

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR EPHRAIM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
EPHRAIM CITY BUILDING
5 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Squire, Mayor
John Scott, Mayor Pro Tem
Tyler Alder
Margie Anderson
Alma Lund
Terry Lund

STAFF PRESENT

Bryan Kimball, City Planner
Leigh Ann Warnock, City Recorder
Ron Rasmussen, Police Chief
Chad Parry, Public Works Director
Steve Widmer, Financial Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

See attached.

WORK SESSION

The Ephraim City Council convened in a work meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in the City Council Room. Mayor Squire called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Council reviewed the Warrant Register and Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting.

SPLASH PAD

Mayor Squire called for a discussion regarding the placement of the Splash Pad. Different locations have been suggested, including Pioneer Park, Heritage Park (behind the library) and the Family Park as well as several options at the originally planned location at Canyon View Park.

Councilmember Tyler Alder commented that when people donated money, they were donating towards improvements to the Canyon View Park. Most of the people commenting on Facebook want it built at the Canyon View Park. Mayor Squire suggested putting it down on the grass. Bryan pointed out there has been a fair amount of money put into the grass, but if that's where the Council decides to put the splash pad, the other half could be used for the skating rink. Nobody ever uses the entire field for soccer. Chad liked the fact that there will be less fill and settling to deal with closer to the road. Bryan said other alternatives are available if settling is the only concern; cross grid technology, rebar in the concrete, etc. All have costs associated with them. Digging out the whole thing and putting in structural fill would be too expensive. The least expensive option would be some kind of geo grid along with three feet of fill.

Councilmember John Scott asked for a cost breakdown as far as cost to the City. Steve Widmer said one bill has been paid to date, and that is for the soil analysis for both the splash pad and the amphitheater. \$725 was paid for that testing. He has received an invoice in the

amount of \$74,000 for Big T Recreation. They designed and placed the order for the parts to be constructed. A second invoice is expected shortly for the construction to put it all together. These costs do not include cross grid or rebar enforcement. It was felt a 6” thick concrete pad was sufficient to leave out rebar in order to make pipes more accessible for future repair. The City is to provide bedding sand, concrete material for footings, drain rock for a sump drain, 7-10 loads of road base material, and 58 yards of concrete for the pad. Steve estimates the total cost will come to \$156,000 for the project. Impact fees have been budgeted in amount of \$67,000. \$45,000 has come in for donations and \$190,000 from grants for both projects. The estimated City portion of the Splash Pad will be \$50,000 and impact fees can be taken from that.

Chad Parry was asked his opinion regarding location. He feels the soccer field would be more stable than up by the pavilion. The field could be leveled out for the Splash Pad and the Ice Rink. Soccer could be run the other direction for the little kids. Chad feels Pioneer Park is too near the creek and causes concern for small children. There are no bathrooms or parking available there and there would be a lot of leveling to do. Wherever it goes, the City must provide base work.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Tyler Alder moved the work meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Terry Lund. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

The Ephraim City Council convened in a regular Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in the Ephraim City Council Room. Mayor Squire called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Councilmember Alma Lund offered an opening prayer. Kaden Tippets, a local Boy Scout, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER

The Council reviewed the Warrant Register of March 18, 2014.

Councilmember John Scott moved to approve the warrant register of March 18, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Margie Anderson. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Tyler Alder, Margie Anderson, Alma Lund, Terry Lund, and John Scott. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council reviewed the minutes of the March 5, 2014 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Terry Lund moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 City Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tyler Alder. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Tyler Alder, Margie Anderson, Alma Lund, Terry Lund, and John Scott. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Abraham Hundepool asked if the city has a strategic plan for next three or five years as to what growth will be now that the Zoning Department has done an extensive study of roads. He is concerned about the Hidden Creek Subdivision on 200 south; he has heard of a need to get more businesses in town and the growth plan should run towards what kind of businesses the Council wants to see here. Other Cities have a long range plan, but if you don't project growth, why project roads?

Mr. Hundepool's other concern is that he lives on 200 West and hates all the trucks going up and down the road from College Ave. and would like to see some restrictions put into place. Chad commented he, Abraham, Regan and Bryan have discussed this topic and are going to check on the situation. They will try to get with county to see if they will make their turns and approaches wider.

Kathy Cherry, owner of the Nine boutique added her concerns regarding the trucks. She has been stuck behind those trucks quite a bit and it is definitely a problem. If passed with the county, this should resolve a lot of the issues.

Kevin Christensen wished to share a few things about retail trends happening across America and how that relates to Ephraim's downtown Main Street. He referenced a few articles talking about retail in crisis and talked about the 2013 holiday shopping season where US retailers received half the traffic of three years ago. Another article talked about that same trend and the fact that long term shopper trends are moving online more and not to typical retail outlets. Defensive strategies are not working. A third article talked about dwindling foot traffic for retail. Anything the council can do to bring foot traffic downtown will help businesses and sales tax for the City. Bringing the Splash Pad to Main Street might be a way to bring people downtown to eat and shop while they are there. People will come from other towns as well to the splash pad.

ADOPTION OF ECR 14-04, CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

JoAnn Otten from Manti City thanked the Council for allowing her to come present this resolution acknowledging Child Abuse Prevention Month. Her granddaughter was shaken by her father in the past year. She suffered traumatic brain injury and is legally blind. She works with a physical therapist twice a week, a Pediatric Speech Therapist, and makes other trips to hospitals for treatment. She has to relearn everything. They never thought this could happen, but found they were naïve about child abuse. Utah is 2nd in the nation for Shaken Baby Syndrome. Ms. Otten felt she could no longer sit back and not be heard. "I want our communities to be aware of this. We need to become proactive. A great center in Ephraim has served over 100 children who have been abused. If awareness will save one child, we have done our job." She has asked Fairview, Moroni, Ephraim, Manti and Gunnison to all sign the resolution, and encouraged the Council to adopt this resolution and let their voices be heard.

Councilmember Margie Anderson moved to approve ECR 14-04, a resolution of support and endorsement declaring the month of April, 2014 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Scott. A roll call vote was taken: voting "yes" Councilmembers Tyler Alder, Margie Anderson, Alma Lund, Terry Lund, and John Scott. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

ADOPTION OF ECR 14-05, FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Kerry Steck explained each year Sanpete County gives each city funds in exchange for their help in responding to County fires. It helps to have more of our people wildfire certified. Everybody in the county puts in \$3 a month and that is divided throughout the county for new engines.

Councilmember John Scott moved to approve ECR 14-05, a resolution adopting a fire protection agreement with Sanpete County. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alma Lund. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Tyler Alder, Margie Anderson, Alma Lund, Terry Lund, and John Scott. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

SPLASH PAD LOCATION

Canyon View Park was the original location for the Splash Pad, but there is concern with that area being a landfill for many years and seeing how the pavilion has cracked because of the instability of the land. The Council has decided to talk about options to see where would be the best place so it doesn't fall apart. This will be a \$150,000 investment and needs stable ground.

Bryan Kimball discussed the soil samples and engineering reports for the public. Knowing about settlement and the fact that water can increase that, the City contacted a geotechnical engineering firm to do some soil samples for the Splash Pad and amphitheater sites. They found it was 4-6' to native ground. They feel we can build up some structural fill and be confident it won't settle. Where the splash pad is planned, they went down 12' and could not find the bottom. It was recommended we excavate a minimum of 36" and bring back in compacted structural fill. Some risk of adverse settlement will still exist. We did not do as much replacement fill at the pavilion as we did at the restroom. It has been three years or more and is just now starting to have some hairline cracks in the foundation. We can go with the existing site and make sure we have a good design, or we can move to a different location at that park or to another park within the city.

Other locations within Canyon View Park could be looked at. There is less risk of settling closer to the restroom or closer to the road.

Mr. Schoppe commented a lot of fill was put under the sidewalk before it was put in. there have not been problems with that. Abraham Hundepool is worried people are too concerned about the deadline. He feels we should be more concerned about the project being done properly. If the project goes over, where is that additional money going to come from?

Steve Widmer went over the financial aspects of the project as outlined in the work Meeting minutes.

Councilmember John Scott would like to see another soil analysis done of the other sites suggested, and push back the deadline a month or two. It will still be early spring at that time. Steve offered to double check dates and time frames allowed to pay for materials.

A resident spoke in favor of putting the splash pad on Main Street to bring people to downtown and help beautify the area. He feels the splash pad would be a conflict to the

amphitheater. Mr. Schoppe said he keeps seeing things put off because of the landfill issue. “If you keep putting it off, that’s going to be an eyesore forever. We would like to see it go there.”

Mayor Squire said that wherever we put it there will be citizens who are not happy. Kerry Steck suggested building it behind the fire station as that property has not been used as a landfill.

The Council will consider all suggestions and be prepared to make a decision at the next Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION ON ROAD FUNDING

The Council wants to start planning for the future and maintaining the city’s roads properly. Chad Parry stated the roads are failing quickly. “We have a budget, we have state money for the roads, but it’s not enough. We get further and further behind every year.” If we charged 1200 residential accounts \$9 each, that would almost double the amount of the money currently available. It would still take four years to chip seal all the roads and some of them need more than chip seal. It would take millions to seal all the roads. Chip seal is just light maintenance and should be done every three years. There is no other real solution other than try to figure out where to get more money.

Public hearings should be scheduled to help come up with solutions sooner rather than later.

TED OLSON

Ted Olson spoke to the Council regarding the upcoming May 7th Council Work Meeting to talk about UAMPS. Their General Manager is coming to speak and go over issues. There will be a free exchange of ideas and concerns. Ted has told them the Council’s position in the past has been they didn’t want to participate in programs where we help people buy new appliances. Unless the Council has a new opinion, that’s the way he will proceed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, COUNCIL REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Bryan Kimball

UDOT – Bryan attended a UDOT meeting regarding the Main Street project. This project will cover two blocks, and new blacktop next year with overlay as well as widening the road to Pigeon Hollow.

Sewer Expansion – the Sewer expansion is moving forward. We are working with the last site details now and will be looking to bid in April, with construction in May-June.

Margie Anderson

ECHA – ECHA is still dealing with property owners to finalize details to get their subdivision moving.

Terry Lund

Cemetery Board – The Cemetery Board met at the cemetery and asked the YCC to help put up the flags in May. They have started planning the Ephraim City Memorial day Ceremony and are looking for volunteers for speakers for that event.

Library Board – the Board will finalize some artwork that will be displayed inside the library.

Alma Lund

Fire Department – Met with Kerry and the fire fighters. They have requested the possibility of a work session with the council. We could use some more voluntary Fire Department help. That can be advertised in the newsletter.

Councilmember Margie Anderson moved to go into a closed session pursuant to the provisions of the Utah State Code, Section 52-4-205(a) for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Scott. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Councilmember Terry Lund moved the Council adjourn the closed session and reopen the public meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tyler Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember Tyler Alder moved the Regular Council Meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Margie Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 2, 2014, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council room.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Date