

CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS
February 9, 2010

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in workshop session at 6:04 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Carl Morck, Ted York, Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, Chief of Police John Love, Parks and Recreation Director Walt Bratton, and Accounting Supervisor Chris Meats. Public Information Coordinator Stephen Pyles, Recreation Supervisor Katie Duncombe, City Planner John Dahlgren, and Information Technologists Tina Knezovich and Jessica Noel were also present.

Presentation on *Community for Early Learning*

Carla Hester-Croff representing the Community for Early Learning gave a power point presentation. She stated the committee is an adhoc group of citizens that are concerned about the early learning issues in Sweetwater County. Their purpose is to bring to the table questions and concerns the committee has regarding the Child Development Center plans and how they relate to the one penny tax. Ms. Hester-Croff stated the committee believes the CDC has high quality staff, high success rate with school readiness, long positive history of success and one-on-one relationship with parents. She gave statistic on the child care facilities in Sweetwater County. Ms. Hester-Croff stated there are a few unanswered questions regarding this issue. Questions include: Is there a business plan in place? What is the cost of to build the building? Where will the buildings be located, who is designing the building, and how many child care facilities have they built? What is the operational budget and where is the money coming from? If funding is available for CDC, could it include other things like before and after school programs, child care and preschool. She stated the community needs to be educated on what the needs are and what the plan is.

Mayor Castillon stated he was not aware of any plan as of yet. The Mayor stated the different committees and groups need to inform the citizens about their needs so they could make informed decisions. He invited the committee to stay and address this during the 6th Penny discussion at the workshop.

Community Development Center Regional Coordinator Ann Owens addressed some of the questions asked by the committee. She stated they have contracted with an architect to draw some plans to the cost of \$77,000. The plans have been given to City Planner John Dahlgren and they are in the process of meeting with the development committee to make sure all the city's needs are met. They have signed a ninety-nine year lease for 2.5 acres located next to the Green River Recreation Center.

Ms. Owens stated CDC currently assists the Head Start Program by providing all of their special education to about thirty students. The assistance is provided at the Head Start's classrooms. Four hundred and thirty children throughout Sweetwater County are currently enrolled at the CDC, plus they have two programs for children without disabilities. One serves at risk children and the other is Aids to Families of Dependent Children Program. These two programs are partially funded by United Way and the rest comes from the CDC budget.

They are in the process of contracting with a public relations firm to assist them with educating the public on the Child Development Center and why they need to raise the money to get a new building. Ms Owens stated it cost them \$65,000 to move this year. They are currently at Expedition Academy. She voiced her appreciation to the School District for their assistance.

United Way Board of Directors member George Jost expressed support for the Child Development Center program. He also expressed support for day care programs throughout the city.

Council Member Rust stated he supports the Child Development Center and is in favor of placing it as a 6th penny project.

On Line Website Design Demonstration

Information Technologists Jessica Noel and Tina Knezovich gave a brief demonstration on the new city website. Ms. Knezovich stated they have been working on this project for the past year. The website should be up and running on March 19, 2010.

Council Member Boan expressed his support for the project and also stated it would be a good tool to communicate with the public.

Flaming Gorge Scenic Byways Committee

City of Green River Chamber of Commerce Director Janet Hartford and Dave Hanks with the Chamber of Commerce for the City of Rock Springs updated council on the project. Ms. Hartford stated they have been working on this project with the Utah side of the Flaming Gorge Scenic Byway for the past ten and half years. Their goal is for an All American Road Status which would bring in more tourism to Sweetwater County. Mr. Hanks stated that if they partner with the Utah side it would be easier to get the status of the All American Road. The new Visitor's Center that is going to be built in Green River will be a portal for the byway and the City of Rock Springs is also building a visitor's center which will also be a portal for the byway.

Mr. Hanks reviewed the quarter management plan and what it would take to coordinate with the many entities to complete the project. They have received a \$33,000 grant to update the management plan. They are requesting \$1,000 from the City of Green River to hire a coordinator to help update the quarter management plan. He stated they cannot use the grant funds for the coordinator.

Council Member McCullough suggested placing the request on the February 16th Council Agenda.

Fire Department Annual Report

Fire Chief Mike Kennedy gave an overview of the Fire Departments activities and incidents responded to in 2009. He stated the Fire Department responds to several locations within the county between mile marker 57 to mile marker 95 and assists the Castle Rock Ambulance when needed. They also assist in Manila, Utah. Mr. Kennedy gave statistics on training time and the number of response calls.

Council Member McCullough expressed appreciation to the department and stated they are a loyal and much needed department.

Urban Renewal Agency

Ms. Hansen summarized the three hour long workshop between the URA and the Main Street Board that took place on January 29, 2010. She stated it was a very productive workshop.

She summarized the following are key points from the workshop:

1. The Urban Renewal Area was not adopted and defined by Resolution as required by State Statute. It was adopted by Ordinance but still requires a resolution.
2. Under what part of State Statute does "design review" fall under?
 - Urban Renewal Project" – closest match.
3. "Urban Renewal Projects" have specific statutory procedures that were not followed.
 - Must have an Urban Renewal Area designated by Resolution – not completed.
 - Must have an Urban Renewal Plan that has gone through required procedures (P&Z review, public hearings, etc.) – not completed. The Community Revitalization Plan was adopted by the City Council but the Planning and Zoning Commission did not review at a public hearing, nor did the Council.
 - Urban Renewal Projects must have public hearing – not completed.

After discussion of the issues, six different paths to correct the URA issues were outlined. In addition, one extra path was proposed. The parts are as follows:

1. Leave it alone and do nothing – based on attorney advice, this is not really an option.
2. Dissolve the URA if it is determined that the need for it does not exist.

- After a discussion of the benefits of the Urban Renewal Agency (if performing as outlined by State Statute), it was unanimously agreed that the Urban Renewal Agency should still exist but should be reformed to perform the duties outlined by State Statutes rather than function only as a design review board.
3. Keep the URA as a separate board but start over – repeal design review and start over with correct URA responsibilities.
 4. Keep URA but merge with Main Street – repeal design review and start over with correct URA responsibilities
 5. Dissolve URA and create Downtown Development Agency from the ground up (as a separate board)
 6. Dissolve URA and create DDA/Main Street.
 7. Option presented at workshop – Merge Main Street with Future’s Inc.

After reviewing the pros and cons of various options, individual input was given by each person in attendance Option 3 received the most votes. Option 4 and Option 7 tied for second.

The course of action that was selected was to keep the URA as a separate board from Main Street, repeal the design review ordinance, and redevelop the URA as a board operating in the capacity that it should be under: which is working under redevelopment and revitalization and not design review. It was mutually agreed that there is still a need for design review, but the URA is not the board do it. Design review could be handled through overlay district and zoning codes.

Ms. Hansen stated that the URA operated at little to no expense, other than necessary office supplies and advertising costs. These costs are taken out of the Community Revitalization budget. The board should consist of five members, all of which are volunteers. The first URA meeting was held today. It was an extremely productive meeting and everyone was excited to start over and do things correctly. They started working on what are some smaller area they might want to focus on.

There was discussion regarding the design review and Ms. Hansen stated it would be handled through the zoning ordinance and recommendations from the P&Z Commission. She will work with the city attorney to repeal the current ordinance.

Council Member Boan expressed appreciation for the work the committee is doing.

Recycling Update

Solid Waste Supervisor Linda Roosa gave an update on the City’s recycling efforts. She presented a comparison worksheet showing the revenues and expenditures for the program. Ms. Roosa stated they have created a Recycling Task Force and are partnering with local businesses in Green River and Rock Springs to work together on labor costs and the exchanging work efforts. She mentioned the types of commodities currently being collected for recycling.

Ms. Roosa shared information on the baler they are interested in purchasing. The cost of the baler is \$20,000.

There was discussion regarding the transfer station and the cost of a new baler versus the used baler they are interested in buying.

Council Member McCullough stated this is a worthwhile request. Council Member Boan, Maes and the Mayor expressed support for the project.

Overland State Stampede Rodeo Parking Lot

City Administrator Cook stated the rodeo committee had come to him requesting additional parking. He pointed out three options for consideration:

- 1 Pay for additional busing to transport people to the event and use existing parking. Fiscal Impact: Approximate \$2,000
- 2 Construct a new parking lot across the street – Fiscal impact: \$89,000 plus cost for fencing

- 3 Use the Fire Department training facility area. *The Fire Department is strongly against this option. Mr. Cook does not recommend this option as the area is no longer an overflow parking area for rodeo events, but is now a fenced-in training area for many different emergency programs.* Fiscal Impact: Cost for security at the training facility

Mr. Cook recommended using Option #1.

Overland Stage Stampede Committee Member John Holladay and Paul Hester stated people do not like to ride the bus. They are in favor of using the Fire Department training facility area. Mr. Hester suggested using the Search and Rescue to do the security. They stated they are not in favor of the city spending \$89,000 for a parking lot.

Fire Chief Kennedy expressed the training center is not a parking lot. The facility has fire hydrants and electrical services and he explained the liability issues. The area is not an acceptable parking lot because it has no parking blocks or curbing and in the past when the facility was used there was some damage, and trash was left on the property.

Numerous options were discussed. Council Member McCullough is not in favor of Option 2, but suggested the area be leveled and possibly graveled and fencing be installed. Council Member York concurred with Council Member McCullough except he did not feel a fence was necessary. Council Member Boan suggested moving the arena to a new location east of the horse corrals. This would eliminate parking problems. Council Member Maes suggested using magnesium chloride on the surface after it is graded. Council Member Rust stated there needs to be a fence because of liability issues. The Mayor stated he is also in favor of leveling the area.

Mr. Nelson stated that the crushed asphalt was used for the city alleys and they would need to install a fence or some sort of barrier to keep the spectator away from the sewer ponds.

Discussion on 6th Penny Capital Projects

Mayor Castillon suggested the Council present the projects they want to include, as a package, to the County Commissions for placement on the ballot. He explained any facility paid for by the 6th penny would be owned by the City. Therefore, if the CDC or Child Care facility is included, the city would own the building and would lease it to the child care entities.

Rachel Todd from the Green River Coop Preschool requested an update on the original request to locate with the Child Development Center Building to be located next to the Recreation Center. There was discussion on the past decision to lease the city property to CDC and not include the Green River Coop Preschool. Micki Pence explained they are required to have their own address and cannot be adjacent to another facility. She stated the playground cannot be used at the same time.

Mayor Castillon asked Council to list their preferences of projects to include for the 6th penny Capital Projects. The projects are as follows:

- Council Member Rust: (1) Child Development Center, (2) Police Department Building
- Council Member York: (1) Police Department Building, (2) Child Development Center
- Council Member Maes: (1) Child Development Center, (2) Alternate Road, (3) Rodeo Arena Improvements
- Council Member Boan: (1) Community Center, (2) Police Department Building, (3) Child Development Center
- Council Member McCullough: (1) Infrastructure, (2) Recreation Center Expansion, (3) Service Road, (4) Child Development Center *as a Stand Alone Request*

- Council Member Morck: (1) Police Department Building (2) Child Development Center *as a Stand Alone Request*
- Mayor Castillon: (1) Recreation Center Expansion to include the Child Development Center, (2) Police Department Building, (3) Alternate Road between Green River and Rock Springs

Council Member McCullough expressed if their list is approved by the Commissioners the next step is to get the people to vote for it. Mayor Castillon concurred and stated they would need to be aggressive.

Council Member Rust stated now they need accurate cost estimates for each project.

City Administrator's Report

None

Mayor and Council Reports

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk