

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah
City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2021

ATTENDING: Commissioner Wilson, Council Members Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan, Larry Packer, Kent Nelson; Employees Conae Black, Julie Spadafora, Bryan Meadows, David Wilson, Phillip Stubblefield, Loni Meadows, Robin Hunt and Candice Cravins; Adam Long from Smith Hartvigsen; Ryan England and Adam Hughes from Better City LLC; Clinton Olsen and Stoney Jensen Emery County EMS: Maria Sykes, Emily Mora, Stephanie Crabtree, Douglas Tolman from the Epicenter; Citizens J Michael Redd, Justin Queen, Scott Ryan, Ben Lehnhoff, Tyler Hunt, Betty Higley, Kimarie Fluckey, Kerry Bigelow, Amy Wilmarth and Dylan Keele.

ABSENT: Council Member Michael Silliman

CONDUCTING: Mayor Pro Tempore, Kathy Ryan, the meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda

November 10, 2020 executive meeting minutes
November 2020 financial report
December 2020 Treasurer report
January 2021 Payment Approval report

MOTION: Larry Packer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bo Harrison seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

2. Discuss/approve/deny Interlocal Agreement with the City of Green River Community Development and Renewal Agency. The Mayor, City Council Members, staff and Attorney Adam Long discussed the pros and cons of the Interlocal agreement. The City will be capturing all new tax revenue for the 2020 tax year. This revenue will be restricted to the project area but will still benefit the town. The project area is all of the C-1 commercial zone and some of the property on the south side of the river. These funds will be utilized to help boost the economy. Attorney Adam Long with Smith Hartvigsen advised to keep the Property tax and Sales Taxes completely separate on two separate Interlocal Agreements. **MOTION:** Kent Nelson made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreements with the City of Green River Community Development and Renewal Agency. Kathy Ryan second the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

3. Discuss/approve/deny Mayoral Appointment of Phillip Stubblefield as the Public Safety Director. The added responsibilities without a pay increase for this position will included managing and developing departmental goals, objectives and priorities for code enforcement, animal control, emergency management, fire and EMS. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the appointment of Phillip Stubblefield to the Public Safety Director. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Discuss/approve/deny EMS Interlocal Agreement with Emery County. Commissioner Wilson addressed the Council concerning the ongoing problems with EMS in Green River. He commented that the EMS system is broken not the individuals. As a County Commissioner it is our responsibility to take care of EMS throughout Emery County and he wants to change how we manage EMS in Green River. Because of the system we have, and the population being under 900, it is virtually impossible to staff a full paid volunteer program. The City of Orangeville has a population of at least 3,000 and they also have difficulty staffing a fulltime paid volunteer program. A few months ago an incident happened involving 8 individuals in a van. This accident convinced

