

MINUTES OF HARRISVILLE CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, June 12, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
363 West Independence Blvd
Harrisville, Utah 84404

Present: Mayor Richard Hendrix, Council Member Chad Allen, Council Member Bruce Richins, Council Member Paula Knighton, Council Member Michelle Tait, Council Member Grover Wilhelmsen.

Staff: Bill Morris, City Administrator, Jennie Knight, City Recorder, Bryan Fife, Recreation Director, Maxwell Jackson, Police Chief, Jackie VanMeeteren, Police Secretary, Pamela Crosbie, Finance Clerk, Keith Wheelwright, Police Lieutenant, Glen Gammell, Police Officer, Rick Hill, Police Officer, Dennis Moore, Police Officer, Jeremy McKenzie, Police Officer, Kyley Slater, Part-time Police Officer, Robert Done, Part-time Police Officer, Shanna Edwards, Planning Secretary, Ken Martin, Building Inspector.

Visitors: Charon Shaw, Fred Oates, Ruth Pearce, Jeff Pearce, Jennifer Moore, Wendy Knight, Arnold Tait, Robin Stout, Cindy Wheelwright, Bob Howard, Terry Ouderkirk, Brent Thompson, Russ VanMeeteren, Ann Richins, Lynn Edwards, Bruce Brown, Joan Brown, Breanna Crosbie.

7:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Richard Hendrix called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors.

2. Opening Ceremony.

Council Member Michelle Tait let the Pledge of Allegiance and opening ceremony.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approve the minutes of April 24, 2012 and May 22, 2012 as presented.

MOTION: Council Member Michelle Tait motioned to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2012 and May 22, 2012 as presented. Council Member Allen seconded motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

- b. Review the May 2012 Check Register.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Presentation by Weber County Sheriff's Office on proposal to provide Law Enforcement Services.

Sheriff Thompson from Weber County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was invited to present a proposal for law enforcement services and he presented council and Mayor Hendrix with a copy. He introduced Chief Deputy Clint Anderson who is over WCSO Enforcement Division and Stephanie Ebert, the finance officer. Sheriff Thompson commented about the great relationship he enjoys with Harrisville Police Chief Max Jackson, and he thanked the council for the opportunity to share this proposal. Chief Anderson mentioned they were requested to include three topics of comparison in the proposal. The first item of comparison includes full time employee (FTE) costs between the WCSO and Harrisville Police Department. Second, the issue of holding harmless the Harrisville Police Officers and transitioning costs if a merge takes place. Third, compare costs, efficiency, and the possible savings and effectiveness of combining forces.

Option A would transfer Harrisville Police Department as a stand alone precinct with a one to one comparison. The projected budget for this option is \$958,157 and the proposed contract cost would only save Harrisville City \$68,157.

In Option B, Harrisville City would be incorporated into a larger precinct which would be known as the North County Precinct and would include Marriott-Slaterville, Harrisville, and Farr West. This option offers larger cost savings because of the larger precinct. Unlike the hold harmless option with option A, Chief Jackson would become the North Precinct Commander who would manage all resources in the precinct. Four officers would be assigned patrol duties, and the Harrisville detective would be assigned with another detective to service Harrisville. The current School Resource Officer would stay in place. There are currently two openings in the County for the two remaining officers who would be offered positions to share other assignments in the county and their salaries would be funded through WCSO. The projected pay in the proposed budget would mean a 7.5% increase for all officers. Because Option B includes sharing resources through all precincts, with the six officers in place the proposed budget would be \$600,000. The estimate is based on population and calls for service in Harrisville. Chief Anderson acknowledged that Harrisville City has what he called "The Wal-Mart factor" which translates to 20% of calls received for the Harrisville Police Department. The county's estimate took a city by city comparison based on population and calls for service. They then took the population with historical calls for service and averaged them to create the proposed budget. He admitted there are several transitional expenses that would need to be addressed. Vacation and sick leave would require an expense from Harrisville of \$90,000, but this would be offset by the vehicles that would be purchased by WCSO for use by the county. This would create almost a wash with the one-time start up costs.

Mayor Hendrix asked if the school board shares the cost of the School Resource Officer (SRO) with the County as they do with Harrisville. Chief Anderson replied the school board pays \$25,000 for the officer just as they do for cities. He explained that they took the current wages of the officer's and added a 7.5% increase. They then matched everyone in a step and grade increase. Many officers' salaries were bumped up further to account for the transition to the step and grade pay scale. There were no decreases in pay for any officers.

Council Member Richins asked for more time to consider this proposal. In answer to Council Member Wilhelmsen's question, Stephanie Ebert said WCSO employs 89 officers, 65 of which are in patrol. Chief Anderson further clarified that WCSO has four quadrants, the upper valley being the smallest precinct with 19 employees.

If the council enters into this contract, Harrisville officers will be assigned on 12 hour shifts with four other officers assigned in the surrounding area and one supervisor. Precinct supervisor's can move deputies between precincts to cover calls as needed. Based on the needs that exist, Harrisville's deputy would spend most of his time in Harrisville City. Chief Jackson would manage the proposed North County Precinct. Sheriff Thompson said precinct commanders are given total autonomy. Council Member Tait asked if the police presence would remain in the city office building. Chief Anderson said that line level deputies would stay in assigned areas, but the precinct supervisor would remain in the building. Sheriff Thompson said they have offices in most city buildings that they service. Chief Anderson explained the WCSO tries to move the management to the lowest level and let the precinct commanders run their precincts. He further stated that Chief Jackson would cover three cities and four patrol officers, one being assigned to Harrisville. If a contract agreement is met, he said Harrisville would be the largest contract with WCSO. Sheriff Thomson said all patrol officers get an assigned area to patrol.

Council Member Allen asked about the proposed cost savings of \$358,157. Council Member Knighton inquired about where the \$600,000 estimate comes from. Chief Anderson explained the estimate comes from half of the WCSO budget, split between the specific communities under contract. They compared the historical calls for service from Harrisville and determined that 12% of that half is what would be estimated as the cost to run the North Precinct. He said they rounded the numbers up for purposes of transitioning so the estimate may actually go down. Chief Anderson clarified the estimate includes the raises that have been proposed for Harrisville officers. Council Member Knighton asked about the political aspects currently underway with the County and how they may affect a proposed Harrisville City contract in the future. Chief Anderson explained the ongoing issues throughout the county will not affect Harrisville because the cities currently dealing with this change have been subsidized by other taxes throughout the county and are now being required to pay their own rates for service. These subsidized cities are going to be expected to pay for services they are currently receiving, but Harrisville is already paying our own expenses. Council Member Wilhelmsen asked how many officers Chief Jackson would be supervising. Chief Anderson explained up to 24 people throughout this proposed precinct. If a contract agreement is reached, the existing precinct would increase and be reorganized due to Harrisville being added. Coincidentally, WCSO has a position available due to the vacancy created when the prior commander retired. Council Member Richins asked if WCSO pays for office space in the cities they service. Chief Anderson said office space is not charged to WCSO but some trading exists for the current office space utilized.

Chief Anderson explained that the current precinct includes Marriott-Slaterville, Plain City, and Farr West. He said if a contract agreement is reached, they would likely reorganize the boundaries and Plain City would be incorporated into the West Precinct. Harrisville, Farr West, and Marriott-Slaterville would make up the new North Precinct. Council Member Tait asked if there was negative feedback and concerns when Plain City transitioned their police department into a county contract. Chief Anderson explained Plain City is currently going through Truth In Taxation to deal with the increase in the contractual price with the county. He said each city's needs are met by the resources available and management being allowed to handle their own issues at the precinct level. Mayor and Council asked if current Harrisville officers would have to re-qualify for the contracted positions. Chief Anderson said they would likely go through a brief field program to get used to the computer systems and geographic areas that they would patrol; mainly focusing on the differences in reporting and other clerical issues.

Council Member Richins asked why only half of Harrisville City's vehicles met the WCSO standards for enforcement vehicles. Chief Anderson explained that some patrol cars in the Harrisville fleet are not manned with lights and sirens. WCSO only has a need for five vehicles. He said they have a fairly aggressive vehicle maintenance plan. Looking at the mileage and age, they dispose of used vehicles at 60,000 to 80,000 miles. They see a high turn-over in vehicles at very little cost that way. He said Harrisville's newer vehicles are the ones that would transfer to the county. He suggested Harrisville City sell the other vehicles. He indicated WCSO might be paying us to come over through some of the transitional costs. Council Member Tait asked if the county has a need for other police resources such as computers and field equipment. Chief Anderson indicated a few desktop computers might remain for on duty officer's use. He said some equipment will not be needed and the surplus could be sold as well. Council agreed to think about this contract proposal. Chief Clint Anderson and Sheriff Thompson left their contact information. Mayor Hendrix thanked Sheriff Thompson and Chief Anderson for their proposal.

b. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and/or possible action of Resolution 2012-03, a resolution adopting the FY 2011-12 amended budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Lynn Fortie, Treasurer, reported that the Justice Court will be over budget if the revenue received continues as is. He stated he will determine later what the final line item will be, but it looks to be an increased expenditure of \$15,000. Council Member Tait asked where funds will come from to balance the budget. Lynn Fortie and Bill Morris indicated it will come from the general fund unappropriated reserve. Bill Morris noted that this serves as a rainy day fund.

Motion: Council Member Richins moved to open public hearing on Resolution 2012-03. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All council member voted aye. Motion passed.

No comments.

Motion: Council Member Knighton motioned to close public hearing. Council Member Tait seconded the motion. All council member voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion: Council Member Allen motioned to approve Resolution 2012-03, a resolution adopting the FY 2011-12 amended budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken, All Council Members voted yes. Motion passed.

c. PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and/or possible action on Resolution 2012-04, a resolution adopting the FY 2012-13 final budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Mayor commented about the newspaper article in the Standard Examiner that referenced a \$5.00 proposed increase in property taxes.

Motion: Council Member Tait motioned to open public hearing on Resolution 2012-04. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council Member voted aye. Motion passed.

Fred Oates, 2459 N. Dorchester Ave, stated that he is disturbed about the budget and is embarrassed by the budget deficiency. He suggested the city failed to prepare properly for the recession. Wal-Mart has been in the top 6% sales according to the cooperate headquarters in New York City. As for Harrisville City Employees being recruited, he stated that many people would love to work for the city. He said people reminisce about the low taxes in Harrisville City. He offered several suggestions on how to remedy problems in the budget. He said to set a maximum COLA at 1% and freeze all employee bonuses. He suggested any building renovation should be

cancelled. Commercial sewer rates should be increased. The city should look into a recycle program and use contract negotiations to reduce spending on other services used by the city. He also suggested the city reduce benefit contributions for employees. He said the council should consider reviewing the existing police and public works vehicle commitments. He stated he thinks the police department gives good service but could reduce some costs in their budget. He does not agree with contracting law enforcement services through Weber County. He wondered if the projected figures from the WCSO proposal could really be met, and he expressed concern that the costs for contracting might be much higher. He thanked council for their time and the opportunity to address them.

Brent Thompson, 240 West Worchester Avenue, agreed with Fred Oates. He stated he is currently living on a fixed income with no flexibility. He also suggested tightening the city budget to achieve a balanced budget. He commented about the Weber County School District Bond that is on the voting ballot. He disagrees with replacing the older schools, but instead feels the district should make use of current buildings rather than asking for money. He counseled Mayor and council to be aware entering into the contract with the county; the initial savings offered may seem enticing but they should consider the long term effect of losing the police department. He strongly suggested Mayor and council find ways to reduce the tentative budget.

Motion: Council Member Richins motioned to close the public hearing. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Hendrix suggested council discuss the public comments and take them into consideration during budget sessions. He said both the Public Works and Police Departments have cut budgets. He admitted that Wal-Mart is making profits, but sales tax revenue is down significantly. He said the motor pool is self funded and the city does not owe a lender on any vehicles, but pays money back into this motor pool fund for future vehicle purchases. He explained that this proposed budget includes the proposed tax increase which makes it appear like there is a huge deficit.

Motion: Council Member Allen motioned to table Resolution 2012-04, until the required Public Hearings, set by Weber County, have taken place. Council Member Tait seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor gave an explanation about the truth in taxation process, stating that all the council members also pay taxes. He acknowledged council has a lot of information to consider during future budget meetings, including the WCSO proposal.

d. Discussion/possible action of Resolution 2012-05, a resolution approving an Interlocal agreement between Weber County and Harrisville City for animal control services.

Bill Morris explained that the county is offering to extend the current contract that we have for animal control services. This proposal includes the animal control officer. Council Member Allen recused himself based on his employment with the Sheriff's Office. Mayor Hendrix indicated the amount will need to be adjusted in the final budget based on the increased amount in new contract.

Motion: Council Member Wilhelmsen motioned to approve Resolution 2012-05, a resolution approving an Interlocal agreement between Weber County and Harrisville City for animal control services. Council Member Richins seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. All Council Members voted yes, with Council Member Allen recused.

5. Public Comments.

Robin Stout, 944 N Harrisville Road, proposed a community activity for the city by offering art classes. He asked if there is a city building area available for use to teach these proposed classes. He said he feels he would like to share in his talents and abilities to improve the community. Council Member Allen asked if he would teach the classes for free. Mr. Stout indicated he would. Council Member Knighton asked what mediums he would be teaching. He said he has a bachelor's degree in fine arts, and would focus his teaching on sculpture and painting. He also would like to teach a class about digital media through photo shop for graphics. Mayor Hendrix suggested Robin Stout meet with Bill Morris and Jennie Knight to discuss what resources the city has available. Robin Stout asked for advertising publicity through the city for classes. Council Member Tait asked if he would be

available to have a booth at Heritage Days and collect registrations for classes there. He indicated he would like to have a booth. He is looking for ways to share his talents and abilities.

Rick Hill, Police Officer with Harrisville Police Department, stated he has over 17 years experience as a police officer. He said through his experience with multiple agencies he has yet to see any agency give full coverage on any shifts, as promised in the contract with WCSO. He said the city would lose the intimacy they currently have with the department and the community as well. This intimacy will not be available through the county. He said in his opinion Weber County has outstanding officers, but they have low coverage during the night. Harrisville's police response time is 3-4 minutes. He commented that is an intangible resource, but did not mean to discredit the county, but if only four officers are on duty, based on the needs of the call, response times would be increased dramatically. He indicated response time is very important in emergencies. He stated when he retired from Ogden City and was hired on with Harrisville Police Department he thought he had "died and gone to police heaven" with the current Harrisville Police Administration. He advised council to consider what they would be giving up. Officer Hill asked Council Member Allen how frequently the WCSO patrol shifts are at full staffing. Council Member Allen responded the county has a minimum staffing requirement. Officer Hill inquired to the response time at minimum staffing. Council Member Allen responded that the response time would equal Harrisville Police Department at 3-4 minutes. Officer Hill thanked council and encouraged them to consider the loss of intimacy and control that would result with entering into a contract with WCSO.

Claron Shaw, 667 West Harrisville Road, said he is a retired fire fighter and indicated that response time for emergencies is critical. He said he does not believe the county could meet the same response time provided by the city police. He said he is now employed at Weber County Fairgrounds and when they have a disturbance there is sometimes a long wait for an officer to respond. He said he is personally pleased with the Harrisville Police Department. He urged council to consider the impact to Harrisville City and quality of service based on the historical average of the county's response time.

Joan Brown, 288 East 1150 North, stated she hopes council will consider not contracting out Harrisville Police Department. She said Harrisville has one of the finest police departments. She said in the past when living in Ogden, she received no response when needing an officer's assistance. She personally thinks it would be a mistake to give up the Harrisville Police Department.

6. Mayor/Council Follow-up.

Mayor Hendrix mentioned early voting is taking place now. He said the next regularly scheduled council meeting will be cancelled because primary elections take place on June 26th. He also said the regularly scheduled council meeting for July 24th will be moved to July 31st. He said hopefully council will have the information about the required truth in taxation public hearings as determined by the county by that time.

Mayor Hendrix asked for a follow-up on the mailbox concern from the May 8th meeting. Council Member Tait informed council she turned in the complaint to the appropriate supervisor with the postal service. She thought that maybe the box was moved by the builder and not the postal service. Mayor Hendrix requested more follow-up on the complaint and the information sent to Bill Morris.

Council Member Knighton said there is a safety hazard at the splash pad with kids climbing the fence. She suggested possibly installing slats in the fence to eliminate the ability to climb the fence. Bill Morris suggested bringing the city insurance provider out to access the need and to offer appropriate safety suggestions. Recreation Director Bryan Fife clarified there are multiple safety concerns including kids climbing on the railing as well. He said the cement area is losing water off the south east side due to a low spot, which is causing a huge safety issue because splash pad participants are dirtying the water causing the filter in the splash pad to be changed more frequently than originally anticipated. He suggested installing rocks around the perimeter with a drain underneath. He acknowledged there is a concern. Mayor Hendrix agreed to future discussion on these issues. Mayor Hendrix said he is happy about the use the splash pad is receiving.

Council Member Knighton suggested the city consider having an education program through the winter with other volunteers like Robin Stout. Mayor Hendrix said he would like to consider having a city beautification class. Council Member Allen reminded council of the upcoming deadlines for Heritage Days. He suggested communication through email for the final details. Council Member Knighton reported she has been going person to person throughout the city to businesses, and some are disappointed there is not a booklet available for advertising. Council Member Tait reported she has had success with businesses she has contacted. Council Member Knighton will get with Jennie Knight about the business donations she has collected thus far. Council Member Wilhelmsen said he will follow up on the Mayor plaques.

6. Adjourn

Mayor Hendrix moved to adjourn at 8:25.

RICHARD HENDRIX
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIE KNIGHT
City Recorder
Approved this 10th day of July, 2012