

**Pleasant Grove City  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Work Session  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
4:30 p.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal

Council Members: Dianna Andersen  
Eric Jensen  
Cyd LeMone  
Steve Rogers  
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator  
Deon Giles, Parks Director  
Tina Petersen, City Attorney  
Wendy Thorpe, City Recorder  
Sheri Britsch, Library and Arts Director  
Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator  
Keldon Brown, Police Chief  
Megan Zollinger, Recreation Director  
Daniel Cardenas, Community Development Director  
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director  
David Packard, HR Director

Excused: Denise Roy, Finance Director

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 4:31 PM and welcomed those present. It was determined that the State of the Trash presentation would be heard ahead of the first agenda item.

**a. Leadership Academy.**

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, reported that the Leadership Academy is where individual employees are brought in for training. There are a few reasons this occurs. He explained that the City wants to train current supervisors and members of the leadership team on leadership principles. Most of the department heads have been through this program over the years. There is also a desire to see who the potential future leaders could be. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> iteration of the

Leadership Academy and Administrator Darrington has been involved in all of them. The Leadership Academy makes it possible to get to know employees better and to be more involved.

During the Leadership Academy, a book called *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing is read. The book is about a team of explorers who are stranded on an ice flow just outside of Antarctica and need to find out how to get back to civilization. The Leadership Academy participants looked at how the leader of the expedition handled the situation. Leadership principles are then studied. Participants choose a leadership principle and then train the rest of the group on that principle.

Administrator Darrington explained that once the Leadership Academy is finished, participants are invited to attend a City Council Meeting and be recognized as a graduate. He called the name of each graduate, presented a certificate, and then a photograph was taken. The graduates were:

- Wendy Thorpe;
- Tim Novinger;
- Sean Cho;
- Megan Crowley;
- Lauren Loch;
- Kylie Allen;
- Jared Barnett;
- Christina Gregory;
- Carter Bigger.

**b. State of the Trash by Neil Schwendiman, District Manager, North Pointe Solid Waste Special Service District.**

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported that Neil Schwendiman was present to share information about the North Pointe Solid Waste Special Service District. Mr. Schwendiman shared some history about the Special Service District. It was created in 1976 and was originally called the Utah County Solid Waste Special Service District. In 1984, Springville, Spanish Fork, Salem, Mapleton, Elk Ridge, and Woodland Hills formed the South Utah Valley Solid Waste District. In 1993, the transfer station was built, and the landfill was closed. The waste was hauled by rail to the ECDC landfill in Carbon County. In 2001, the name was changed from Utah County Solid Waste to North Pointe Solid Waste Special Service District. In 2006, there was a switch from rail transport to truck transport. Waste was delivered to the Wasatch Regional Landfill.

In 2012, the District purchased a construction and demolition landfill in Fairfield. That is still owned, and waste is placed there. In 2013, the District updated the Interlocal Agreement with all of the member cities: American Fork, Cedar Hills, Highland, Lehi, Lindon, Orem, Pleasant Grove, Saratoga Springs, and Vineyard. In 2014, the District joined an interlocal agency called Northern Utah Environmental Resource Agency (“NUERA”). The NUERA members purchased the Bayview landfill in Elberta. In 2018, waste started to be shipped down to that landfill. In 2020, Mr. Schwendiman took on the position of General Manager. He shared a map with the Council to illustrate the location of the landfills. Becoming part of NUERA and transporting the waste down to Bayview created a shorter transport route than before, which reduced transportation costs.

Mr. Schwendiman reviewed some of the services and operations offered, which include:

- Municipal Solid Waste;
- Construction and Demolition Waste;
- Green Waste;
- Clean Concrete;
- Household Hazardous Waste;
- Recycling.

Information about each of the services was shared. Mr. Schwendiman explained that for the green waste, there is an agreement with a contractor to chip and grind the green waste and turn it into compost. Additionally, there is an agreement with a contractor for clean concrete to crush it into road base and drain rock. As for household hazardous waste, residents are allowed to drop off hazardous waste, such as paint, chemicals, cleaners, and batteries. He noted that lithium-ion batteries can be a problem in transfer stations. Most of the household hazardous waste drop-offs are free, but there are limits on the quantities that can be brought in because some small businesses like to take advantage of the drop-off system. It is free to drop off a certain amount and then there is a charge per gallon after that. He stated that tires, metals, and electronics are pulled for recycling.

Mr. Schwendiman presented Pleasant Grove information for 2023. The residential curbside waste that was brought in was 12,243 tons. For the public safety haul, 8,334 residents came into the transfer station. 187.15 tons were brought in from City vehicles. 259 customers took advantage of the coupon program. A graph illustrating the curbside tons in Pleasant Grove over the last several years was shared. Garbage collection peaked in 2020. This was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as everyone was home at that time. As for the coupon history, the use has been sporadic. There were 123 coupons used in 2022 and 259 used in 2023.

Administrator Darrington explained that the coupon used to be in the newsletter, but some residents photocopied it. The coupons were now printed and were available at the front desk. Residents can obtain one coupon per utility account. He noted that an expiration date has been added. Mr. Schwendiman explained that the expiration date is useful because it makes it easier for employees. He agreed that a lot of people will try to photocopy the coupons for free services.

There was discussion about the significant drop in coupons that occurred in 2013. It went from 2,038 in 2012 to 157 in 2013. Mr. Schwendiman explained that it might have to do with the way it was entered into the system. He reported that the City ultimately pays \$12 per coupon.

Mr. Schwendiman shared a chart with the transfer station tons over the years. It included information about municipal solid waste as well as construction and demolition waste. A lot of trash is moved through the facility. He next shared a chart that outlined the residential curbside fee history. The City is billed for the tons that are brought in from Pleasant Grove. In 2016, it was \$32, and it dropped to \$30.50 in 2020. It was currently \$34 per ton for the City waste, but he noted that the City should anticipate an increase in the future and factor that into budget discussions.

The future of the North Pointe Solid Waste Special Service District was discussed. Mr. Schwendiman reported that in 2021, an update to the Master Plan started, which was completed in

2022. The Master Plan looked at the feasibility of expanding the current location in Lindon versus building a second transfer station in the district. If it was feasible to expand the current facility, the request was to provide recommendations on that expansion. It was also requested that the condition of the facility be determined as well as recommended improvements and cost estimates.

Mr. Schwendiman reviewed some of the Master Plan findings, which were as follows:

- Installation of new stormwater infrastructure and paving repairs;
- Replace damaged siding to the transfer station buildings;
- Repair structural issues in transfer station buildings;
- Engineering assessment of concrete tipping floor is needed;
- Site operational improvements to improve workflow and customer services:
  - Relocate the Household Hazardous Waste Facility;
  - Relocate Compost Bunker;
  - Add Push Wall in Public Building.
- Two viable options exist to expand the current facility. This will handle the projected volumes for the next 25 years.
- Expanding the current site remains the most cost-effective option.

Photographs of the current facility were shared. Mr. Schwendiman also shared a rendering of what the facility could look like with improvements made. Additional information was shared about NUERA. In 2022, a new cell was lined, which is 26 acres, and it should be approximately five years before another cell needs to be lined. A gas collection system was installed as well, which is comprised of 19 wells, so the landfill gas can be extracted from the landfill. Recently, an additional 140 acres was acquired with SITLA on the lease of the Bayview landfill. That lease was extended through December 31, 2082. The estimated life of that landfill is over 100 years.

The estimated cost of the transfer station expansion is between \$10 million and \$15 million. Currently, work is being done to determine what the bonding needs will be. Permission is needed from the County to be able to bond. The Bayview landfill capacity allows NUERA to control the disposal rates for the foreseeable future. It currently costs \$10.50 per ton for the disposal. Mr. Schwendiman thanked the City Staff for the excellent relationship that is in place. Pleasant Grove has always been easy to work with, which is appreciated by everyone involved in the process.

Mr. Schwendiman shared some images of modern transfer stations for reference. The images were of the Pomona Valley Transfer Station and Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station. He next shared a video from South Utah Valley Solid Waste, which just built a new transfer station. Their grand opening will be on Thursday, and everyone is invited to attend. It is from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 2:00 p.m. He scrolled through the video to show the Dry Creek Transfer Station. Information about the transfer station building was shared. Inside, there will be a lookout tower and there will also be monitoring for hot spots. It will be a state-of-the-art facility. He reiterated that the grand opening will take place on April 25, 2024.

Council Member Steve Rogers asked about the anticipated rate for this year. Mr. Schwendiman wanted it to be consistent with South Utah Valley Solid Waste. As a result, he will likely speak to the Board about raising the tipping fee at the transfer station to \$40. That would move the City

rate to \$36. That would assist with some of the improvements that need to be done as well. Council Member Cyd LeMone noted that this is a valued service in the community that is needed. Council Member Rogers asked for additional information about the bond. He wondered whether a significant increase in the fee is anticipated once the bond comes through. Mr. Schwendiman explained that the hope is for it to remain the same if there is an increase to \$40 starting in 2025.

**c. Budget Discussion.**

Administrator Darrington presented the budget information in the absence of Finance Director, Denise Roy. He explained that no decisions will be made during the current meeting, as this is simply a Work Session discussion. Council Members can provide feedback to Staff and can ask questions about the information presented. When this is ready to move forward, Director Roy will create the Tentative Budget. By law, the Tentative Budget needs to be adopted during the first meeting in May, which will be May 7, 2024. Once the Tentative Budget is adopted, there will be a public hearing at the first meeting in June. The last meeting in June will see the adoption of the Final Budget. At that point, the budget becomes final, and future changes require an amendment.

Council Members had the one-pager document, which is a synopsis of anything new that is happening in the General Fund budget. On the left-hand side, the revenues are listed. Administrator Darrington clarified that those are called new revenues and are revenues projected above and beyond current revenues. There is an increase in sales tax of \$480,000. Property tax new growth is listed as \$136,000 and charges for services are \$383,563. An expense review was conducted, which is done each year. That is when Director Roy looks at how line items have been spent in the past. Administrator Darrington stated that the revenues listed in the document were \$1,220,985.

On the right side of the one-pager document is what Staff is recommending as new expenses. For full-time wages, it is recommended that there be a 5.35% increase for the employees, which is in line with the surveying done with other cities. That would be a 3% cost of living adjustment ("COLA") and a 2.35% merit. The COLA is something that will be given to every employee, while the merit percentage will be based on the evaluations that are conducted. This is the same for part-time wages. Administrator Darrington referenced some operational increases. He explained that these are requests from the department heads and the amount is \$76,968. There is a contribution listed to The Ruth Theater, which is a commitment made a few years back. In addition, it is recommended that there be two new Park Operators. A market analysis was done on the Fire Department wages and an adjustment needs to be made to bring those to market levels. He noted that every five years, a market analysis is done for each department. The total amount listed is \$1,220,985, which indicates a balanced budget between new revenues and proposed uses.

The Capital Supplemental Summary was reviewed. As part of this process, the department heads fill out a supplemental request, which is a budget request for any capital needs. Administrator Darrington explained that capital needs are one-time expenses. The list of requests was reviewed with the City Council approximately one month ago. He took time to highlight some of the more significant items on the list. He discussed the Nimer Battle Creek Trailhead Property and stated that there is a desire to build a parking lot. The property is currently in the process of being

purchased by a Federal agency and that will then be sold to Pleasant Grove for the intended use. It will cost \$75,000 to obtain the property. He clarified that the sale had not been finalized.

Another notable item on the list is the Outdoor Stage and Landscaping Modifications. Administrator Darrington reminded Council Members that this is the property to the east of the library. Some different options have been explored, but there is a desire to start with a pavilion. The pavilion would be strategically placed so if the City wanted to eventually create a mini amphitheater, there would still be the ability to do so. The number for the pavilion still needs to be finalized, but it is believed \$200,000 will be needed for that work. He noted that the pavilion will also have a bit of storage on the back end to store equipment items and library props.

There is \$620,000 requested to replace the Discovery Park ball diamonds with LED lights. There are currently old-fashioned lights there. Administrator Darrington acknowledged that the LED lights are expensive, but the lights can make a notable difference. Another significant item on the list has to do with the swimming pool. Last year, it was budgeted for with the knowledge that repairs will be needed. \$650,000 was budgeted last year for this purpose. Some of that money has been used for engineering and design. Another \$1.35 million is needed for a total of \$2 million. Currently, there are hard bids for most of that work and the amount is under \$2 million.

Administrator Darrington discussed the lobby in the Recreation Center. \$30,000 was set aside a few years ago for this project. There have been different iterations due to the price estimates. What is now being proposed will make it possible to control the people coming in to ensure that passes are either shown or purchased. There will also be extra space created. Staff will look at the concession area to see what the options are so the space can be used better. Currently, that space is not used very often. A plan will come back to the Council in the future. The last significant item on the list is a generator there is a desire to have at the Recreation Center. He explained that the Recreation Center is an emergency facility in the City, so a generator is important.

Council Member Rogers asked for a more comprehensive breakdown of the budget. Administrator Darrington reported that Director Roy will send out the actual budget document as soon as it is done. It will be in the next Meeting Materials Packet. He explained that changes can be made after the Tentative Budget has been adopted. However, it is also possible to sit down and review the information available so there is a greater level of comfort moving forward. Administrator Darrington noted that it is important for Council Members to feel comfortable with the budget.

Council Member LeMone explained that after the field trip to the Recreation Center, she had some concerns. From the beginning, she has not been in favor of the change. It seems like too much money to spend on something when there are no statistics to prove that this change is necessary. While there likely need to be some changes made, like an updated desk area, a scaled-down version of what is proposed makes the most sense. She is not necessarily in favor of extending the weight room. She suggested that another design be considered. Council Member Todd Williams understood the desire to scale back the plan for the Recreation Center. He thought it made sense to scale back there and increase the plan for the pool feature. There was discussion about what the Recreation Center design could look like. Some felt a different proposal might be worthwhile.

Administrator Darrington explained that the Recreation Center design will result in additional space. He wanted to understand what the Council wanted to see happen. Council Member LeMone preferred to focus on the pool right now but still supported the half wall and the desk in the lobby area. Administrator Darrington noted that a few Council Members did not feel the additional space was needed. Council Member Rogers thought the money was better spent on the pool. That is something that seems like a higher priority. It is likely possible to cut the Recreation Center budget for the lobby in half. Administrator Darrington confirmed that the bulk of the cost has to do with the additional space. He offered to take this back and look at a different design for the area.

Administrator Darrington further reviewed the Capital Supplemental Summary document. On the bottom half, there are projects funded outside of the Capital Projects Fund. He reported that there will be a roof replacement in the Senior Center. Donated money has been given to the Senior Center and that money will be used to fix the roof. With the Care Tax Fund, there is a desire to replace the playground at Discovery Park on the west side and add shade covers at Shannon Fields. He also noted that there is also a grant that will be used for Force Tracking software.

Council Member Dianna Andersen asked about the revenue increase on the Care Tax this year. Administrator Darrington stated that it is trending upwards. When it was initially adopted four years ago, the amount was about \$380,000 and now it is about \$600,000 per year. He is not sure what is being projected for Fiscal Year 2024. Council Member Rogers asked about the LED lights line item. He wanted to know the lifespan of the current lights and the potential power savings. Parks Director, Deon Giles, reported that the breakers at Discovery Park are no longer made. If one of those goes out, the diamond will be out for the season. There is not a retrofit for them. With LEDs, there will be cost savings. In addition, there will be less light pollution in the neighborhood. The technology is much better at addressing light pollution than it used to be. The hope is to schedule the work during down times. Director Giles explained that there was talk of another cell tower out in that area, so the schedule for all of the work would be coordinated.

**d. Staff Business.**

There was no Staff Business shared.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 5:34 p.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN the Work Session. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, Jensen, Williams, LeMone, and Rogers voting “Yes”.



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Wendy Thorpe, CMC  
City Recorder

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

**A. Continued Items from the Work Session if needed.**

There was additional discussion about the budget documents. Administrator Darrington referenced the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Utility Increases table. When he started 14 years ago, the City hadn't changed their utility rates for some time and there was an issue where a particular fund was on the verge of bankruptcy due to the lack of revenue coming in. One of the commitments Staff and the City Council have made over time is that there be incremental changes to the rates. That has been the practice in recent years. There have been times when no increase is recommended due to the performance of a certain fund, but there are incremental increases when needed. Administrator Darrington explained that he can speak about the rates more generally. If there are specific questions from the Council, Director Winterton can address those.

Administrator Darrington reviewed the table and pointed out culinary water, storm drain, garbage, and recycling. There is a recommendation of a 3% increase there to assist with the costs. The table includes information from 2019 to 2025. He noted that the garbage rate had not changed for a long time, mainly because the fund was performing well. Two years ago, a change was made, and a fall cleanup was added. The fall and spring cleanup leads to a substantial cost to the City. While it is something popular that is done for residents, there are corresponding costs to cover.

The sewer rate was discussed next. Administrator Darrington noted that it has stayed fairly stable due to the health of that fund. However, there has been a significant change in the Timpanogos Special Service District ("TSSD"). For the most part, the City is taking care of the collection and TSSD is taking care of the treatment. He reported that there is a treatment plant to the west by Utah Lake. Some changes are happening at that level and that has increased rates. The recommended increase from TSSD is \$9.93 per month for residents. On the utility bill, there are two different sewer charges: TSSD and Pleasant Grove City. The TSSD charge will be the section of rate that will increase. He acknowledged that it is a substantial increase. It is important to educate residents on the sewer costs, collection, and the treatment process. Administrator Darrington clarified that the increase being discussed is on the TSSD portion.

Director Winterton reported that TSSD held a public hearing in November because their rates are done on a calendar year. Their rate has already increased, and the City has been covering that because the fund was able to do so until now. TSSD charges \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons and that increased to \$4.30 per 1,000 gallons. There has not been an increase in those fees in 10 years.

A question was asked about the \$55.07 listed in the table and how much the Pleasant Grove portion was. Director Winterton explained that the \$55.07 is an average household based on approximately 7,000 gallons. The amount will depend on the gallons used per month. The proposal is \$32.28 for a base fee, and it is currently \$26.59 for a base fee. He doesn't have the exact number at the moment to indicate the percentage split between Pleasant Grove and TSSD.

Director Winterton shared additional information about the structure. Council Member Andersen noted that there is a TSSD line item on the utility bill. Council Members wanted to see the full TSSD amount listed rather than the City taking on some of that, as this can cause confusion.



Administrator Darrington reminded Council Members that this is a Work Session discussion item, and no action is being taken on proposed utility increases at the current time. City Staff will sit down and look more closely at the line item. He explained that TSSD is a base rate and is not based on consumption the way billing is done in the City. It was reiterated that City Staff will work on this and bring something back to the City Council at the next City Council Meeting.

Administrator Darrington explained that the budget will not be adopted until the end of June, so this will likely impact the August bills. There is still time to work through the concerns expressed. It was reiterated that there are concerns about how the numbers will appear on the bill. It is important to accurately inform citizens where the increases are coming from. Council Member Rogers pointed out that some residents live on fixed budgets. The increase may cause some difficulties. He asked if it is possible to spread the increase out over the next couple of years. Administrator Darrington offered to look into that possibility and bring the matter back to the Council.

1) **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE MAY 7, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA.**

Staff Reports were shared with the Council. HR Director, David Packard, reminded those present that the annual recognition event will take place on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There were a lot of nominations for deserving employees, so the Recognition Committee is hard at work.

Library and Arts Director, Sheri Britsch, reported that the Historic Preservation Commission held an event at Old Town Hall. The presentation was about the Pleasant Grove connections to the Mormon Battalion. There were many interesting stories shared and approximately 30 people attended. Director Britsch informed the Council that the Historic Preservation Commission won an award from the State Preservation Office and there will be a presentation of the award. “Drowsy Chaperone” is currently playing, and the music is impressive. From May 1 through May 4, there will be Star Wars events happening. Every day, after school hours, there are Storm Troopers and Darth Vader at the library. There are a lot of fun and meaningful events happening in the community.

Director Giles thanked the Chamber for coming out yesterday to assist with the cleanup of the Discovery Park playground. The Itty-Bitty Trail was completed, which is a trail for young riders learning how to ride. He reported that Thursday is Arbor Day at Manila Creek and on Saturday there is the Velo LOVE event. Last year, there were 100 participants, and the hope is to see that many again this year. June 1 will be the annual trail day with the high school team. There are 134 in the Biking Vikings. Every high school group locally has over 100 members. Council Member Rogers discussed the Beautification Committee. The Committee is putting together the route for the Strawberry Days garden tour. Anyone with suggestions can reach out to the Committee.

Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger, reported that things are going well in the department. The spring sports programs are underway, including baseball, volleyball, and basketball. The rentals have increased, which is a revenue opportunity that will be capitalized on. The department is ready for summer and planning efforts are underway. There is a desire to add a Run Like a Viking 5K.

Chief Brown reported that a Facebook post was made last week about bicycles and the Murdock Trail. He clarified that the intention is to make sure the trail is safe and create a safe space for all.

Director Winterton stated that there are orange cones throughout the City, as there are a lot of projects taking place at the moment. There are 2,800 meters in the ground for the secondary system. Some leaks are currently being fixed. The system is approximately 95% filled, and by tomorrow, it will be 100% filled. This work will be done by the May 1 turn-on date for pressurized irrigation. Director Winterton reported that runoff is looking good, and monitoring is being done.

The City cleanup is underway and is going well so far. Director Winterton believed the notifications had been useful. He reported that open bids were done for the diversion project. It is a \$10 million project, and two bids were received, one for \$10 million and one for \$20 million. The irrigation companies will need to pay their portion. It will be brought forward once the financing has been finalized. Director Winterton stated that there is a lot of sidewalk replacement happening. There has never been this robust of a sidewalk or concrete replacement in the history of the City. A lot of calls have been received about the areas chosen, but he explained that roadway areas that were being rehabilitated were prioritized. The same will be done next year as well. He reported that a road plan will be produced and then some concrete work will be done in those areas.

Attorney Petersen stated that the property purchase on 600 West closed, and the deed was recorded.

Administrator Darrington reported that the Fire Department had a trench rescue a few weeks ago and likely saved the life of an individual. He thought it was important to recognize those involved. That will be arranged so others are aware of the wonderful service offered by the Fire Department. Administrator Darrington informed the Council that there is a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday at 11:00 a.m. for a mobile business. The ribbon cutting will take place in the Chamber Offices in City Hall. He added that the Volunteer Dinner will take place on April 29, 2024, at Stonegate at 6:00 p.m. Council Members were asked to RSVP for the Volunteer Dinner.

There is a change to the June schedule. Normally, the City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month. In June, the third Tuesday is Strawberry Days, so that meeting is generally moved to the fourth Tuesday. The first Tuesday in June will be the public hearing on the budget. The second meeting in June will be when the budget is adopted. However, the fourth Tuesday of the month is the primary election for State offices. The meeting needs to be moved to Monday, June 24, 2024, instead. Administrator Darrington will send out calendar reminders to the Council.

As for the next City Council Meeting, the Tentative Budget will be reviewed as well as some easements, and a Master Services Agreement. The Work Session will include a Fire Department presentation. There may be a few other items discussed during the Work Session as well.

## 2) **MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS.**

Council Member Andersen reported that she will be out of town for the next couple of weeks. She is disappointed that she will miss the Volunteer Dinner and the City Council Meeting.

Council Member Eric Jensen thanked those who attended the Utah County Business Summit. There were impressive speakers and panel discussions. He discussed a recent service project and expressed appreciation for the crew that helped out. It was also noted that there was a ribbon cutting recently. Council Member Jensen stated that he is excited about the employee appreciation lunch. He informed those present that the Chamber Golf Tournament is on May 17, 2024.

Council Member LeMone expressed her appreciation to the Chamber for their desire to support businesses. Her husband is now a business owner in Pleasant Grove and had a good experience with the City overall. She noted that there were some challenges with the County, but not the City.