Commissioner Wilson that something needed to change. The van was carrying 8 individuals who were thrown out and left lying in the snow for an extended amount of time. Which resulted in one individual dying. The Green River, Emery, and Ferron garages were not in service. Can you imagine waiting for a crew to come from Moab? That was the breaking point for him, he knew we must do something different. He is not wanting to discourage those from doing EMS in Green River, we have a very long tradition of performing a good service. Some may feel they have failed, but they have not. Commissioner Wilson met with Green River's Sheriff's Department to discuss the problems with the Green River EMS Service. These individuals are the people who manage the scene until EMS show's up. We are hoping to recruit them to be possible EMT'S. Emery County is offering a \$2,000 stipend to each member of the Sheriff's Department on completion of their EMS course. The EMS class will be offered during working hours and a period of time to decide. He is also offering Green River's EMS a stipend of \$75.00 per day per 12-hour shift while being on call. It will require 4 persons to cover per day for a stipend of \$300.00. When a shift is called out it will then switch to an hourly wage, receiving an hourly wage on top of the stipend. Commissioner Wilson estimated it to be around \$150,000 to \$170,000 in stipends. Emery County's Human Resource Director Mary Huntington is concerned if the EMT's are paid by the County, earning a wage and stipend, they would soon accumulate more than 29 hours per week. The County would then be required to pay a benefit package to each individual. This would make the stipend go from \$150,000- \$170,000 with a cost of \$300,000 - \$400,000, making it far too expensive for the County to afford. The County Attorney is being consulted for the best avenue to take. Commissioner Wilson is asking Green River City to enter into a Interlocal Agreement with Emery County where the City will pay the stipend, afterwards every penny would be paid back. He is planning to disband the old system and take applications for the new system. The idea is to restructure the volunteer part of it, while treating every one with respect and dignity. His number one priority is to provide EMS services to the community and the people passing through Green River, he would like to complete this in 30 days. As EMT's submit their applications, they will be asked how many shifts per week they can be responsible to cover? Whatever shifts cannot be filled by Green River EMS, will be filled by Emery and Grand County EMS. He is suggesting to pay \$100 per shift, two persons per shift with a cost of \$200. For the EMT's coming from out of town, he suggests paying an extra \$25-\$50 to help with the fuel cost. There will not be mileage reimbursements for travel. If employees come from Green River City, it would take about \$100,000 of stipend money. If the service is coming from out of town then the cost may go up to \$120,000. He wants Green River's EMT's to know they will be given first priority, based on results of good performance. For the out of town EMT's the apartment at the Sheriff's office will be fixed up, making it more appealing. Our EMT service works best if it is staffed by Green River EMT's, but if we are not able to staff it from Green River, then others will be brought in to cover the shifts. Phillip Stubblefield is a member of the Advisory Board and made the comment, we agree with Commission Wilson. It seems really extreme but, we need to take extreme measures because, once or twice a week another agency is being called out taking an hour to respond. We are not getting the response we need to save lives. Stoney Jensen feels it is the right direction to go. In Castle Dale a neighboring town can respond and it is never an issue, that is not the case for Green River. Bryan Meadows asked, If the City pays the stipend will that obligate the City to pay insurance? Commissioners Wilson answered, the County's HR department has done the research, and as long as an employee does not exceed 19 hours and we maintain this, there will not be a problem. Conae Black commented, they will not be considered a City employee, they will be paid through accounts payable as a stipend, receiving a 1099 each year. Commissioner Wilson stated, there will be contracts executed and they will be obligated to live up to the standards to qualify for the stipend. He is trying to live up to his words, this is a County program and it will be funded by the County. Kent Nelson asked, would the City be reimbursed for the stipend? Commissioner Wilson answered, Yes. Because Emery County created a Special Service District we get a \$100,00 in mineral lease funds, State PILT money and the revenue generated by the Green River EMS program should be enough to cover the stipend. The program will be implemented and if there are any Federal problems we will look at it again and do something else. Our Attorney's will draw up a MOU so both entities are happy and satisfied with the agreement. **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve entering into an

Interlocal Agreement with Emery County. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

5. Discuss/approve/deny CIB Funding proposal for phase one of the river restoration project.

The City has submitted a Grant to CIB for phase one of the river restoration project. The grant was submitted for \$195,000 asking for a complete 100% grant. We shot high and decided to just watch how CIB would react. They really liked the project. Submitted in the grant application was a match for what we have already received from Utah Outdoor Recreation and Emery County Travel Bureau, we also have earmarked \$150,000 out of Capital projects funds, so we put that in as a cash match. CIB Board members offer was that Green River City keep the cash and CIB would loan the City \$300,00 at a .05% interest rate for 30 years. Which would be about a \$10,000 a year payment, it has been determined that the City can use Sales Tax funds to make the payment. The grant and loan will provide enough money to complete the project. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the CIB Funding proposal for phase one of the river restoration. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Discuss/approve/deny extending Family First Corona Virus Response Act for city employees.

Conae Black explained that this allows employees to be paid for time off due to COVID but expired December 31, 2020. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve extending Family First Corona Virus Response Act for City employees. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan, and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

7. Discuss/approve/deny bids for the Canal Commons Project.

The City received a \$121,000-100% grant from CIB to extend water and sewer services to the Canal Commons subdivision. Stephanie Crabtree spoke with the Council to address any questions they may have on the status of the project. The project will have two phases, ten houses total. The 1st phase will be five rental houses which is fully funded, the 2nd phase will be home ownership houses, as the rentals are being built they will go through the process of identifying families interested in affordable housing. One of the processes of the 2nd phase will be to find the different financing options out there and what will work the best for each home owner. They are also working with their engineer on a subdivision plan and the public space. Our AmeriCorps, Grace Whatley and the members of the community are helping to develop the greenspace in the center as well as the park space next to Long Street. After finishing up construction drawings with the engineer, we are planning on getting the subdivision part in place and identifying a contractor, they will be ready to proceed. There were six contractors who submitted bids for the extension of the water and sewer services, Johansen Construction-bid amount \$87,477.50, Double E Construction bid-amount \$116,618.50, PNL Construction Inc. bid- amount \$126,950.00, TSJ Construction bid- amount \$145,160.56, Harrison's Field Services bid-amount \$174,341.50 and Harward and Rees bid-amount \$208,558.75. **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made motion to approve the bid from Johansen Construction or JCI with the bid of \$81,477.50. We have had prior experience working with JCI on similar projects. We know the company to be qualified to perform the work outlined in the contract. Kathy Ryan seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

8. Open and Public Meeting Act Training.

Conae Black addressed the members of the Council concerning the 2020 Audit. She commended the staff and Green River City on staying in compliance with state laws and making sure things run as smooth as possible. The Audit for 2020 was completed with only one violation in Open and Public Meeting Training for our City Council members. This training meeting will qualify the City Council to meet the state requirements. Conae Black spoke about what qualifies a meeting or a quorum, postings must be 24 hours prior to meeting, rules for the agenda, written minutes, rules of discussions thru electronic meetings, members of public body present and not present. All meetings are recorded, rules on closed meetings if a quorum is present. All members of the City Council were asked to read through the literature presented.

9 Department and employee reports. Robin Hunt reported on the plan to use better signage to mark the Athena Bike Trail better, helping to keep people on the trail. She is working with Kevin Martinson from "At Your Leisure" who is planning to tape a video presentation on four different segments on the town of Green River and another three segments on trails. Last year's show segments have received over 600,000 views on utube. A State Parks Grant has been submitted with three letters of support to help with the funding. The Hash Tag Swell search went very well with 43 participants and their families. Many have expressed an interest in doing this annually with a new set of locations. The Rock and Mineral Festival was canceled again this year. There will be a new Dirt Bike Event that will be good for social distancing. Brett White has been a huge help with advertising and planning a 2-day event scheduled for the end of March. Bryan Meadows reported the crew has been removing snow for the past 2 ½ days. The Water Department has purchased two new PH meters for \$3500.00 for both. The lift Station for Cory Vetere's was put in today but waiting on the Electrician to put in a new power meter. Municipal Planning Report and Annual Usage Report both due this month. There was a leak by the train bridge right behind the golf course property. Brown and Caldwell came down with the filter Analysis and we are waiting for the results. Talked about the Soft Ball Tournament scheduled for two weekends this spring and two dates in the fall from a nonprofit organization. He talked about charging a minimal charge for field preparation. This will be a benefit for the City. Bryan and Chad received Water Certifications. Phillip Stubblefield reported he had meet with Johansen and Tuttle to look at the land fill. There will be a crusher coming to pick up abandon cars at the end of February. He has been working on Emergency Management and Disaster Mitigation with Kyle Ekker. He has also been working with the Public Safety Building in helping to get a cleaning schedule set up. David Wilson reported they have been working on two goals to complete by the end of June and the beginning of July. 1st goal is to read and study the City Ordinances, update whatever needs to be up dated. 2nd goal is to finish and remodel the animal shelter on the west end of town. We need to replace some of the plastic walls and put in insolation in the ceilings. He met with the animal control in Moab Utah in the process of creating and updated some of the adoption forms. We will be contacting Adoption Centers in the process of finding one that will hold animals for more than 10 days. He is also working on a spayed and neuter program. Candice Cravins reported they are in the process of hire a Collections Manger. She is preparing and gearing up for the Annual River Runners Art Show March 6-27, 2021 with our local Elementary students. They have received a small grant which will help out with supplies and shelving for displays. We have the Water Ways Exhibit coming to the Museum April 1- June 6, 2021. She is also working on revamping our membership program. We submitted a grant for a Teacher Development Work Shop. Kathy Ryan reported they are looking for a new Cheer Chairperson and she also reported on the Canal Companies activities.

MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to go into an Executive Session. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Kathy Ryan and Larry Packer voted aye. The motion carried.

I do hereby affirm, being the presiding official over the executive meeting, that is was held for the purpose of discussing a strategy for the sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares and for the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. This is in accordance of the Utah Code Section 52-4-205.

11. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Travis Bacon, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: March 9, 2021