

**MINUTES OF HARRISVILLE CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 8, 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: Lynn Fortie, City Treasurer, Bill Morris, City Administrator, Jennie Knight, City Recorder.

Visitors: Ruth Pearce, Jeff Pearce, Wendy Knight, Amber Magbuhat, Jason Magbuhat, Matt Schoss, Amber Weston.

7:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Opening Ceremony.

Council Member Paula Knighton led the Pledge of Allegiance and opening ceremony.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approve the minutes of April 17, 2012 as presented.

Council Member Knighton Clarified her statement made in the April 17, 2012 work session and corrections were made. The date of the work session was corrected.

MOTION: Council Member Michelle Tait motioned to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012 with corrections. Council Member Grover Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye. Motion passed.

- b. Review the April 2012 Check Register.

Due to a clerical error, the check register review will be moved to the May 22, 2012 meeting.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Discussion and/or possible action to set a public hearing for June 12, 2012 for purposes of amending the FY2011-12 budget in accordance with UCA § 10-6-127.

Lynn Fortie, City Treasurer, presented the budget worksheet and stated that no amendments are necessary at this time.

MOTION: Council Member Bruce Richins motioned to set a public hearing for June 12, 2012 in accordance to UCA § 10-6-127 for purposes of amending the FY2011-12 budget. Council Member Michelle Tait seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

- b. Discussion and/or possible action on proceeding with Truth in Taxation requirement.

City Administrator, Bill Morris, informed council that the tentative budget they will be holding the public hearings on includes a property tax increase. He suggested council agree on what direction they wish to proceed with the Truth in Taxation process. Council Member Allen suggested council consider revisiting the idea of having a Weber County contract for law enforcement services. Mayor and council discussed the possibility of inquiring about either a contract with Weber County Sheriff's Office or combining with other local cities to create a Unified Police Department. Mayor and council acknowledged there are several changes being made in law enforcement in Weber County right now. The deadlines for upcoming changes are in August. Bill Morris suggested Council look in to it and discuss it at a later date.

Council Member Allen expressed his desire to look at other options before moving forward with raising taxes. Council Member Knighton pointed out the city is below average on property taxes right now. Mayor Hendrix stated a number of items would need to be considered when proposing contracting with Weber County Sheriff's Office, such as: the ratio of officers per 1,000 residents, the needs of the city and the ability to meet those needs with a county contract. He stated they should not rule out the idea of making changes in the future, but he stressed the importance of making a decision on moving forward with the tentative budget which includes the property tax increase. Bill Morris reminded council that the options mentioned for changing law enforcement services could not be accomplished in the time frame required by the state for adopting the city budget.

Council Member Knighton suggested moving forward with the property tax increase with the option to decide against it if other solutions to the gap in revenues can be satisfied. Bill Morris clarified the first public hearing will be on June 12, 2012, and there will be two additional public hearings in August for the truth in taxation process. The exact dates of the public hearings for the truth in taxation will be determined later by the county.

Council Member Richins referred to a recent discussion about the public safety budget, and he petitioned that a reduction in resources may allow for an increase in wages. He acknowledged that using new vehicles has proven to be cost effective, but maybe other resources could be cut.

Council Member Wilhelmsen conveyed his concerns with another law enforcement entity serving the city's business district. He questioned whether the current needs would be supported as effectively by another agency, and also whether a unified police force would be as readily available to enforce our current business district. He stated the city will just continue to grow in the future, and in his perspective this alone opens the door to a property tax increase.

Mayor and council once again discussed how Harrisville's property taxes compare with other local cities. Mayor reminded council the tentative budget includes revenue that does not currently exist without a property tax increase. He proposed council move forward with truth and taxation with the possibility of amending the budget in August if a property tax increase is not necessary once the public hearings have taken place, and the research on other options has been completed. He advised the proposed gap in the revenues versus expenditures will be settled with the property tax increase; otherwise the current budget doesn't balance. The proposed increase in property taxes will provide resources in the budget to allow for a wage increase for employees and address the retention issues the city has experienced recently.

Bill Morris explained that the truth in taxation process is setup with the public hearing procedure which must be met to protect residents. Mayor and council observed that the process to approve a budget based on funds that do not yet exist seems backwards. Bill Morris described the process as similar to what a business would do. A business will project out what revenues will be needed, and increase prices to meet that need. The public hearings are in place so residents have the opportunity to express their opinions, and so council can make sure residents are aware of the proposed increases. He explained that with the recession, and other stores opening in nearby

cities, Harrisville is seeing a decrease in the need for goods and services provided here; therefore, the city is experiencing a decline in businesses revenues, and yet the city is still providing the necessary public safety service for those businesses.

Council Member Allen again suggested taking the time to look into a county public safety contract. Council Member Knighton wondered if proposed bids would be available if Weber County and other cities involved with the changes going on are not making decisions until August. Bill Morris confirmed many of the decisions regarding changes in Weber County Law Enforcement will not be completed and available for reference until August. He said that if council intends to adopt the tentative budget, the time frame to accomplish all the necessary requirements has to be met now so staff can move forward with the public hearing notices. He further explained that council must decide to adopt the tentative budget, and decide whether the budget's property tax increase will remain in effect or be amended in August when other information is available.

Bill Morris explained State requirements differ for cities going through the truth in taxation process as opposed to just adopting a budget without a property tax increase. He also explained the possibility of unexpected revenue through grants; for example, the RAMP grant that continues to fund the main park renovation. Council Member Richins stated that time is of the essence for the resulting changes that might take place through Weber County Law Enforcement. He requested city staff notify council immediately of any upcoming findings that would potentially impact the decision to move forward with the tax increase. Bill Morris informed council that meetings involving exploring a possible contract will include Police Chief Max Jackson, Mayor Hendrix and himself. He suggested council give a consent vote to move forward with exploring these options.

Even after exploring other revenue saving possibilities, Council Member Richins commented council may still want to keep the local police department. He noted through the public hearing process, the residents will be able to voice their opinions on having their own police department. Mayor and council agreed to seek information and balance the budget to meet the existing deadlines. Council Member Knighton asked when the property tax increase would take effect. Lynn Fortie confirmed the property tax increase would be in effect when property taxes are due November 2012. Bill Morris further explained the statutes and deadlines are in place for that purpose.

Motion: Council Member Richins motioned to authorize staff to proceed with truth and taxation with the caveat that staff will look into other possible options such as a contract with Weber County Sheriff's Office or the creation of a Unified Police force. Council Member Knighton seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

- c. Discussion and/or possible action on adoption of tentative FY2012-13 budget in accordance with UCA § 10-6-113, and set public hearing on proposed final budget for June 12, 2012.

Lynn Fortie reported that budgeted revenues are due to increase with the proposed property tax increase. He reported on additional line item changes that differ from the previous year's budget. Mayor and Council discussed the increases and changes calculated for the new budget. They also discussed the differences being paid into the Utah State Retirement System based on the changes from the tier one option to the tier two option. They discussed differences in the contributions paid for public safety versus other employees.

Lynn Fortie reported there will be a small revenue increase based on the commercial sewer rates. He reported there will be no increase in the storm water fund or the garbage fund.

Mayor Hendrix informed council of the new wage analysis being conducted. He said the results should be available by the new fiscal year. The new analysis is based on the job descriptions of employees rather than a comparison to other city's salaries.

Mayor and council discussed how any overage in the budget will be transferred back to the general fund. They discussed the rainy day fund and the requirements of a 5% minimum and an 18% maximum.

Motion: Council Member Chad Allen motioned to adopt the tentative FY2012-13 budget in accordance with UCA §10-6-113, and set public hearing on final budget for June 12, 2012. Council Member Grover Wilhelmsen seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye. Motion passed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor asked all those in attendance for public comments.

Matt Schoss, from 200 West 2150 North, inquired about how to propose a community mailbox be moved. His neighbor, Jason Magbuhat, who was also in attendance and would like to see the mailbox moved. The current location of the mailbox creates a safety issue with children in the area because it is located at the back of a cul-de-sac. Council Member Michelle Tait who is a postal service worker, took down information about the current location of the mailbox, and said she would pass it on to the post office supervisor. Bill Morris said the city could provide a letter of support that includes the safety issues if the residents request one. Mayor Hendrix thanked the residents for their concern for safety in the area.

Ruth Pearce, from 295 E 1150 N, questioned whether the upcoming presidential election will be funded through Weber County. Mayor Hendrix confirmed the costs for the election will be paid through Weber County. Ruth Pearce clarified the budget line item for CERT should be listed at \$12.00 used out of the \$100.00. She pointed out the planning commission budget line item should be listed at \$4,800 instead of \$4,200 based on commissioners current salaries and the number of commissioners.

6. MAYOR/COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

Council Member Knighton asked about the increase in the Weber County Animal Control contract. Bill explained the fees are supposed to be based on the amount of service calls for each city. Amber Weston from the Standard Examiner stated the information is available online at Standard.net under a search for Harrisville. Bill Morris further explained the contract with Weber County Animal Control over-estimated the amount of calls and they had to make bond payment, which created an increase in the fees necessary from each city. Bill Morris suggested council take a tour of the Weber County Animal Control Shelter on a work session at the next council meeting. He reported some of the city staff took a tour of the facility several weeks ago. He stated that the shelter has several adoption programs instead of euthanizing the animals.

Council Member Knighton asked about the line item in the public safety budget called "Alcohol". Mayor Hendrix explained public safety receives alcohol grants from the state to cover DUI shifts to help keep the community safe. Council Member Allen clarified the types of state grants that are available for public safety.

Council Member Tait presented her attendance prize contest for Heritage Days 2012. She explained how she and Council Member Knighton are working together to organize an attendance prize contest. The contest will include individuals who frequent local businesses entering their business card or ticket into a canister each time they visit the business. At the evening program of Heritage Days winning names will be drawn from each canister. Winners must be present to win.

The businesses will support the contest by providing gift certificates as prizes, and they will benefit from increased business from local patrons and acknowledgement at Heritage Days. Council Member Allen stated he is currently updating the Heritage Days Flow Chart. He clarified there will be no sunrise breakfast this year. They will be holding the 5k run with a fun run for families. Games and vendor booths will run concurrent. Council Member Allen stated he will email the changes to council members and staff. Mayor and Council agreed to set the next Heritage Days work session for May 22, 2012, immediately following the regular council meeting. Bill Morris suggested using the city newsletter to advertise the attendance prize drawing. Jennie Knight stated that the deadline for newsletter articles will be Friday, May 25, 2012 at 12:00 pm.

Bill Morris presented the splash pad announcement flyer, and provided copies to local newspapers that were in attendance. Mayor and council discussed the splash pad opening ceremony items.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Hendrix moved to adjourn at 8:19 pm.

8. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor and Council agreed to postpone the budget work session.

RICHARD HENDRIX
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIE KNIGHT
City Recorder
Approved this 22nd day of May, 2012