Council Member Williams noted that feedback has been received from citizens about the Alpine School District split. He thought it was important for the City to get ahead of that as much as possible. There are a lot of proposals and there has been some discussion. He wanted the City Council to sit down and form a recommendation. From there, it will be possible to share that recommendation with others. It was noted that this can happen through Interlocal Agreements, or the matter can be put on the ballot. Other Council Members felt that more information was needed.

Council Member Williams wanted to understand what will happen if Orem, Lindon, Vineyard, Pleasant Grove, Lehi, Highland, and Alpine join in an Interlocal Agreement. For instance, how that will impact the revenue and the assets in those cities. Administrator Darrington noted that some information has been sent out and more information should be released shortly.

Administrator Darrington reported that the school district has hired a consultant to do an analysis and share different options. Each option has a financial impact. The City Council can have a robust discussion about this during a Work Session. Otherwise, he can meet with Council Members two at a time to review the consultant report so there is a basic understanding. The school district sent out a survey to parents and stakeholders, so feedback is currently being received.

Cities have the power to create a school district and potentially have the power to come together and state what there is a desire to see in the district. If cities decide to take control of the process, that could undermine the process that the school district has underway. The first step is to educate Council Members on the current situation. There was support for a Work Session related to that.

Attorney Petersen reported that the school district has posted the presentation the consulting firm gave to the school district. The presentation reviews each of the options and there are also presentation slides available. The City Council can have a discussion, but according to the school district, the information has already been provided. Council Members expressed a desire to have Work Session discussions, so concerns can be shared, and a path forward can be contemplated.

Administrator Darrington thought it was best to educate Council Members on the report. However, he wants to be careful about an open discussion that mentions cities where there might be alignment. He does not want the City Council to be too far in front of this, as it is a process the City may or may not be able to fully control. The presentation materials mentioned earlier could be shared with Council Members. It was suggested that an education session take place at the next Work Session and some of the options be discussed. The next steps can be determined at that time.

Council Member Rogers noted that during the retreat, there were discussions about the downtown area. He wanted to meet with Administrator Darrington to see if there were any funds the City could allocate towards events specific to the downtown. Administrator Darrington reported that a certain amount was set aside for events, so there can be discussions with the Coalition.

Council Member Rogers went to some presentations about open and public meetings. Something that was talked about was free speech during public meetings. He learned more about the legal standards that Council Members need to uphold. He stressed the importance of leading with kindness, even when that kindness is not given to the Council. Another part of the presentation had to do with social media accounts. Any posts made on personal social media accounts can become discoverable through a GRAMA request if the account deals with City business.

Administrator Darrington offered to research further so there is clarity about what is and is not a record. Council Member Rogers noted that one of the speakers stated that if something is posted on a personal page that relates to City business, it opens up the personal messages on that account if those deal with City business. Administrator Darrington shared an example where a citizen was blocked from the social media page of a City Manager. The City Manager posted on their page about City business, and the citizen criticized the manager and was blocked. The citizen then sued.

There was discussion about the example scenario shared. Administrator Darrington explained that during the presentation he attended, it was stated that an individual Council Member is not authorized to speak for the City. As a result, there was not as much clarity about social media use for the Council. Council Member Rogers asked that additional research be done for clarity.

Council Member LeMone does not feel Council Members should have to deal with profanity or obscenities. She treats others with kindness, but it is not appropriate to ask the Council to tolerate profanity from residents. Council Member Rogers clarified that his earlier comment about that came from court language during the presentation. Mayor Fugal stated that residents have not been prevented from addressing the Council. Council Member Rogers reiterated that he simply chose to read the court rule for education purposes. It was not directed at anyone in particular.

3) **SIGNING OF THE GORDON GROVE SUBDIVISION PLAT B.**

The Mayor and Council signed the Gordon Grove Subdivision Plat B.

4) **REVIEW CALENDAR.**

5) **ADJOURN.**

**ACTION:** At 7:40 p.m. Council Member Williams moved to ADJOURN. Council Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, Jensen, Williams, LeMone, and Rogers voting “Yes”.

The City Council Minutes of April 23, 2024, were approved by the City Council on May 21, 2024.

Wendy Thorpe

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Wendy Thorpe, CMC  
City Recorder

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