

**CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS
February 8, 2011**

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in workshop session at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, Lisa Maes, Adam Coppolo, Gene Smith, and Gary Killpack. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Director of Public Works Mike Nelson, Director of Finance Jeff Nieters, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, Director of Human Resources Debbie Klein Robertson, Chief of Police John Love, Fire Chief/Emergency Services Mike Kennedy, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Allan Wilson, and Public Information Coordinator Stephen Pyles.

The Mayor noted the addition of an event proposal from Cindy Brandjord to the agenda.

Green River Cable New Digital TV Channels

Marty Carollo, from Green River Cable Television, said on February 14, 2011 the cable company will go to digital channels. A converter will be needed for each TV that is not digital. The cable company will offer the first two converters per household at no cost to their customers. Any other converters will be \$2.50 each.

Green River Cable Television has been planning this change since it will be mandated that everyone goes to digital by 2013. They decided to change over early so they can provide their customers with better services.

Council Member Smith said he put one of the converters on his TV and he noticed channel 11 showing that it is interrupted and will return.

Mr. Carollo said that is a channel that is broadcasted from Casper and they have had a lot of trouble getting a good connection through their lines into Green River. So they cannot do anything to fix that channel.

Council Member Maes said sometimes when the channels are running it stops and that is frustrating.

Mr. Carollo said they are trying to fix these issues and hope people are patient with them while they do so. He is hoping that when they change over on February 14, 2011 it will fix most of these problems.

Extreme Country Stampede Tour

Cindy Brandjord wasn't able to give her presentation on the coming bull riding event, and she asked if she could present it on February 15, 2011.

Council Member Boan asked if she had made any contractual commitments for this event.

Council Member Maes said Ms. Brandjord had not made any commitments to anyone. She was waiting to see if she could get fees waived and people to help before she made commitments. She was looking into a grant to help with the cost. Ms. Maes asked Mr. Wilson if Mrs. Brandjord had called to reserve the rodeo arena.

Allan Wilson, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, said she had not. There will be baseball leagues and other activities that will be going on around the same time so he will have to see what is available.

Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Stephen Capson, CPA at Karren, Hendricks, Stagg, Allen Company, said they did not have any significant audit findings. He said there is information on government financial statements available in Mr. Meats' office.

Council Member McCullough asked if the city will have to raise the cost of Wastewater and Solid Waste fees.

Mr. Capson said if the enterprise funds are in the negative and they do not pay for themselves for multiple years, then yes.

Strategic Plan Tracking Program

Mr. Cook said the city has been tracking the seven goals that council has set up in the Strategic Plan: upgrade city infrastructure with capacity for growth, plan and prepare for quality growth, create a vibrant downtown and riverfront, enhance the quality of resident's lives, expand Green River as a tourist destination, improve city facilities and services, and internal operations. They are being tracked by percentage and dates with a department head in charge of progress.

Charles Dayton said that execution of the plan is very important. He has developed an online system called an accountability grid. This basically states that once the priorities are set they are followed. He congratulated staff on the 100% completion of many goals. He said he is impressed on the amount of goals that were completed.

The Mayor said the strategic plan is available online on the city website. The plan will be updated and added too as projects are completed. He thanked Mr. Dayton for his assistance.

Six Month Budget Review for Fiscal 2010-2011

Mr. Nieters said the revenue from State Sales Tax is 10% more than what was estimated and the Local Sales Tax is 9% higher than estimated. He anticipated a downtrend because of the new census numbers. He said the census numbers will not be announced until April.

The General Fund expenditures: General Government 48%, Police 52%, Fire Department 43%, Community Development Department 45%, Public Works Department 47%, and Parks and Recreation Department 49%. The Enterprise Funds: Solid Waste is 37%, Wastewater is 47%, and the Water is 60%.

Council Member McCullough asked if they would have to raise the cost for wastewater services.

Mr. Nieters said yes. This will be discussed later during budget.

The Mayor asked about the possibility of reusing the water that is put back into the river after it goes through the plant. He asked why the city doesn't get money back for the water they return to the river.

Mr. Nelson said the city could not recycle the water that will go to the river because the Joint Power's Water Board requires all the water the city needs to be purchased through them. The water would have to be treated for contaminants and the requirements for doing so is very expensive. Even when you use it for irrigation it would have to be cleaned in order to meet the requirements.

Council Member Coppolo said we should be getting some sort of credit back for recycling the water.

Mr. Cook said it is considered usage and it does not matter how you use it.

Council Member Killpack said we are not giving the water back to the Joint Powers Water Board so that is why we are not getting money back.

Council Member Smith said it would not meet the irrigation standards. We could look into adding to the plant in order for this to be done but the cost could be high.

Council Member Coppolo said in other areas they use aerobic system where the water is chlorinated to kill bacteria and then used for irrigation. This could be looked into as an option.

Council Member Boan asked how much water is put back into the river every year.

Mr. Nelson said around 1 million gallons a day on average.

Council Member Boan said it might be worth it to look into irrigation in order to water parks. Once we buy the water it is ours to do with it as we please.

Mr. Nelson said the City of Rock Springs did this many years ago and there were a lot of restrictions and regulations that had to be followed in order to use it for irrigation.

Mr. Nieters said the estimated amount of water used per year is one billion one hundred ninety thousand cubic feet.

The Mayor said we are basically on track with the budget. He asked if there are any problems that Mr. Nieters sees coming.

Mr. Nieters said the only one he sees that could cause a problem is the population numbers coming in and we will not get any one time funding.

Council Member Smith said we brought more money in than estimated, we have spent less money than estimated, and the Risk Management Fund is low so where is the money.

Mr. Nieters said we did not spend any less. The expenditures are running at 50% of what was budgeted for the year.

Council Member Coppolo asked how much money should be in the Risk Management Fund.

Mr. Nieters said around three million dollars. The city has that amount in there so the interest earnings can pay for insurance. The cost for insurance is higher than it was in the past. There is an increase on funds of \$1.5 million and this is not allocated into any fund yet so it can be put back into the Risk Management Fund.

Council Member Boan asked why the insurance was so high.

Ms. Robertson said the insurance is higher because property insurance spiked, liability insurance is up, and the School District requires us to have additional coverage when we use their buildings for events.

Council Member McCullough asked when the census report comes in later will they come and say we owe money back to them for January through April.

Mr. Nieters said he does not see that happening.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Nieters and staff for keeping them on track with the budget.

City Administrator's Report

Mr. Cook said the funding for local governments in the legislator is not going well. The only one left on the floor that will help cities and towns is the supplemental budget amendment that will add \$10 million for direct distribution.

He has contacted the Department of Environmental Quality on the status of the Union Pacific property. DEQ has been in contact with Union Pacific in the past but the case worker has been on maternity leave for a year. She asked that she be given time to review the plans and then she will give an update to him.

The Joint Powers Communications Board lease for the building on Shoshone will start on February 1, 2011.

He forwarded information to council on the Gillette, Wyoming water project and the horse corral leases.

The Fleet Committee met and they changed some of the fleet replacement criteria. Mileage was one change, along with the vehicle classes, and the purchase of used vehicles.

Under the scoring system there are eleven vehicles that need to be replaced. One from the Fire Department, three from the Police Department, three from the Parks Department, two from the Cemetery Division, one from the Buildings Division, and one from the Fleet Division. It is his understanding, with the \$400,000 allocated for the vehicles staff could replace all eleven of the vehicles.

Council Member Smith asked if the total includes the special outfitting for the Police vehicles.

Chief Love said the total does include the equipment for the police vehicles.

Mr. Cook said if council chooses they can give them \$200,000 this year, \$200,000 next year, and they will replace what they can.

Council Member Coppolo asked if it would be better to get an amount every year to replace vehicles.

Mr. Cook said yes, that is why he recommends the \$200,000 now and the \$200,000 next year.

Council Member Boan asked if they went with the \$200,000 now, would the priority be police vehicles.

The Mayor said there needs to be a schedule every year for the replacement of vehicles.

Council Member Maes said if they replace all eleven vehicles that will just kick start the replacement and then they can look into what vehicles need to be replaced next year. She feels they should replace all eleven now.

Council Member McCullough said \$400,000 is already allocated for the vehicles.

Council Member Boan said the money is already set aside for the vehicles, so he agrees with Council Members Maes and McCullough.

Council Member McCullough said he had understood that the money was allocated, and it was up to staff to spend it on the replacement of the vehicles whether that is to replace one or all eleven.

Council Member Killpack said let's stay with what is already done and replace all eleven with the \$400,000.

The Mayor asked if the changes made on the vehicle replacement criteria needs to be adopted by the council.

Mr. Cook said no.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Members Smith and McCullough had nothing to report.

Council Member Coppolo said the presentation on the audit was good.

Council Member Maes commended the Finance Department on a job well done. She was disgusted with the legislators and their decisions. She encourages everyone to contact their legislators.

Council Members Boan and Killpack had nothing to report.

The Mayor said he was upset with the way things have turned out with the legislators. It will be difficult to do projects with the \$200,000 we might receive.

He thanked Mr. Capson and Mr. Dayton on their presentations. He also thanked Mr. Nieters and his staff for a job well done.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk