

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

The governing body of the City of Green River met in workshop session at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Gary Killpack, Gene Smith, Adam Coppolo, Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Allan Wilson, Recreation Supervisors: Kevin Sadler, Katie Duncombe, and Sherry Schumacher, Police Lieutenant Burke Morin, and Public Affairs Specialist Stephen Pyles.

The following were present representing the School District #2: Superintendent Donna Little-Kaumo, Business Manager Pete Brandjord, Assistant Superintendent Jamie Christensen, and School Board Member John Malone.

Discussion on Cooperative Agreements with School District #2

Sherry Schumacher said the School District and the city work together to provide many events and programs to the community.

Athletics - coordinating facilities allows for expansion and facilitation of both recreational and competitive athletics for youth and adults:

- Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Junior Jazz Basketball
- Indoor Soccer
- Adult Volleyball Tournament
- High School Soccer

Safety

- Safe routes for children to access their neighborhood school through the trail system
- All night Graduation Party for Seniors
- Afterschool Program gives supervision to children that may otherwise be alone
- School Resource Officer creates connections with youth and law enforcement

Education Outside of the Classroom

- Community education encompassing health and fitness year round with programs, leagues and camps
- Community education celebrations for Arbor Day, SeeMore Eagle Eye Park Watch Program
- Children provided with home work and reading assistance in the After-School Program

Community Events – together we are making a difference in people’s lives in our community for all ages.

- Bi-monthly meetings between District and City personnel to plan and coordinate efforts
- Evaluation and follow up after events to ensure successful continuation of efforts
- Creating win/win solutions to serve the community

Recreation Leagues

- Indoor Soccer
- Outdoor Soccer
- Junior Jazz Basketball
- Punt, Pass and Kick

- Pee-wee Basketball
- Basketball Camps
- Soccer Camps
- Hershey's Track Meet
- Junior Wolves Football

After School Program

- Three sites available for K-4 children and one site for 5-8 grade students
- 224 children served
- Activities include homework and reading time, crafts, physical activity and character building with supervision

Wellness Program

- Health and Fitness Day
- Collaboration of activities for students between District Wellness Committee and Parks and Recreation Department
- Provides information and experience on multiple items such as: aerobic, nutrition, safety and health
- Adaptive physical education classes
- High School Physical Education Classes

Facilities

- Usage of facilities by community that may otherwise sit empty
- Joint efforts to provide more opportunities for participation. We can accommodate more teams when we have more facilities
- Serving citizens and community youth year round with activities promoting fitness
- Examples include the Summer Day Camps, Athletics Arts Center usage for Physical Education Classes, Summer Athletic Camps

Camps

- Fundamental sports camps teaching youth soccer, basketball, and football
- Usage of school facilities during the off season by the City to offer activities for youth
- Summer camps include: Soccer, Skyhawks, Summer Fun and Plato's.

The City of Green River and the School District #2 are working together to prepare our youth for the future in education, health and fitness.

Mr. Wilson said he wanted the council to know that neither entity charges the other for the use of their facilities. This provides a safe environment for kids and a place for them to go to after school that keeps them out of trouble.

Council Member Coppolo said the after school program costs for insurance is very high. He asked why the city is paying for insurance on these buildings on top of the insurance being paid through the school.

Mr. Wilson said School District #2's liability insurance went up, and in order for us to use their facilities we had to match what they were paying. Otherwise, we could not use their facilities because we could not cover anyone who gets hurt there.

Mr. Brandjord said this is not for the building it is only for personnel liability. He said this is returned also, when the School District uses any of the city buildings they have to match the city's insurance costs.

Mr. Cook said for their information; the cost for liability insurance might be going up in 2012. This cost increase is coming from a Judiciary Committee bill that is being purposed.

Mr. Wilson said this is going to affect all of the users who use the facilities in Green River.

Ms. Kaumo said she is very pleased with the collaboration. She said the programs that are shared are not overlapping. The After School Program is one that cannot be done through the school district. The after school funding the school district receives has to be used for tutoring and research based programs. She constantly hears that there are not enough day-cares in the city, so this program helps families in the community.

Mr. Malone said twelve years ago, there was a fairly large amount of time that was used for intramural sports but that was taken away due to time constraints.

Ms. Duncombe said some of the students go to intramural sports and then to the GRASP Program.

Council Member Boan asked for clarification on the School Resource Officers.

Police Lieutenant Burke Morin said there are two School Resource Officers both of them are sworn officers. One officer is located at the High School and one is at Lincoln. They share the duties for all schools. The School District pays for 50% of their wages and the city pays 50%.

Council Member Boan asked what types of instances are they utilized for.

Police Lieutenant Morin said they are asked to teach, investigate crimes and accidents. Most crimes against children are reported at school so they are able to be an essential part of that right away. The officers have a relationship with the students so they trust them.

Ms. Kaumo said the officers are very busy all day long while they are in the school. It is hard to imagine that they stay busy but they do. The officers help with any abuse cases or drug problems that come up.

Mr. Christensen said the officers have a relationship with the students so the students are more likely to talk to them.

Lieutenant Morin said he is told that the officers need to be present in the halls more often, but they do not have the time. The officers are in uniform, unless they have training or something they have to do.

Mr. Christensen said having communication with the students is essential.

Mr. Brandjord said the fifty percent match is not budgeted in the formula. It is made up through other areas in the district because the school finds it to be very important.

Council Member McCullough said the school district should be commended. Some of the previous administrations did not want the school resource officers there but now they are welcomed.

Ms. Kaumo said this community is very small but there is a drug problem here. The school district has a zero tolerance for drugs but they have taken a stand to help students experiencing problems with drugs.

She said the Police Department informs the members of the school district on scams, drugs, and other things during the bi-monthly meetings. This information is essential and she has learned a lot from it.

Mr. Brandjord said the activities that take place in Green River are a benefit to the community.

Mr. Malone said there were 107 basketball games played in seventy hours during Flaming Gorge Days and those people had to stay somewhere and eat somewhere. Most of them wanted to stay in Green River and do both.

Mr. Wilson said there are a lot of events that are going to take place in Green River in the next year.

Council Member Coppolo asked why the school district is planning for another pool, when there is one in the area already.

Council Member McCullough said the Monroe pool is around 53 years old.

Ms. Kaumo said there are differences between the pools; there is one for recreational use and the other is set up for competition. They are looking into having a separate diving area and therapy pool. When this is done they would like to offer it out to others too.

The Mayor said it is old and it needs to be replaced.

Ms. Kaumo said there is a problem with water safety in the area. She feels it is important that people in the area know about water safety since we are around a lot of water. She would like to have water safety put back into the curriculum, and to do so, they need the space to do it.

Council Member Maes said you would reach people if it is put back into the curriculum. The recreation center has swimming lessons but you have to pay for them. If it is offered in school, you would not have to pay for them and you could catch all the kids.

Ms. Kaumo said they could have the recreation center do the advanced lessons, and the school could do the beginning lessons so it could be carried through on each level.

Mr. Christensen said Ms. Roosa had been assisting them on the design of the pool.

Mr. Cook said the crossing guard program is working well. The School District pays 50% and the city pays 50%

Mr. Brandjord said the Traffic Committee and the Police Department have helped with the traffic issues in the school parking lots and around the schools.

Ms. Kaumo said the signs are great and the crossing guards are great too.

Council Member Coppolo suggested having a school zone area on Shoshone. He said he sees students crossing the street everyday and believes it is a safety issue.

Mr. Cook said the Traffic Committee looked at that and decided there was no need for a crossing guard on that street because they were not being utilized.

Lieutenant Morin said it does not matter if there is a crossing guard posted, the children are not going to walk further to a crossing guard, they are going to cross wherever they happen to be. That is why there was a five block school zone there before.

The Mayor asked if anyone would have any area that they think needs improvements.

Lieutenant Morin said there are no recommendations that he would have for the school resource officer program. Compared to years ago when he was kicked out of a school, things have improved.

Mr. Sadler said it is going well with the school facilities. He is appreciative that the school district gives the city first preference on the availability of the facilities.

Mr. Wilson said having a bi-monthly meeting is helping too. If there are any issues that come up it is discussed in a meeting.

Mr. Wilson said there are some issues that the city and school district will have to work together on like the construction of the Child Development Center. He showed the school district the plans for the CDC building and said the construction will take fourteen months. This could cause some issues with the traffic in the area so he will keep everyone updated.

Ms. Kaumo said she would like to maintain the relationship as it is now.

Mr. Cook said the city would like to look into options where the city and school district can work together on purchasing fuel, vehicles, or fertilizer together for better pricing. He thinks there could be some savings for both sides.

Ms. Kaumo said that is a great idea. The school district has a lot of grass that has to be maintained and she would like to get some ideas on making some of those areas a place for kids.

Council Member Coppolo said there could be some savings if both entities do something with a contract for the maintenance of vehicles.

The Mayor thanked the school district for coming.

Mr. Wilson said his staff would be able to come to the school board meeting to discuss the collaborative agreements if they would like. He suggested having a meeting at least once a year.

Council Member Smith said all the information he received tonight would have been very useful to him before the budget meetings. He suggested having a meeting after the elections and before budget discussions.

Ms. Kaumo said a meeting once a year would be great.

Mr. Wilson suggested having the meeting in January.

The Mayor invited the school board to join in the discussion on legislative issues. They all speak to legislators with one voice. There is a meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the council chambers.

Ms. Kaumo asked about working together on the new pool and possible 6th penny options.

Mayor and Council Reports

The Mayor said they will be meeting to discuss the possibility of 6th penny tax on January 7, 2012 at the Hampton Inn.

Council Member Coppolo said they need to continue with the communication between both entities.

Council Member Maes said working together is important.

Council Member Smith said he is pleased to see the collaborative nature of the relationship. He thanked Mr. Wilson for continuing to educate new council members.

Council Member McCullough said everyone seems to have positive things to say about the meetings and things are moving forward in positive ways.

Council Member Boan said it is nice to see the collaboration. He hopes this continues.

Council Member Killpack echoed all that has been said. He thanked the school board for working together with the city.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk