

# City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah  
City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

**ATTENDING:** Council Members Kent Nelson, Bo Harrison, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan, and Michael Silliman; City Employees Conae Black, Julie Spadafora, Bryan Meadows, Phillip Stubblefield, Robin Hunt, Candice Cravens, Cameron Willford, Chad Pinneo and Jackie Nelson; Emery County Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Sitterud; Brad Simons, Paul Swan, Brittany Woodson and Ashley Thompson from Dominion Energy; Ryan England and Jason Godfrey from Better City; Maria Sykes, Stephanie Crabtree, Emily Mora, Doug Tolman, Cody Webster and Dillon Keele.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Travis Bacon

**CONDUCTING:** Mayor Pro Tempore Kathy Ryan, the meeting began at 7:14 a.m.

Pledge of allegiance by Kathy Ryan

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. Update from Dominion Energy Brad Simons reported to the City Council on the progress of the natural gas line coming into Green River. The line has not been purchased, but they are making progress and are very optimistic. Dominion Energy plans to file a request with Public Service Commission in the next couple of months. Green River City has been asked to make sure the community is aware of the Outreach Program going on in early April 2021. There will be an online survey to complete and a hard copy for those who would like to drop off a paper form at the City Offices. Service to the community will not be mandatory and the service will not be available to everyone. Dominion will supply the main line, a service line and meter at no cost. The cost to the residents would be, any cost or changes that will be necessary to bring natural gas inside to their establishment. They are hoping to have the service up and running by October or November of 2023.

## 2. Discuss/approve/deny EMS Memorandum of Understanding with Emery County

Scott Ryan asked Commissioner Wilson if the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) included the EMS drivers receiving a stipend as well. Commissioner Wilson answered and said it could in the future. He explained he was given a budget to stay in and because of this a couple of community members have volunteered their time to drive for EMS. About 70% of the time a driver is necessary. Once they are behind the wheel they will be paid a driver's wage. Conae Black asked the Council how they felt about the MOU and if they thought it should be sent to our City Attorney? She stated it is pretty straight forward, it states the goal, purpose and responsibilities between each one and who administers. Commissioner Wilson stated if we find anything to be concerned with we can make changes until it is where we need it. His goal is to get the EMS Program up and running 100% by April 15, 2021. There are three EMT'S interested in a position at this time, making the schedule being staffed by Green River EMT'S 45% of the time with the remaining 55% by out of town EMT'S from Emery and Grand Counties. Plans are in the making to house the out of town EMT'S at the Public Safety Building while waiting for a call. A clause was added to the memorandum stating a stipend of \$100 will be paid for all EMT'S living outside a 25-mile radius of Green River and \$75 for inside the 25-mile radius. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the EMS Memorandum of Understanding with Emery County. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman voted aye. The motion carried.

3. Discuss/approve/deny Lease Agreement for old ambulance garage Conae Black addressed the Council Members concerning the old EMS building sitting vacant, Emery County and Commissioner Wilson have approached her about the city occupying the building and in turn they have asked the city to maintain the grounds. The Green River's Food Bank (Pact) has approached the city and would like to expand by using the building for their Food Pantry and in turn they could be asked to pay the utility bill. A lease agreement where Green River City will be responsible for all the utilities, liability Insurance, heating & cooling, plumbing, wiring, Casualty Insurance and loss of personal property has been drawn up. It states Emery County is willing to take care of all major bills relating to the building's maintenance. The Lease Agreement will have an ending date of 2025, but Commissioner Wilson suggested an open ended agreement where it could be changed at any time to protect the city's investment. Phillip Stubbfield suggested the building would make a great Recreation Center, something that is needed in Green River.

**MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement for old ambulance garage. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Discuss/approve/deny/ Resolution No. R02-2021 authorizing the issuance of sales tax revenue bonds and calling a public hearing on related matters. Conae Black spoke to the Council concerning the CIB loan they received for the River Restoration Project at the John Wesley Powell River Museum. The City of Green River is accepting the \$300,000 loan from CIB for 30 years at 0.5% interest, the interest paid over a 30-year period would be a little over 23,000. This is part of the bonding process and next month we will have a public meeting on this. **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve Resolution NO. R02-2021 authorizing the issuance of sales tax revenue bonds and calling a public hearing on related matters. Kathy Ryan seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman voted aye. The motion carried.

5. Discuss/approve/deny Contract with the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. Robin Hunt and Cody Webster addressed the Council about upcoming events including the OHV Event March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 360 Trails video filming, which will be aired for viewing on "At Your Leisure." It will feature three of our trails and a segment on the town of Green River. A grant was received from the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$10,500, the exact amount of the contract for 360 Trails and their partners "At Your Leisure." There are two contractual agreements to approve, one for the grant funding from the State and the other with Chad Booth & Company for the filming. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the Contract with the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman all voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Public Hearing to solicit public comment concerning an increase or decrease in the 2021 budget. The Public Hearing opened at 7:35 p.m. Conae Black asked the Council if anyone knows what the increase or decrease in the budget is. Bo Harrison answered, no he does not. Conae Black said this is in relation to the employee compensation. Do you know what that increase would be? Bo Harrison answered, I know what I talked to Mayor Bacon about, did he submit the papers about it? Conae answered, not to me. Bo Harrison commented, a few of the Council Members and Mayor Bacon talked together and Mayor Bacon was asked to touch base with the other City Council Members. Bo Harrison commented, correct me if I am wrong. We decided Conae Black, Bryan Meadows and Jackie Nelson are to receive a \$2 an hour increase. This will change a little bit with Chad Pinneo, he received an increase with his promotion. The Public Works employees will receive a \$1 per hour wage increase. Travis Newland has quit. The employees at the museum minus the Museum Director will all receive a \$1 increase per hour. Bo Harrison stated that we approved a 3% COLA and Performance increase that will stay that way. Phillip Stubblefield's and David Wilson's wage will stay the same. I think that is about it, I think that was what I talked to Larry Packer, Mayor Bacon and Kent Nelson about. He talked to Mayor Bacon, did he not relay that to anyone else? Kathy Ryan commented that she reached out to Bo Harrison for more information. Bo Harrison said, to me? Kathy Ryan answered back, yes I sent

you a text. She talked to Larry Packer a bit and he said you would know more of the details and then I reached out to you. Bo Harrison said I didn't see a text. Conae Black commented, we are still not clear on this, who is getting \$2 per hour increase and \$1 increase? Bo Harrison answered, pretty much everybody. Everyone but Phillip Stubblefield, David Wilson and Museum Director. Conae Black said, if you say everyone, does that include the Green River Fire Department, they are under the 50 percentile? Bo Harrison answered, no. Conae Black said, that is confusing. Everyone other than the Fire Department. Michael Silliman commented they should get a raise. Conae Black answered, the Green River Fire Department is definitely under the 50 percentile. Bo Harrison said he didn't remember them being on the previous compensation plan. Jackie Nelson commented, she is speaking for our Museum Director Candice Cravins, when she was hired she was given a pay range and came as a highly qualified person and was given the lower range and will she be considered? Larry Packer answered, yes we talked about this in a separate meeting and that was the only place. It will be done separately. Jackie Nelson said, that was what I wanted to understand and something you are still working on. She said, we have a great director and she is doing a great job. Kathy Ryan mentioned, all the employees are doing a great job and this needs to be dealt with. Jackie Nelson said, I think I can speak for most of us and we are grateful. Bo Harrison said, with the 1.5% performance base and 1.5% COLA raise yearly, everyone will be able to look at where they will be in 5 years from now and if it is not where they want to be, they can look for changes or other employment. He does not want to chase anyone away. We appreciate all that is being done, we just need to have clarity, so if any changes happen with the Council etc. Conae Black asked, do you know the increase in budget? Bo Harrison said, no I do not know the whole numbers. Kent Johnson asked, if there are hard numbers on this yet? Bo Harrison said, he talked to Mayor Bacon and told him where we are at and thought he was going to run with it and he did not. Conae Black said, she did seek Cameron Willford's help on this with the understanding, it was across the board, which would include the Fire Department too. Cameron Willford was provided with the information on how many hours the employees worked and we came up with an increase in the budget of \$38,585.80. Bo Harrison commented, he didn't expect the Fire Department to be on it because they weren't on it last time. Conae Black said, that is something we need to provide to the public. She said, she would have helped had she been asked. Bo Harrison asked, do we need to table this for another month? Conae Black answered, yah maybe. Kathy Ryan commented, she would have helped too had she known. Her fight is for these employees and is concerned why are we not including everyone on our staff and why are we not wanting the City of Green River to be the job of choice? Bo Harrison answered, it is a job of choice. He asked, Kent Nelson would you apply for a city job if you could be promoted to where you are and not working for the school? Kent Nelson said, he thought about it once but didn't apply because the wage was only \$14.00 per hour and he could work for the school and earn a much higher wage and more time off. Kathy Ryan commented, so maids can go to work and make more money than Julie Spadafora makes right now or several others that work for the city. You could just go to work as a maid at one of the motels right now and I would think you would want the citizens and your employees to be excited about being part of the city. It's a good job and one you know you would like to do even though it is a dirty, time consuming job. The City's workers are very good multi-taskers and she said she cannot say enough good about them. She also said, even if we can get them to the 50 percentile, they do more than other employees doing the same job description. They are making our city a safe place to live and our water drinkable, keeping everything in operation and also writing grants. If we are giving raises, we need to include everyone. Bo Harrison said, they have left out the Fire Department on the last wage compensation plan. Kathy Ryan commented back, but you left out certain aspects in this community. Conae Black commented, we have three jobs available at the City, Janitorial position, Public Works and Museum Clerk, one of which she has been able to negotiate and fill. She said, she really has been working hard to get the janitorial job filled. The new Holiday Inn is offering a starting wage of \$13 & \$15 per hour and in order for the other motels to keep their staff they must increase their wages as well. It has been very hard to fill these positions. Kathy Ryan said, you always say the people of the community do not want to pay close to the 50 percentile and I have talked to people of the community and they are not opposed to it. Bo Harrison said, I do not want to keep debating this 50 percentile thing, I do not agree with it. Kathy Ryan

