

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

ATTENDING: Mayor Travis Bacon, Council Members Kathy Ryan, Michael Silliman and Anna Evans; Employees Conae Black, Robin Nelson; Citizens: Lindsey Briceno, Amy Wilmarth, Jeff Black, Scott Ryan, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Julie Steuer, Tanner McFarlane, Bo Harrison, Ed Korycan

ABSENT: Penney Riches and Kim Andrus

CONDUCTING: Mayor Travis Bacon, the meeting began at 7:07 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of allegiance is directed by Michael Silliman.

1. Discuss/approve/deny Ordinance No. 2019-02 amending Title 1 Chapter 7 with respect to Elected Officials Compensation. Conae Black explained that this volunteer compensation was included into the budget. Anna Evans was concerned that this money could be better used to hire a part time employee for EMS services. Mayor Bacon said even with all of the city council compensation together it would not be enough money. He assured her that the critical care of EMS services would be taken care of. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2019-02 amending Title 1 Chapter 7. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

2. Discuss/approve/deny an Agreement with Emery County for General Building Inspector Services. Conae Black stated that Trenton Bennett will no longer be providing building inspection services for the city. He will not accept any new building permits as of December 31, 2019 but will follow through and complete the building permits that are still pending. She spoke with Jeff Guyman from Emery County who said they have contracted with other municipalities within the county. The county uses Sunrise Engineering for their building inspection services. With Trenton Bennett the city received 25% of the building permit fees and Trenton Bennett received 75% of the building permit fees. The contract with Emery County the fee break down is 75% Sunrise Engineering, 20% Emery County and 5% City. The City will only need to provide zoning clearance. Mayor Bacon explained that Trenton Bennett was the building inspector for other municipalities in the county and Trenton needs to free up his time and will no longer be providing that service any more. Mayor Bacon spoke on the cost benefit analysis of having building inspection services through Emery County. Bo Harrison asked about their availability. It was explained that Sunrise Engineering has two inspectors who come to Emery County every Tuesday and Thursday. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the Agreement with Emery County for General Building Inspector Services. Anna Evans seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

3. Discuss/approve/deny extending the contract with River Restoration. Kathy Ryan stated that with the momentum that we have going it would be in the best interest of the city to extend the contract with River Restoration to help us implement the river visioning plan. What they have done thus far is very good. Mayor Bacon said the proposed amount for extension is a lot more cost effective than he thought it would be. Conae Black said the extended contract amount is \$34,350.00 for implementation. She said River Restoration is very good at what they do and the city does not have qualified staff that can do what they do. They have come up with an amazing plan and if the city wants to move forward River Restoration will be able to help us through that. There were many other good comments on the benefits of extending the contract from Mayor

Bacon and members of the City Council. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve extending the contract with River Restoration. Anna Evans seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

4. Discuss/approve/deny matching funds for Green River canine. Mayor Bacon said at one time Emery County Sheriff had two canine units but for quite a while there has only been one. The one canine unit is with Sheriff's Deputy Blake Gardner who has been employed with the county for 40 years and no one knows how much longer he will be working before he retires. Deputy Egan Smith lives in Elmo but works all of his shifts in Green River and he spoke highly of his work ethics. Deputy Smith has been interested in a canine unit for a long time. He said the cost to the city would be up to \$5,000 one-time expense which is a 50/50 match with Emery County which is just the cost of acquiring the dog. Kathy Ryan asked why Green River City should financially help support an Emery County program. Mayor Bacon said this was his idea because the county budget is tight and Deputy Smith was not getting a lot of traction. Deputy Smith would be a full time canine officer serving in Green River and benefit the town for up to 8 or 10 years. Any revenue generated from any seizures asset forfeitures would not benefit the city. He is concerned about the safety of our citizens and our drug problem. If a dent is put in the drug problem it will improve the crime rate. He explained the allowable uses of Transient Room Tax funds and that this expense, which is an allowable use, will come out of that fund. Kent Nelson was concerned that if the city went along with this purchase and what will happen if possibly a year later Deputy Smith is assigned to the other end of the county. Others in the room agreed what would be the guarantee that this dog would stay in Green River. There was also concern that because Deputy Smith lives in Elmo this dog will only be available in Green River while he is on shift. Mayor Bacon said he spoke extensively with Deputy Smith about this and he loves Green River and prefers working here. It was suggested that the local officers be given the opportunity to become a canine officer. Mayor Bacon said based upon his law enforcement experience he didn't think any of the other officers would be interested in becoming a canine officer. It was stated that the city does not have a lot of Transient Room Tax (TRT) funds and the county should be fronting this expense. Conae Black stated that there is never a shortage of needs but there is always a shortage of funds to cover all of those needs. She felt from the consensus from the room that the dog would be a great valuable asset but why does Green River City need to use their funds when this is the responsibility of Emery County. Anna Evans did not feel it was at the top of the list on what the city should be spending their money on right now. Mayor Bacon said the county is doing the best they can with the resources they have and it is more than an easy lift for Green River City to kick in just a little bit. **MOTION:** Michael Silliman made a motion to approve \$5,000 in matching funds for an Emery County canine. The motion died for a lack of a second. Mayor Bacon gave more argument in favor of the city participating in this proposal. There was still unfavorable consent to participate. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to table this until they could get more information from Emery County Sheriff's department. Anna Evans seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans voted aye. Michael Silliman abstained from voting. The motion failed for lack of a majority vote. Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans expressed that they would like to know more and felt that it is the county's obligation to obtain their assets. Mayor Bacon proceeded to give more information as he felt it was a good investment. He stated with the help from the city the county is all on board. The county's expense will be training for the dog and the officer, wages for the officer, lodging for the officer while he is training and half of the expense for the dog. Kathy Ryan said she was glad to get that information. **MOTION:** Michael Silliman again made a motion to approve \$5,000 in matching funds for an Emery County canine. The motion died for lack of a second. There was more discussion. Some of the information was even more expense the county will be taking on getting a vehicle ready for the dog. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for an Emery County canine contingent upon the K9 unit works full time in Green River. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

5. Discuss/approve/deny funding for EMS class. Mayor Bacon said there are three individuals signed up for the next course but only two need assistance. Basic cost for the course is \$850.

He and Commissioner Wilson discussed the city contributing \$500 and Emery County \$350. The student will still be paying about \$300 for testing fees. Once the student takes the exam, he/she doesn't need to pass the exam just take it; the county will reimburse the city the full \$500. Each participant will sign a contact committing to run on the ambulance at least 12 hours a week. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve funding \$500 per student to take the EMS course. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

6. Discuss/approve/deny Resolution No. R04-2019, recognizing the observance of official holidays. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve Resolution No. R04-2019. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

7. Discuss/approve/deny Resolution No. R05-2019, establishing the 2020 regular City Council meeting schedule. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve Resolution No. R05-2019. Anna Evans seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

8. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda. **MOTION:** Kathy Ryan made a motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections to the minutes. Michael Silliman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Michael Silliman, Kathy Ryan and Anna Evans. The motion carried.

- September 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes
- October 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes
- October 8, 2019 executive meeting minutes
- November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes
- October 2019 financial report
- November 2019 Treasurer's report
- December 2019 Payment Approval report

9. Department and employee reports. Robin Nelson reported on the Christmas event. She is working on the River Festival. Michael Silliman reported that the park restrooms are heated and opened up. The fire department is in their new building. Anna Evans has been working on the Residential Housing Plan with Better City. Kathy Ryan stated that an RFP for engineering services to help with water treatment is out and due January 6th. Conae Black stated that the date for swearing in of the new elected officials will be January 6th at noon.

10. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Travis Bacon, Mayor

Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: January 15, 2020