to increase the property tax as it provides a benefit to the City.

Mayor Fugal opened the public hearing. Each speaker was given three minutes to speak.

John Johannesmeyer reported that the City has given the citizens three hours to comment on funding of \$10,000,000 which is not enough time to give feedback. He stated, hypothetically, that a neighbor, who wants to put a pool in the yard, asks and then forces the neighbors to fund the pool, even if they do not want it, is committing theft. He stated that is what is going on here and that this is stealing money from the citizens. He suggested that there are other creative ways to pay for the park, such as converting some of the acreage into lots for sale. He asked that they do not vote tonight and not steal from the people as such is theft.

John Peterson, a representative of Utah Skate Park Advocacy Group, reported that he travels throughout the State advocating for skate parks. He thanked the developers and City planners for considering the need for a skate park in Pleasant Grove. The park plan is phenomenal, and he had heard a lot of local community support and excitement. He was in support of the tax increase and the family park. Skate parks are a worthwhile investment and skateboarding is now an Olympic sport. The activity can help meet a variety of needs for the underserved and energize the area.

Travis Hockey, a homeowner in Pleasant Grove and the father of two sons, expressed gratitude and support for the prospect of a new skate park in Pleasant Grove. He has been part of the skateboard community for 20 years and grew up in Orem, which has its own dedicated skate park. That skate park was his home and outlet, and he learned a lot of life lessons there. He is grateful that children will have a dedicated space and supports activities that get his kids outside. As a published author and illustrator, he was grateful for libraries to help power the minds of children and imaginations and for firefighters to keep him safe. He is in support of the increase, which is less than half the price of a Netflix account. He was also grateful to the Cook Family and other community members who make this possible.

Jason Hunter asked why there is a debt service portion attributable to a donation. He thinks the park is valuable and agreed with the last speaker about getting his kids outside. Regarding police funding, he wanted to make sure that the increase is for additional funds and not designated to pay for something obtained last year. He commented that he missed the open house last week. He was also worried that because the money is going to the General Fund it might be used on something other than what was referenced. Overall, he was in support and thanked them.

Jeff Gertson, a skateboarder for nearly 40 years, recognized the mental health benefit of skateboarding. When he started skateboarding, he used it to get a natural high and stay away from things that could get him in trouble. He currently skates most days of the week at the Lehi Skate Park. He was told that the money spent on the Skate Park in Lehi was the best money spent. He also read a thank you note from a father, who talked about the positive impact skateboarding had on his son. He offers his full support and thinks it will benefit all the kids in the area.

Chris Hansen commented that his biggest problem is the way things are being done, as what was sent out is misleading. Although there are two portions (the City portion and the bond portion) it all goes to Pleasant Grove. He also was troubled by the percentages as the biggest portion, 45% goes to the park. He stated that there are other ways the park could be paid for without having to charge the residents for it. If only the salaries were covered, that amount would be \$2.60 per month. That was a big difference. He has a problem with general property tax, as it affects those with fixed incomes. You get your home paid off but the taxes continue to rise. He stated this is a 15% increase in property taxes. He also has a problem with how Pleasant Grove handles debt. Orem saves to buy things, while Pleasant Grove "spends the future." He did not think that a 25-year bond makes sense as they could be in a bad place in the future. He also asked about having a Unified Police Department and thinks the libraries could have more services to get money, such as selling used books. Other libraries do.

Rachael Crockett was concerned about the tax. She was struggling financially from skyrocketing costs and did not think it is fair to take money for the park from those who are not going to use it. She encourages the City to find other ways to fund the park, possibly through additional donations. She also does not want the tax increase to go beyond when the park bond is paid.

Karen Blalock did not want taxes to be raised to support another park, which is not needed. She stated that as a retired person, her income is limited, and there are other ways to support its cost. Those who use the park are the only ones who should pay. Donations can come from other people/areas. They do need more money for law enforcement. Speeding in her neighborhood is out of control. It, however, will only be addressed if there is a catastrophe. She did not think it was right for the City Council to just say they are going to do this.