commented Phillip Stubblefield can't even get a raise and he has really put his self out there. Bo Harrison said, I do not want to keep picking on Phillip Stubblefield but he did say he didn't want a raise last time we talked about employee compensation. Conae Black reported, we did offer David Wilson the Public Works position part time with part time Animal Control, he turned it down even with the benefit package. It wasn't only the wage it just wasn't the career path he wanted to follow. Kathy Ryan asked, do we have any other comments? Jackie Nelson commented, I appreciate any raise right now after what we have waited for. Her only concern was the issue with Candice Cravins and Larry has cleared that up. We would like to see the City workers moving forward. She also said we can hash it over and over and still not get anything, I appreciate what has been offered. Kathy Ryan said, the only drawback is, and I will vote yes for it because I believe that you all deserve what you're getting, but I think Candice Cravins and Phillip Stubblefield should be included in the \$1 raise and that's just my view point on it. You should include all employees and the Fire Dept. Robin Nelson commented, you're going to find it more difficult to fill these positions if you're not offering more incentives than a hotel. Conae Black asked the Council if they remember what the proposed budget increase was? It is less than what we proposed. Bo Harrison asked, how much was that for the Fire Dept.? He said, it did not include the Fire Dept. Mike Silliman commented, for the chief it may be \$5,000. We have only been working on this for 6 months. Conae Black answered, it will increase the budget but less than proposed. Kathy Ryan asked, is there any other discussions? She said, we are closing the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

7. Discuss/approve/deny hiring Beatriz Tellez for janitorial services. Conae Black announced, the janitorial services Beatriz Tellez is providing will be at the Museum, City Hall and Public Safety Building. Conae Black, was able to negotiate with her for a wage of \$300 per week. We anticipate it will take 20 to 30 hours a week. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve hiring Beatriz Tellez for janitorial services. Bo Harrison seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman all voted aye. The motion carried.

8. Discuss/approve/deny promoting Chad Pinneo to Public Works Supervisor. **MOTION:** Kent Nelson made a motion to approve Chad Pinneo to Public Works Supervisor. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman all voted aye. The motion carried.

9. Discuss/approve/ deny employee compensation plan. It was decided to approve a \$2 raise for Conae Black, Bryan Meadows and Jackie Nelson. A \$1 raise for all other City employees, including Candice Cravins and David Wilson after their 6 months' probation. **MOTION:** Michael Silliman made a motion to approve the employee compensation plan. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman all voted aye. The motion carried.

The Green River City Council meeting adjourned for the Planning Commission Public Hearing to hear comments regarding the Canal Commons Subdivision at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened at 8:29 p.m.

10. Discuss /approve/deny the Canal Commons Subdivision **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve the Canal Commons Subdivision. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson Larry Packer, Kathy Ryan and Michael Silliman all voted aye. The motion carried.

11. Discussion of potential safety hazard on South Long Street/Green River Avenue intersection. Stephanie Crabtree expressed her concerns to the Council about the potential driving hazard or blind spot on South Long Street and Green River Avenue intersection. Many people have been known to use this corner for a short cut or turnaround spot. She is hoping to resolve or find some solutions to the problem while they are still in the planning stage of their green space development. Bo Harrison commented, how hard would it be to turn off Long Street, if you were

driving a semi and trailer. Kent Johnson, commented that a roundabout would be a good solution. Kent Nelson asked, is there a way to put a little curve to the road, so it is not such a straight on approach? He also suggested to block it off for right now since it will eventually become a park for the subdivision. Bo Harrison suggested a mirror at the corner on long street side, which would be very cost effective. Kent Johnson said, we shouldn't wait until something bad happens before we do something. Stephanie Crabtree said, we will put something there to block it off for now until we decide our plans for the park.

#### 12. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda

January 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes  
February 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes  
January 2021 financial report  
February 2021 Treasurer report  
March 2021 Payment Approval report

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

13. Council and employee reports. Robin Hunt spoke about advertising in the EmeryTelcom newsletter for upcoming events such as the OHV event and Motorcycle Rally this month. The trails received a \$10,500 grant and it is being used for mapping and marketing with "At Your Leisure" and 360. There are still about 3 or 4 trails left to develop. The Motorcycle Rally has had a great response; we have received 180 applications as of now and 400 plus who have an interest. They are wanting to make this an annual event; we have received about \$3500 In donations. The Swell River Feast is still planned for this August and we already have 3 sponsors Moab adventures, Holiday River and Crate are still involved and it's looking very promising. This year's Melon Day's is in the making and we are hopeful to have a normal one. Rascal Martinez will be playing in the afternoon at the park. "At Your Leisure" Kevin Mortenson will be here this coming weekend to, so if any of the Council Members would like to go for a ride or speak with them. Candice Cravins Elayne Hinsch Curator/ Collections Managers for the museum will be starting next Monday, we are excited to have her here. Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Art show just started and there are 44 pieces in total. The Water Ways Exhibit will be held April 3-June 6<sup>th</sup> free admission with daily activities including a virtual activity by Zoom. The Hall of Fame will be virtual this year and a little bit later. The museum has some Zoom lectures planned with Jim Baton on Desolation and Green River at Swaseys Beach. There will be a fun Hybrid/ in person /Zoom watercolor work shop planned with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. There will be a Yoga Class at Swaseys Beach. The Museum received a \$1,000 Grant to teach an Archeology Class to the teachers in Green River, they are hoping to show the teachers of Green River what a great resource the Museum is. Bryan Meadows reported they have been trying to stay ahead of the Canal Company in digging ditches. The main one was through the State Park. They first burned the ditches so they were visible and then they were dug out. Lift Station #2 was giving them a lot of trouble so they are calling an electrician to trouble shoot the problem. The power to the Vetere lift station was connected and is complete. The heaters in the city parks restrooms were not enough to keep it from freezing up this winter so they have been working on getting the restrooms reopened. Three graves were dug for 3 funerals. This week they are working on getting power to the digital signs. The State Road will be responsible for one sign and the city the other. The leak on Palisade Drive has finally been located and fixed with the help of Rural Water helping to locate the source. It ended up being 20 feet farther than expected. Phillip Stubblefield - David Wilson has been very busy with call outs on the weekends, both dog and cats. He is also working on a spay and neuter clinic for Green River. Donations for the clinic and for cages were received. Moab Veterinarian Clinic will spay or neuter them for a low price if we can get 20 animals, but we must have a cage for each animals. Phillip has been talking to people about fixing up their places, properties that are sitting empty. People are coming into City Hall wanting to buy or rent, and there is not anything. Green River has now become the bedroom community to Moab. Phillip has sent written warnings about complying with city ordinances and cleaning up their vacant houses and properties. Bingham Engineering did the initial Engineering on the landfill and

they should have it all by now, he will be calling them tomorrow to assist Armstrong and Tuttle Engineering with their stuff so they will not be repeating what has already been done. We are still out a year from having this project finished. The Emery County Commissioners and Kyle Ekker Emergency Manager were here looking at the property out by the CC Pond where we have flooding problems. The EMS are working with Commissioner Wilson on the hiring process and that is almost complete. The crusher for cars is broken down and we have contacted another company. Michael Silliman reported that the curb and gutter project is moving forward. Jackie Nelson was asking about getting copies of the trails maps. There are more and more people asking about the trails and we do not have any information to give them. Robin answered back, saying that she is looking into having them printed and mass produced for the Museum and she is also working on a trail grant to help with the cost of printing. Cody Webster commented, they were waiting on the BLM to finish their Travel Management Plan. Robin commented, the BLM finally approved our permits for the OHV and Dirt Bike Rally. Conae Black mentioned we were turned down for the RTP Grant for the River Restoration Project and she was concerned about finding enough money for it. So randomly she put in a grant application for the Coal Country Strike Team which is a very competitive grant, the maximum amount you can ask for is \$20K, so she put it in for \$20K and we got it. She also mentioned the Shooting Sports Park is becoming more organized and on the path to being compliant to some of the non-profit requirements. Our lease agreement with them was expired since 2009, so she sent it over to Jeremy Cook the City Attorney to review. The Shooting Sports Park is required to provide Insurance (per lease agreement). A call was made to the City's Insurance agent, he mentioned we are taking a very high risk if anything major happened. We are not recommended to provide Insurance. Part of the lease agreement is to show their insurance, with the city insuring them with an additional policy. The bathrooms need to be finished, the city has been paying for a port a potty for about \$70 per month. The softball tournaments are still on for two dates in April.

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

I do hereby affirm, being the presiding official over the meeting, that it was held for the purpose of discussing a strategy session for pending or reasonable imminent litigation. This is in accordance of the Utah Code Section 52-4-205.

15. Adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm

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Travis Bacon, Mayor

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Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: May 11, 2021