

MINUTES OF HARRISVILLE CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 20, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
363 West Independence Blvd
Harrisville, Utah 84404

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

Staff: Bill Morris, City Administrator, Jennie Knight, City Recorder, Bryan Fife, Recreation Director.

Visitors: Ruth Pearce, Jeff Pearce, Brandee Harris, Parker Harris, Logan Nielsen, Justin Walters, Cade Nielsen, Wendy Knight.

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 Chad Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance and opening ceremony.

CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approve the minutes of February 28, 2012 as presented.

No comments.

MOTION: Council Member Allen motioned to approve the minutes of February 28, 2012 as presented. Council Member Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion Passed.

- b. Review the check register for February 2012 as presented.

Council Member Allen questioned the line item child support services listed on the February Check Register. Bill Morris informed Council this particular line item is protected information.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Splash Pad Rules of Operation presented by Recreation Director Bryan Fife.

Bryan Fife, Recreation Director, presented 25 rules of operation and requested input from council on which rules should be included on signage at the Splash Pad. Mayor and Council exchanged views on how various signs in neighboring communities present information that will limit liability. Bryan Fife suggested listing the order of rules according to importance with the most important rules posted at the top. Mayor Hendrix asked what the appropriate age limit would be for required supervision. Council Member Allen implied that age of 14 may limit liability. Bill Morris clarified from a liability stand point, any persons under the age of 14 should have a parent present. Any unsupervised individual under the age of 14 could potentially be questioned for compliance with posted regulations.

Mayor and Council discussed priority of each rule and the potential order to be listed on the signs. Bryan Fife indicated multiple signs could be used. Rules and policies could be on one sign, and hours of operation on another. Council Members Richins and Allen inquired about the origination of the rules, and questioned enforcement. Bryan Fife stated that many of the rules are used in other communities with Splash Pads, and that he had added a few of his own. Mayor and Council discussed using the Honor System for enforcement. Mayor and Council discussed the Honor System and agreed to use it as enforcement. Mayor and Council agreed that a

breach of rules and policy could potentially result in trespassing violators from the park. Further use of the park by trespassed individuals would require permission from staff before their return to the park would be allowed. Council inquired about a security system. Bill Morris indicated a security system could be installed on the premises.

Mayor and Council agreed a policy should be developed for reporting violations. The non-emergency call number for Weber County Dispatch will be listed. The on duty officer will respond and contact the on-call splash pad personnel. Mayor and Council recommended Bryan Fife work directly with Bill Morris to combine similar rules, and define the policies that will ultimately be displayed on the signs, and email the final rules and regulations to Council for review.

b. Truth in Taxation

Bill Morris gave a brief overview of a recent meeting with the County Treasurer's Office about a potential tax increase for residents. He stressed how the city is suffering from a loss in retention of employees from all departments based on the lower pay scale in comparison to neighboring cities. Surrounding cities are persuading our fully trained employees away from our city. Bill Morris reported his recent discussion with Perry City Officials who acknowledged that the loss of quality employees often results in an increase of departmental problems from remaining employees. Perry City informed their residents of the impact, the situation; and once the truth was known to the residents, officials found acceptance to the tax increase was better received.

Bill Morris indicated the proposed Weber County tax decrease proposal, discussed in previous council meetings, will be delayed. Weber County Treasurer's Office advised the city to plan the 2013 budget accordingly, and then consider what is needed for an increase. Once the budget is defined, a reevaluation of revenue versus expenditures may indicate the tax increase may not be necessary. They will need to evaluate what the gap is in revenues and expenditures. Bill Morris suggested a 5% increase be put in the Capital Facilities Projects fund to help buffer the gap. He proposed that if a tax increase becomes necessary, the City can then proceed with a public hearing after the budget is confirmed.

The Mayor affirmed that revenues are down and now may be the time for adjustment. Bill Morris suggested using a recent salary survey as a guide. Council Member Wilhelmsen suggested projecting out forward several years in the future when considering the increase. The Mayor indicated budget meetings may be delayed based on recent staff issues. Bill Morris indicated if it is determined that an increase is necessary, the City could begin by running articles in the city newsletter to prepare public for the potential increase. Council suggested Police Chief, Max Jackson, be involved with newsletter articles based on the history of recent vacancies in the Police Department.

Mayor gave a brief staff update. He thanked staff members for stepping in to meet the City's needs in the absence of other workers. All Council Members expressed concern, and indicated the desire to make sure current employees are taken care of.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harrisville resident Brandee Harris from 2208 N. 700 W. inquired about whether Harrisville City currently has an ordinance regarding owner's responsibility to care for existing hazardous conditions on unoccupied repossessed properties within the city. Bill Morris confirmed that the Harrisville City Code enforcement policy responds to resident complaints regarding such issues. He explained the process includes issuing a certificate of non compliance on a property, fines are assessed, and a lien is in place until paid to clear the title of a property for future sale. He recommended Bryan Fife, public works employee, meet with Ms. Harris to address the concern and removal of a fallen tree in the 700 West area of the city, and any other safety concerns in that area.

6. MAYOR/COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

Mayor and council discussed the upcoming League of City and Towns registration. Mayor suggested Council fill out registration immediately for fees to be paid before the deadline.

a. Heritage Days 2012

Mayor and council agreed to move Heritage Days 2012 date back to August 4th due to lack of available

funds before the new fiscal year begins. Mayor and Council discussed the flow chart of responsibilities that council members use and who is responsible for the budget associated with each event. Council Member Allen suggested last year's contacts as a resource for information regarding Heritage Days event planning for 2012. Mayor Hendrix indicated the 2011 fireworks budget was mistakenly debited from Heritage Days budget last year instead of the Fireworks Budget set aside for that purpose. Council Member Allen suggested each council member work toward a proposed budget for each event they are assigned, and submit their budget for review at the next work session. He recommended a tentative schedule be proposed and time allotments in place by the next work session. He suggested setting up a chair person over each event. Council agreed vendor booth registration will be on a first come first serve basis. Mayor and Council discussed minimizing events and keeping the more traditional events.

b. Council Member Allen recognized the city's economic circumstance, but suggested Council could eliminate paper copies by purchasing electronics for council members to access the information in their council packets. Jennie Knight responded hard copies will be available at the office, but packets will be sent electronically, eliminating some paper waste. She suggested Council Members will be somewhat responsible for printing their own hard copies. Mayor Hendrix suggested more discussion will be given to the idea of creating a budget for purchasing electronics sometime in the future.

c. Council Member Knighton inquired about the details of Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference and spousal attendance to the conference. Mayor confirmed a spousal retreat is available at this training. Costs associated with spousal retreat will be covered by city.

d. Council Member Wilhelmsen recommended the Council consider installing a frisbee golf course. He advised that he has inquired about the frisbee golf sets, and suggested future discussion to consider a 9-hole course. Staff and council discussed the possibility of purchasing city equipment and renting it to the public for use of the course. They discussed possibly setting up the course in the main park. They pointed out this would create more options for our youth to offer entertainment outside of the current recreation program. Bryan Fife indicated the golf poles can be either permanent or temporary. Mayor and Council discussed the pros and cons of maintenance issues, growth potential of the course, and wear and tear on the turf based on traffic from use. Council discussed the possibility of starting a small course with growth potential as needed. They discussed contacting local businesses to see if sponsorships may be a possibility to provide a budget.

e. Council Member Knighton inquired about city clean up. Jennie Knight confirmed city clean up is April 23rd – April 27th. Dumpsters will be available at the Main City Park.

f. Mayor and council updated email addresses with Jennie Knight to maintain appropriate contact information for each council member.

6. Adjourn.

Mayor Hendrix moved to adjourn at 8:26.

RICHARD HENDRIX
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIE KNIGHT
City Recorder

Approved this 10th day of April, 2012