John St. Clair wanted to speak about transparency and options. With regard to transparency, the first time he heard about the park was when this flyer came in the mail. He did not see anything about it in his utility bill or on Facebook. He understands that they should be looking at agendas or reading the minutes but thinks that the City could have done better raising the issue earlier. This was a surprise. With regard to options, he was not in favor of the increase. A \$5 million donation is great for the splash pad and playground. The rest of the park could be phased in over time

instead of taking on the funding right now. Other sources could be used, such as possibly using the CARE tax differently. They need to discuss needs versus wants. He encouraged them to look at other options for the park. The other items were acceptable.

Carolina Otero suggested that the revenue should come from businesses instead of putting the burden on the resident. Give the businesses incentives to get the money for the park.

Jill Halzelton was opposed to some of the tax increases. She was happy getting extra emergency services but disagreed about the funding for the park. She was concerned about bonding for the park and says people are currently affected by inflation. The park could be done later when they have the money. She also stated that the parks they currently have are not being utilized. She also wondered why they could not have had a vote on the matter.

Chris Walsh reported that he moved to Pleasant Grove five years ago from South Jordan. He appreciated the references about other options to fund the park. He stated that the work done on 1100 North was not well done as there are needed repairs already. He was concerned that the overall tax increase is over 10%. With all of the new construction in the City, there should be additional funds in the City coffers, and was concerned about how the budget is done. He further was not comfortable with bonding something before you have permission to do the project. Once the loan is made, the money is spent. He figured that the \$2 per month over the course of the bond will cost him \$600. He enjoys hobbies but does not ask people to fund his hobbies. The quality of life is important but not with the funding.

Jane Green stated that she has been in Pleasant Grove for the past four years. In her previous career, she worked in Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") for 25 years and was heartbroken at the loss of three firefighters. She supports the fire, police, and EMS as an absolute need but stated that the park is a want and not a need. She wondered if the donation could instead go to the Police or the Fire Department.

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

Council Member Andersen stated the following:

- the \$5 million is the groundbreaking gift and has been separated out. The bond will be dropped off once it is paid.
- There have been numerous conversations about the park and research done on how to fund it. She was grateful for staff research.
- She recognized that the tax increase is real and impacts everyone.
- She is an athlete and her mental health has been saved by parks and courts. She has 12 grandchildren and wants to play with them in the parks.
- She noted that a large part of the ground is being used as a water retention area, which is to be covered with grass so that people can play on it.
- She applauded those who have spoken this evening, but she has had many conversations with a lot of constituents who are in favor of this park.
- She was in favor of the increase and will be voting in favor of it.

Council Member Jensen acknowledged Mr. Cook in the audience and stated the following:

- He has lived in Pleasant Grove for the past 33 years. As a City, it has grown and experienced a lot of things, some of which created negativity for a while.
- He appreciated everyone coming out and speaking. That is what citizens do.
- The park has been under discussion for some time.
- He comes from a sports background and stated that parks have saved him. An illness brought him to his knees and parks helped bring him back.
- He appreciated the City's nine departments and stated that they provide a lot of services and are not always fully funded. It is difficult to manage that. He appreciated their hard work.
- As a member of the City Council, there is always a focus on health, safety, and welfare. Another aspect is quality of life. He would not live in the community if it did not offer quality-of-life elements such as events, parks, and events that bring them together.
- Property tax increases are difficult but prior to last year, they had not had a property tax increase in over 30 years. Such raises should have been done sooner. The City Council is trying to correct that issue and quality of life is important.
- He was in favor of the park and stated that it will be a place that will benefit the community. They looked at options for other ways of funding and this was determined to be the best.

Council Member LeMone stated the following:

- She is not a thief and will not be called one. She is a resident and a taxpayer like those in the audience working on 100% commission and never knowing when her next paycheck is coming.
- She has lived in Pleasant Grove for the past 43 years where she raised her three sons near a ball field in Pleasant Grove. The activities, regardless of age, were life-changing.
- The public comment that residents were given only three hours to comment on the matter is incorrect. She was aware of only one person in the community that regularly comes to City Council Meetings. Few people came to the open house. She regularly makes her cell phone number available and repeated the number again here. She has a presence on Facebook and Instagram and is very accessible. She rarely misses City Council Meetings. She does what is best for her and families in the community.
- She appreciated the opinions expressed, both positive and negative, and listens to them. She has a community page with 15,000 people and gets plenty of feedback there. She stated that public opinions are welcome.
- The City Council has significant responsibilities and tries to respond quickly. Their top priority is the community's health and safety but next to that is quality of life, which is provided by the parks and recreation programs. Pleasant Grove has parks but none have a regulation-size soccer field. Pleasant Grove does not have a splash pad and residents must go to other cities for those services. She wanted to keep people here and for others to come to Pleasant Grove to spend their money, which generates sales taxes.
- She did not agree with asking businesses repeatedly for donations and stated that they are struggling. Taxpayers pay for roads and parks. If you do not agree, you should not vote for her.

- She is in favor of the park and has heard from citizens who want the park. She will be voting in favor of it as it will bring a better quality of life for her family and citizens.

Council Member Bullock stated the following:

- He is the oldest member of the City Council. He was born and raised in Pleasant Grove and has seen great changes in the City over the years.
- His first job in Pleasant Grove was as a police officer and he replaced someone who went elsewhere for more money. He was not sure there was an understanding of the costs involved in the training of the police or first responders.
- In relation to the comment that the parks are not used, he stated that his home is next door to a park with a pickleball court. He hears them play and looks forward to people using it.
- When he thinks about the suggestion of selling property to raise money, he commented that in a few years, Pleasant Grove will be out of space. This park project capitalizes on a large piece of land for recreational purposes in the future.
- He was in favor of the proposed tax increase and he is on a fixed income. He has seen great changes for which he is grateful. He also is grateful to serve on the City Council and will vote in favor.

Council Member Williams stated the following:

- This is a difficult situation. He dislikes taxes and government interference that requires him to pay more. He also dislikes the ability of the government to impose taxes. At City Council Meetings he has to make decisions that are beyond his personal realm.
- With regard to the comment about there being no need for a park, he strongly disagreed. Currently, there is a generation that lives behind screens and neighbors that do not get out or socialize. More places are needed for people to socialize and recreate.
- The pipe plant was purchased many years ago with great foresight. What they do not need is to sell the property to a developer who will develop multi-family housing. More parks and open spaces are needed.
- While he disagreed with many aspects of raising taxes, federal or local, there is a common good that comes from it. They have made good decisions and economic development has happened and will occur in the future. The coffers will be full, and they will continue to rely on businesses to pay their fair share. Expenses will increase for both individuals and the City.
- For the good of the City, residents now and in the future, he would be voting in favor.

Mayor Fugal stated the following:

- He is a lifelong resident and has lived in Pleasant Grove for 72 years.
- He was voted in to lead and guide the City Council who all have different thoughts.
- They updated the General Plan this past year with multiple public meetings. The issues that people are most interested in are getting more roads and parks.
- People have been generous, like the Cook Family, with seed money to help create a better environment.

ACTION: Council Member Williams moved to ADOPT Resolution 2023-039 Adopting the Final Budget for FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) for Pleasant Grove City and adopting the 2023/2024 Certified Tax Rate of 0.001231. Said Budget includes a proposed increase in property taxes. Council Member Bullock seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Continued Items from the Work Session if needed.

Administrator Darrington stated that Department Head updates will be emailed out.

12) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Administrator Darrington reported that the agenda items will also be emailed.

13) MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS.

Council Member Jensen reported a Concert in the Downtown Park is scheduled for the following Friday with food trucks. The update to the Downtown Park that was completed a few years earlier has totally transformed the area.

Council Member Andersen thanked the Cook Family who has contributed the impetus for business and economic development in the City by bringing in doTERRA as well as donating to the G Mountain and the park donation. She was grateful for their decision to be a part of the community. Council Member Bullock also acknowledged the Cook Family's involvement in the Ruth Theater. Council Member Williams also expressed his thanks.

Administrator Darrington stated that the Cook Family Park's groundbreaking will commence at 10:00 a.m. the following day. There will be a variety of events including the Brigham Young University ("BYU") dunk team, ice cream, and cotton candy. Children will be participating in the groundbreaking and receive a commemorative shovel and hard hat. All were invited to attend.

Mayor Fugal announced that former Mayor Jay Harman passed away the previous day. The Council's heartfelt sympathy went out to the family.


14) SIGNING OF PLATS.

15) REVIEW CALENDAR.

16) **ADJOURN.**

ACTION: At 7:52 p.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN. Council Member LeMone seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; Eric Jensen, Yes; Cyd LeMone, Yes; and Todd Williams, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Council minutes of August 1, 2023, were approved by the City Council on August 15, 2023.


Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder



(Exhibits are in the Recorder's office.)