

City of Green River
460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes
Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ATTENDING: Mayor Travis Bacon, Council Members Kathy Ryan, Michael Silliman, Larry Packer, Bo Harrison, and Kent Nelson; Employees Conae Black, Travis Newland, Cameron Willford, Phillip Stubblefield

CONDUCTING: Mayor Travis Bacon, the meeting began at 6:07 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Budget Work Session. Phillip Stubblefield said he has been part time Code Enforcement Officer for Green River and is looking at going full time. That is part of this budget meeting. He handed out his resume and spoke on his qualifications and what he could bring to the city. He also spoke of some of the programs he has been doing that will bring awareness to the community and hopefully bring a voluntary response to property clean-up. He mentioned the steps that will need to be taken if a citizen does not comply with the codes. He has been given instructions to begin code enforcement on Main Street and South Broadway. He has received complaints from citizens and has been working on correcting the problems. Mayor Bacon mentioned a survey that was taken a few years ago and on the top of the list was the need to clean up the town and take care of the blighted areas. Phillip Stubblefield gave some examples of how he has worked with citizens to get them into compliance with codes and clean up their property. The discussion led to certain citizens and how to deal with them. Phillip Stubblefield said in all of his years of law enforcement this will probably be his toughest job. Bo Harrison asked if the purpose of this meeting is to discuss whether Code Enforcement should be full time or part time. Phillip Stubblefield said he was offered a full time position with Green River City but preferred at the time to come on as a part time position. Bo Harrison said in his opinion that Phillip Stubblefield is over qualified for this position but was concerned if the city has the funds and means to hire him on full time. Mayor Bacon said he would be paid at the same pay rate he is getting now which is \$21.92 an hour and reinforced that the city would have loved to hire him on full time but Phillip Stubblefield was not at a point where he could come on full time. Bo Harrison said some of the tasks that he will take on are overlapping with current employees. Mayor Bacon said that is true. Bo Harrison asked if hours were going to be cut on the other employees. Phillip Stubblefield said he will just help wherever he can. Conae Black said you never have enough grant writers. Phillip Stubblefield said he knows he is over qualified but he is close to retirement but still has a few years in him and is looking at Green River a place to do ten years of work in three years' time. If he wasn't this close to retirement then he wouldn't give up his \$88,000 a year job that he currently holds. Bo Harrison asked if the \$21.92 an hour included benefits. Mayor Bacon said no that was just his wage. Mayor Bacon said at one time he had the increase in the budget figured out but this was at a higher pay rate. That amount was about \$30,000 to \$33,000 additionally. He felt the additional amount would be easy to adjust. Kent Nelson asked for more clarity on how those adjustments would be. Conae Black said line items within the General Fund to account for the additional expense for the Public Safety wages, cost of employment and benefits. She asked Phillip Stubblefield when he would be able to begin full time employment. He said April 7th. Conae Black said that only leaves three months left in the fiscal year and there would not need to be any increase in the budget for the 2020 year. Next year they would just work that increase into the budget. Mayor Bacon said it shouldn't be a problem to work that into the budget. Conae Black said she could really use the help. Kathy Ryan agreed and said it will help us progress with everything else that Phillip Stubblefield has to offer the city. Conae Black said lack of code enforcement is something that she has been pushing the City Council to correct for years. She said that we are working strongly and effectively to improve our economy and will not be able to

attract large industry unless we clean up our community. We need help to do that. Kent Nelson asked Phillip Stubblefield if he would stick with Green River City if they don't approve this tonight. Phillip Stubblefield said he would probably stick with it for a little while but he is kind of pushing the envelope with his job too. Phillip Stubblefield brought up the value of having code enforcement in the community. Mayor Bacon said there is more than enough work to fill a 40 hour a week position. Bo Harrison said from his point of view in six months the work will start tailing off. You have contacted all of those that need to be contacted or we are taking them to court. Phillip Stubblefield said he has a full time code enforcement officer in Meeker Colorado and the town is really clean but there is a still lot of work to be done. The work is continual. Conae Black pointed out the current case the city has out that has been going on for almost a year. Phillip Stubblefield explained that he would not be quitting his really good paying job if he did not want to be in green River and help clean it up and help it grow. It is a fact that there will be some people that you are going to have to get mean with. Bo Harrison said there is nothing personal here and he sees that Phillip Stubblefield is here because he cares. He appreciates that he is coming back to Green River because we need good people to come back. Economic responsibility is why he ran for office and is why he is here. He just wants to make sure that this is going to be utilized correctly. Conae Black said if you are just looking at the numbers then she wanted to tell them about what she did for the city just last week. She submitted in some funding that she started and finished last week that earned more money back for the city than she makes in one year worth of her wages. That is just from writing grants or following through on the Chevron Agreement or whatever. She knows that you don't write grants for wages but what you give back to the city is far more than what you earn in wages. Travis Newland said if you look at Green River as a business and if you don't invest in that business then it is never going to grow. He too wants to make sure you are making the right investments. He thinks that the city should bring Phillip Stubblefield on full time. Code Enforcement is an uphill battle right now and there is a lot of work that we are up against. As soon as you get it cleaned up then it might not be as much but then he can focus on all of his other talents and helping the city in many other ways. Kathy Ryan said the city has a beautiful new Public Safety building that needs some oversight and Phillip Stubblefield can help with that. Mayor Bacon said Phillip Stubblefields primary job would be code enforcement but there are so many other things that he can help with. We don't have enough people to manage projects. Bo Harrison asked if he was hired would it be reasonable to pass a hiring freeze so that if anyone quits or gets fired in the next couple of years they don't get replaced. He feels like the city has plenty of administrators and plenty of city employees and that the city doesn't need to be one of the biggest employers in town. That is the concern of some of the people in the community as he talks with them. Conae Black said they don't understand everything that we do. Bo Harrison said he is sure that they don't, but. Phillip Stubblefield said he is amazed that Green River gets away with what they have. He explained the number of employees that Meeker Colorado has for each department. Larry Packer said Bart Hansen lives in Mona and they have a full time maintenance worker and a part time secretary. Conae Black asked if they have Special Service Districts that handle a lot of the departments. Larry Packer and Bo Harrison said they don't know the details. Larry Packer said to Phillip Stubblefield that he will work with the public and hand out violation letters but Green River has been like this for a long time. It is a generational trait. He asked if the City Council if they are going to back him up. Mayor Bacon said that is a huge question and he is very willing to back him up. Kathy Ryan said she too is willing to back him up and felt they needed to start somewhere and asked what was wrong with starting today. Conae Black asked why the city has ordinances if they are not being enforced. She said she is not going to be the enforcer so if Phillip Stubblefield is not brought on full time then that means it is up to the Council to enforce them. Larry Packer gave an example of the notification that his daughter received to take care of the weeds at her house. Mayor Bacon explained further the steps that were taken with Ed Korycan to try and get him to come into compliance and stated the last thing they want to do is go the hard route. Kathy Ryan said she would like to see things move slowly and the trickle-down effect will come. Bo Harrison asked where they were going to start and at what level. Of course Broadway and Main streets were brought up. There were several suggestions such as complaint driven or focusing on the weeds which can be a fire hazard. Kent Nelson asked if there would need to be any budget amendments for the 2020 fiscal year. Conae Black said they had already

budgeted for a full time code enforcement officer. Doug Moreno quit in July and Phillip Stubblefield was hired on part time in October so that leaves an excess of funding in wages, cost of employment and benefits for the Public Safety budget. Kathy Ryan said the future budget years you work the extra employment costs into the budget. There was some more discussion on what roles and tasks Phillip Stubblefield would take if hired on full time. Larry Packer said when he was campaigning, and he didn't do a lot of that, the number one issue amongst the public was getting the town cleaned up so we need to get on top of it.

2. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Travis Bacon, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: April 16, 2020