

CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS
August 10, 2010

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in workshop session at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Council President Tom McCullough called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Pete Rust, Ted York, Jim Boan, Carl Morck and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: Acting City Administrator Debbie Klein Robertson, Director of Public Works Mike Nelson, Acting Director of Finance Trish Mansfield, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, Parks and Recreation Director Walt Bratton, Parks Supervisor Allan Wilson, Urban Renewal Main Street Administrator John Dahlgren, Building Inspector Dave Allred, Animal Control Officer Tracy Wyant, and Public Information Coordinator Stephen Pyles.

Council candidate Dick Wilson was also present.

Petition for Dog Park

Doris Migliori stated she goes to the Rock Springs Dog Park to exercise her dog a couple time a week. The dog park there is beautiful. There are a lot of elderly people in Green River that would like a similar place to let their dogs run. She thought it was a good idea so she took it upon herself to collect the signatures on the petition. She asked the governing body to consider budgeting for a dog park next year in the area across the FMC Bridge in FMC Park or an area next to Stratton Myers Park.

Allan Wilson stated he had done a lot of research on the issue. He recommended the open area between the new animal control center and the horse corrals for the possible location of the park, because water will be available for landscaping. He doesn't recommend a pond because of the maintenance issues involved. If the council is in favor of the park, he recommended they budget \$75,000 to \$100,000 for the FYE12 budget. That would provide the landscaping for the park and also the animal control center. He noted the Rock Springs Dog Park cost \$500,000. He also recommended the park users police the park themselves. Mr. Wilson estimated it would cost approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year to operate the park.

Responding to a question from Council Member Boan, Ms. Migliori stated she acted on her own to gather signatures for the petition. There is no formal group that can do a fundraiser or collect money to construct the park.

Mr. Wilson stated if the council budgeted for the park, the work would be done in-house. He could setup a volunteer work day, and accept tree or bench donations. People could also volunteer to keep the park clean.

Council Member McCullough noted it would be up to the future council to make a decision on whether they wanted the park and to budget for it.

Parks System Tree Removal

Mr. Wilson noted several green ash trees within the park system (approximately 150) and also along Flaming Gorge Way have oyster scale. The Parks Department has been trying to get a handle on the problem. The 42 trees along Flaming Gorge Way, and 7 on Uinta Drive have been treated with Safari which is very expensive. The chemical was recommended by the state forest service. They will also be removing the dead and diseased areas from the trees and they are going to look pretty bad for about four years. Other trees that have been weakened by the drought and are diseased are aspens and lilacs. There are also diseased dutch elms. He believes the lilacs will recover, but the aspens won't. He estimates the city will lose one-half to one-third of the trees.

Mr. Wilson also explained how the dead trees along Flaming Gorge Way will be removed so they won't have to dig up the street or the sidewalk. He also explained the chemical treatment process, and other chemicals that can be used that are less expensive but take longer to take effect.

Mr. Wilson stated only diseased trees that are 80% to 90% gone will be removed.

Addressing questions from Council Member Maes, Mr. Wilson stated three ladies on the Tree Advisory Board have been inventorying the trees, watching for outbreaks and talking to people about proper pruning.

Responding to questions from Council Member York, Mr. Wilson stated the soil in the area on the east entrance to the city is being treated in an effort to save the trees in that area. The soil is highly contaminated with diesel fuel and alkaline.

Viaduct Project Update

Mr. Dahlgren noted the contractor had a one year contract to complete this phase of the project by early April. He noted several issues (Sprint fiber, rainy weather, purchase of bearing plates, and the re-design of the south ramp to meet ADA requirements) have delayed the completion of the project this fall as the contractor had expected. The current issue is getting the concrete work done before the weather gets cold. The contractor expects 90% of the project will be done by autumn.

Mr. Wilson explained the problems with the curing process needed for the concrete, and how the bearing plates allow movement of the structure without breaking the concrete. The bearing plates have been ordered, but the delay in getting them is with the manufacturer not the contractor. He also explained why the south ramp had to be lengthened to allow resting areas in order to meet ADA requirements. Mr. Wilson noted the railroad yard master has been very helpful and cooperative with the project so far. He also stated the speed limit around the construction area has been lowered because of safety concerns.

Mr. Wilson noted this phase of the project is being paid for through grants. He also let the council know he might have to come to them for a change order because of the changes to the handrails and the ramps. The next phase to repair the middle section will be very expensive (estimated at \$1 to \$1.5 million) because of the railroad, and there is no money budgeted for the next phase.

Council Member York thought everything was looking really good, and he commended the crews on their work.

Council Member Rust stated he was looking forward to using the ideas from Blue Canopy for the viaduct to encourage people to stop and visit Green River.

City Administrator's Report

Ms. Robertson gave the governing body the following updates:

- The demolition of the old animal control center is scheduled to start on September 20th.
- A \$9,000 budget resolution will be presented at the next council meeting for the replacement of a park's truck bed that was red tagged.
- The air conditioning at the GRRC hasn't been working since July 1st:
Mr. Wilson stated the system lost compression, and they have replaced the compressor seven times over the last ten years. The Ballard Group was hired to analyze the system, and he will be meeting with them tomorrow. Ballard will come back with recommendations to repair the system, and he will come back to the governing body to discuss the funding needed for the repair.
- Dispatch Center: In order to vacate the building needed for the dispatch center, Public Works needs to construct a storage facility similar to the parks facility at Stratton Myers Park to store \$600,000 of equipment currently being stored at the Shoshone building. The estimated cost of the new building is \$240,000 which could be completed by March of 2011. Chief Love has asked for permission to allow Plan One Architects to go into the building to start the design work.
- The next council meeting will be on August 16, 2010 instead of August 17, 2010.
- Upland Way will be closed tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to work being done on the Southeast Water Improvement Project.

Responding to a question from Council Member McCullough regarding complaints on the construction site at the Mesa Development at 700 Shoshone Avenue, Building Inspector Dave Allred stated staff has been working on the problem. The contractor has cleaned up some of the area, and he has suggested the developer build a fence around the area where the construction equipment and supplies are sitting.

Mr. Allred noted they receive four to ten complaints a day. He encouraged citizens to call in with their complaints and staff will get to them as soon as possible.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Morck had nothing to report.

Council Member Boan stated he would like to reduce the senior citizen's GRRC monthly pass fee from \$15 to \$1. Council Members McCullough, Morck and York felt the \$15 fee was low enough, noting it was half of the normal \$30 fee. Council Members Maes and Rust agreed with Mr. Boan to reduce the fee to \$1.

Council Member York noted snakes are an issue right now, and they have been seen up around the Hunter's Run development.

Council Member McCullough reminded everyone about the change in the next council meeting date from Tuesday, August 17th to Monday, August 16th. He also reminded election candidates they had a form that needed to be turned in tomorrow.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk