

**CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
December 15, 2009**

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in regular session at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order and middle school student Rose Klein led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council Members were present: Pete Rust, Carl Morck, Ted York, Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Director of Finance Jeff Nieters, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, City Planner John Dahlgren, Director of Public Works Mike Nelson, Fire Chief/Emergency Services Director Mike Kennedy, Chief of Police John Love, Director of Human Resources Debbie Klein Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director Walt Bratton, City Attorney Ford Bussart, and Public Information Coordinator Stephen Pyles. Main Street Manager Maggie Adams and Recreation Supervisors Alyssa Krumholz, Brenda Roosa, and Sherry Schumacher were also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Castillon added a resolution to correct a legal description contained in Resolution R07-07, and a resolution to adopt the city strategic plan.

Council Member York moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Boan seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

PRESENTATIONS

Military Recognitions

Council Member McCullough presented John Ogden with the state flag, military plaque, and city t-shirt in recognition of his son Corey L. Lawrence who is serving in Iraq.

Harry Holler presented the state flag, military plaque, and city t-shirt to Kristen Boyles in recognition of her son Colby J. Boling who is in advanced training to be an MT. Colby's sister Ally, step-father Bill, and father Mike Boling were also present.

Animal Calendar Contest Winners

Animal Control Officer Tracy Wyant explained their K-12 school programs to teach children about responsible pet ownership, animal safety, and how to handle wild life situations. The contest submissions were judged on their message and art work. Each child was given a gift certificate and art supplies as their names were called. Animal Control Officers Kim Wilkins and Erin Mele assisted her.

Caitlin Ramirez, the calendar cover winner, received a \$100 gift certificate. The other winners received a \$25 gift certificate and are as follows: Rose Klein, Aysia Rogina, Avery Mele, Anna Ujvary, Kylee LeBlanc, Rebekka McMichael, Manny Lucero, Haylie Gavin, Grace Klein, Charity York, Alisha Sing, Sarah Rich, Elana Klein, and Katie Keeler.

Census Poster Contest Winners

Census Committee Member Dottie Krause announced the poster winners who weren't able to attend the meeting—Nathan Nelson age 8, Autumn Leum age 10 and Ashlee Leum age 14.

Cathie Hughes explained the contest was a way to get the children involved and in turn get the parents involved with the census. Ms. Hughes presented Keelan Metz with his award.

Chamber Update

Director Janet Hartford:

- Presented the city with a \$2,400 check for the payment of their lease rent for the Visitor's Center.

- Noted the Chamber had raised over \$50,000 for the new Visitor's Center project, and thanked the city for their partnership on the project.
- Announced they had received a matching grant for signage from the Wyoming Game and Fish.
- Thanked the city for their help with Santa's arrival, they had a good turnout despite the weather.
- The Adopt-a-Tree program has been the best they have ever had. The traveling trophy for the best decorated tree will go to the Green River Pond Club.
- She explained the puzzle hunt to promote shopping locally, and the top ten holiday shopping list.
- They a partnering with the Rock Springs Chamber and the Wyoming Game and Fish for the Ice Fishing Expo on January 23, 2010, at Buckboard Marina, to fish for Burbot and increase public awareness on how to catch them. There is no entry fee. She noted the sports guy from KUTV would be there. They received a grant from Travel and Tourism for the event.
- They will also be doing a Profit 101 seminar in January to help business owners be innovative with their business adventures.
- The Chamber of Commerce open house is on December 23rd.

Cards for Heroes

Mr. Dahlgren stated 612 cards were collected last year. This year they collected 1,172. He thanked Harry Holler, the students of School District No. 2, especially the Lincoln School Librarian who stayed after school to help students with cards, Sweetwater Trophies who donated cards for customers to sign, and the businesses along Flaming Gorge Way and Railroad Avenue who also contributed.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Harry Holler stated he is the military service contact person for all of Sweetwater County. He asked for people to let him know about their loved ones in the military if they haven't been recognized yet for their service. He also requested that the papers publish pictures of military personnel versus scenic pictures or animals. He wished everyone across this great nation a Merry Christmas, and hopes the situation in the Middle East can be settled so our kids can come home.

Main Street Manager Maggie Adams commented on the Main Street promotion for a Christmas Hang-over Shopping Spree. Now through January 4th, every purchase made in a Main Street Business, of \$19.99 or more, allows your name to be entered into a drawing on January 5th. A member from the Green River council will draw two names, the first will win a \$250 escorted shopping spree, and the second will win a \$100 escorted shopping spree. The sprees are escorted to make sure the money is spent here in Green River in a local Main Street business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Amendments to the language in Sections 2 and 9 of Green River Ordinance 04-09, and Sections 26.2 and 26.5 of the Green River Code of Ordinances (the URA Code).

Mayor Castillon opened the hearing at 7:32 p.m.

There were no public comments presented.

Mr. Cook noted the next item on the agenda was the first reading of the ordinance. While he supports the ordinance, he believes the intent is to modify the regulations that are currently being used by the Urban Renewal Agency (URA). In his opinion, the URA was not set up to become a regulatory agency, but to help modify or revitalize the downtown core. He is concerned about one particular sentence in Section 26.5(a) which still gives the URA the ability to oversee building exteriors, fences, grounds, and any other projects.

Laura Hansen will be making a presentation at the January 12th workshop to discuss combining the URA and Main Street to simplify this process. Therefore, he is asking the governing body to table the first reading of the ordinance so they can make some more modifications to the ordinance after the workshop.

As the ordinance stands now, he doesn't believe it goes far enough to simplify the process and make it more streamline for the business owners.

Mayor Castillon closed the hearing at 7:34 p.m.

ORDINANCES

Amendments to the Urban Renewal Authority Code

First Reading: of an ordinance amending Sections 2 and 9 of Green River Ordinance 04-09, and Sections 26.2 and 26.5 of the Green River Code of Ordinances, City of Green River, State of Wyoming, amending when review by the Urban Renewal Board is required.

Council Member Boan moved to table the ordinance on first reading. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

RESOLUTIONS

Amendments to the Personnel Manual

R09-89: A resolution amending the City's Personnel Manual.

Council Member York moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Boan seconded.

There was a lengthy discussion on how the department heads finally settled on a twenty hour work week in order to draw a line for part-time employee pay increases, and Council Member Maes wanting pay increases for employees that worked less than an average of twenty hours a week and had been with the city for a number of years or a minimum of one year.

Ms. Robertson stressed the department heads final proposal for the policy amendment was not based on the value of an employee, but instead to take into consideration the full spectrum of service levels the part-time employees provide. They considered the date of hire, the number of hours worked, hours worked by classifications, whether the position is budgeted within the department or as a group, and the definitions for part-time employees. The department heads felt it was prudent to offer half-time as a standard for determining a wage increase for a part-time employee. There decision was not taken lightly.

Council Member Maes amended the motion for part-time employees to receive wage increases after a full year of employment. Council Member Rust seconded.

Mr. Bussart noted some of the council members were arguing equity, while others were arguing fiscal impact. Inequity is in the eye of the beholder, and fiscal impact means you can put a buck on it. If the question is fiscal impact, they didn't have the information they needed, so they needed to table.

Mr. Bussart stated if he understood the intent of Council Member Maes the motion needed to read as follows:

“all regular part-time employees may receive a wage increase effective July 1 each year provided they have been employed with the City since, at least July 1 of the previous year.” And remove “provided that they have been employed with the City since the previous January 1 of the current calendar year and have worked, at least, an average of 20 hours per week during this period.”

The amendment to the original motion carried (6-1) with Council Member McCullough voting no.

The main motion as amended carried (6-1) with Council Member McCullough voting no.

Acceptance of Donations for the Middle School New Years Eve Party

R09-90: A resolution for the Governing Body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, to approve an increase in expenditure authority and to accept donations in the General Fund for the Middle School New Year's Eve Party for the Leisure Programs Division in the amount of \$1,050.

Council Member Maes moved to approve the resolution. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Correction of the Legal Description for Hilltop Baptist Church Resolution

R09-91: A resolution correcting the legal description contained in Resolution numbered R07-07 of the City of Green River, Sweetwater County, Wyoming.

Council Member McCullough moved to approve the resolution. Council Member York seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Adoption of the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan

R09-92: A resolution adopting the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 of the Governing Body for the City of Green River, Wyoming.

Council Member McCullough moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Rust seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

Appointments to the Personnel Board

Council Member Rust moved to reappoint Don Van Matre for another three year term, and Jeff Driggs for a three year term. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Contract for Control and SCADA Design for the SE Water Expansion Project

Mr. Cook noted the city entered into a contract with Nelson Engineering to design the water system improvements from the water treatment plant to the southeast part of the city. In order to provide water to that area, some reconfigurations need to be done to the water transmission systems. The Infinity Control SCADA system will do that. This is the same SCADA system the Joint Powers Water Board uses, so there is some compatibility there.

Council Member York moved to accept the proposal from Infinity Power and Controls in the amount of \$22,500 for designs and documentation of the South East Water Expansion Project. Council Member Maes seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Appointments to the Main Street Advisory Board

Council Member Maes moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jenissa Bartlett to a three-year term on the Main Street Advisory Board. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Addendum to the Short, Elliot and Hendrickson Contract for Pedestrian Viaduct Bridge Project

Council Member York moved to approve the addendum with Short, Elliot and Hendrickson for \$1,533.72 for paint sampling services for the viaduct project. Council Member Rust seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Boan moved to approve the following consent agenda items. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

- To change the donor restrictions from expansion and/or renovation of the Recreation Center to the purchase of equipment for the Recreation Center as follows: Pacific Steel,

Palisades Management Corp., Palisades Pride of Lion, Green River Cable Television, FMC, Union Cellular, Green River Super 8 Motel, and JFC Engineers/Surveyors. Simplot Shared Services/Simplot Phosphates requested their \$100 sponsorship donation be refunded.

- A maintenance agreement with Copier and Supply Co. Inc. for .0099 cents per copy for the SAVIN 8045SPF copier located in the Finance Department, effective January 2, 2010 through January 1, 2011.
- A two year lease agreement with the Green River Chamber of Commerce for placement of a modular unit at the Moran Park parking lot in the amount of \$100 per month.
- Authorization for James Pulson to remove cattle gates and fencing from the landfill, and also for Eric Iwen to remove an old silver canoe.
- To accept donations for 2010 Parks and Recreation Special Events.
- The Combined Communications Joint Powers Board Agreement for the Combined Communications Center.
- The Survey and Agreement Form for Shelters/Feeding Facilities for the Recreation Center and Pavilion in conjunction with the Sweetwater County Emergency Management Population Protection Annex.
- A contract with Kelly Strampe for the Dream Big Volleyball Clinics in the amount of \$250.
- A lease agreement with Gordon Gunter for the Main Street Office for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010 at the rate of \$575 per month.
- An agreement with American Healthways Provider Services, Inc. for the Silver Sneakers® program, effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 with the option to renew annually through December 2012.
- Acceptance of FYE09 Financial Audit performed by Karren, Hendrix, Stagg, Allen and Company.
- The Minutes for: December 2, 2009 and December 8, 2009
- Financial Reports and Payment of Bills:

<i>Outstanding Invoices</i> = \$521,462.95
<i>Prepaid Invoices</i> = \$14,733.10
<i>Payroll Expenditures</i> = \$366,829.56
<i>Pre-authorization Payments</i> = \$757,830.00

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cook:

- Noted the city is moving forward with the first phase of the viaduct project. December 17th there will be a mandatory pre-bid walk through. The bid opening is projected for January 13th. The city has received a federal grant through the Wyoming Department of Transportation for the project.
- The Command Vehicle for the Fire Department is scheduled for delivery sometime before March.
- The city received word from Rocky Mountain Power they will be installing the electrical line to the Scott's Bottom Road sometime in January to supply power to the lift stations.
- Noted Parks and Recreation Supervisor Alyssa Krumholz had negotiated and obtained \$5,000 in grant funding from Travel and Tourism. (*\$4,000 for the Crystal Classic and \$1,000 for Art on the Green*).
- Reminded the governing body of the legislative meeting at the Hampton Inn on December 22nd.

- Complemented the departments that had participated in the “Tree of Sharing Program.” The employees purchase presents out of their own pockets to provide a lot of presents for several needy families.
- He wished all the employees and the citizens of Green River a very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Boan referred to an email he had received from Mr. Cook, and asked if \$80,000 could be used from the travel and training budget to purchase the land for the Visitor’s Center out right rather than doing a lease.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Bussart had nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Rust thought all the trees along Uinta for the Adopt-a-tree Program were really well decorated. He congratulated the Animal Control Calendar and Census Poster winners on their awards. He noted the open house at the Tomahawk had seventy-five people in attendance. He wished city staff and the citizens a Merry Christmas.

Council Member York was pleased to hear the city received the grant for the Crystal Classic. He has noticed the downtown businesses have also put up Christmas decorations and lighting. He commended the citizen who put up the light display on the side of the mountain along Hitching Post, and felt he should be recognized in some way.

Mr. York mentioned he had attended a dinner in special recognition of Council Member Rust for his community service. He also wished everyone a good and safe Merry Christmas. He appreciates and loves the Green River community, and is glad to be here. He wished the Wyoming Cowboy’s luck at their bowl game on Saturday in New Mexico.

Council Member Maes congratulated the children on their awards for the calendar and posters. They did a wonderful job. She also loves the trees on Uinta.

She felt the public needed to be educated about the governor’s funding proposal, and be encouraged to contact their legislators, since the legislators don’t have to agree with the governor. She noted it will take a lot of staff time and cost more in travel if we have to go to Cheyenne to plead our case. She feels the governor needs to let loose of some of the money in the state’s rainy day account to help out the cities and towns of Wyoming over the next year.

She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Boan stated he was pleased with the emailed reports he receives from Stephen Pyles. They help keep him informed on meetings and events he isn’t able to attend because he is working.

He stated he had gotten some feedback on his change of stance on the Visitor’s Center. He makes his decisions on the information he has at the time he needs to make a decision. If he gets new information he tries to make a decision according to the new information—he found out they weren’t going to install the elevator, and the price of land had come down. He wants to see something built in Green River this year, and from the looks of their budget, the Visitor’s Center may be the only thing they are able to build. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member McCullough thanked everyone for the decorations. He thanked the Radio Network for the placement of the tree on Mansface. He also thanked all the folks who participated in the cards for heroes, especially Harry Holler and John Dahlgren. He noted there would be a meeting on the “service trail” between Rock Springs and Green River on December 18th at 10 a.m. He wished everybody a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Morck thanked everybody that wrote cards for the people overseas. It is very wholesome on both parts, and Merry Christmas.

Mayor Castellon stated the December 18th alternate route would be a very important meeting. He gave a thank you for those involved with the cards for heroes, and the calendar and poster winner kids.

Mayor Castellon stated he felt he needed to respond to a letter to the editor, because of the number of people who had talked to him in the store and the number of emails he received. He wanted to inform the citizens that the numbers that came out in the letter were not actual numbers they were budget numbers. The actual numbers are considerably different. The actual number for 2008 was \$238,000, and the number for 2009 was \$219,000. The budget number for the first five months of 2010 is \$438,000 of which only \$103,000 has been spent. Therefore, the numbers they really need to focus on are the actual numbers. The budget numbers are just targets. The number per employee is \$897 for 2008, \$845 for 2009, and \$258 for the first five months of 2010. He noted money left over from one year to the next is redistributed the following year by the governing body.

Mayor Castellon noted they will be taking a close look at the budget in January and making some adjustments to cover the shortages in revenues. They will be looking at travel and training. However, he feels it is important they keep public safety at the top of their agenda. They need to make sure the policemen, firemen, and public works folks get the proper training to be proficient in their jobs.

The Mayor noted the Parks and Recreation Department was able to secure \$750,000 in grants. In some instances that took extra travel and training, so they need to consider the rate of return on their investment. He also stated the governing body had no intention in making drastic reductions in city staff because of the loss of revenues. That would be their very last option.

If anyone has any questions or concerns he asked them to give him a call, and he will sit down with them and go over the numbers. The governing body is very in tune with how the city is spending its money.

He gave a Merry Christmas to all.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Boan moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

H. Castellon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk