

City of Taylorsville
City Council Planning Session
Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Conference Room 202
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

Attendance:

Council Members:

Chairman Kristie Overson
Vice-Chairman Ernest Burgess
Council Member Brad Christopherson
Council Member Dama Barbour
Council Member Dan Armstrong

City Staff:

Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Kris Heineman, Council Coordinator

Council Chair Kristie Overson called the Planning Session to order at 3:34 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein the following members were present: Chairman Overson, Vice-Chair Burgess and Council Member Barbour. Council Members Christopherson and Armstrong were expected to arrive at a later time.

1. Discussion Regarding Allocations for CDBG/HOME Funds - *Chair Overson*

Chair Kristie Overson relayed that CDBG funding has increased by \$67,421 and discussion was held regarding allocation of the added funds. Chair Overson cited the option of putting the extra amount into a contingency fund for later use or targeting the funding for programs at this time. Council Member Dama Barbour suggested leaving \$3,000 for The Haven and adding to The Road Home. She noted that there are a lot of Taylorsville residents being serviced by The Road Home. She also suggested putting additional funding into the sidewalk fund.

Vice-Chair Burgess called for a breakdown of funds used for payment to CDBG Consultant Kathy Ricci and administrative expenses.

Council Member Barbour reiterated her suggestion of adding to the sidewalk fund.

Chair Overson suggested an increase to \$5,000 for Wasatch Regional.

Council Member Dan Armstrong joined the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Council Member Dan Armstrong asked about the service provided by Wasatch Regional. Chair Overson advised that they use the funds for growth development within the County. She also stated that they request funds from every entity along the Wasatch Front. Council Member Barbour stated that she was on their board years ago and, at that time, they were contemplating mass transit.

Chair Overson stated that she supports the Assist Program with the same amount (\$80,000). It was noted that the Senior Van Driver amount should stay the same, as the award cannot be more than what is requested.

The Council agreed with the \$7,500 amount for YMCA.

The Council agreed with a \$5,000 amount for The Road Home.

Funding for Tri-Park was discussed.

The Council agreed not to allocate funds to the Legal Aid Society. Council Member Armstrong gave explanation on services provided by Legal Aid.

The Council agreed with the \$2,000 amount to the Rape Recovery Center.

Council agreed to give \$4,500 to the Boys and Girls Club.

The Council recommended an allocation of \$3,000 to Big Brothers & Big Sisters.

The Council agreed with the Mayor's recommendation not to award funding to the South Valley Sanctuary. Chair Overson stated her belief that local Taylorsville programs should be the first to benefit from funding.

Council Member Armstrong gave further clarification on how the English Skills Learning program is run and the Council agreed not to fund this program.

Council Member Armstrong described the Haven as a halfway house for drug offenders.

Additional discussion ensued to summarize specific CDBG funding recommendations. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle verified recommendations and it was clarified that the resolution will be amended accordingly for approval in tonight's City Council Meeting.

A recess taken at 4:15 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 4:22 p.m.

2. Discussion Regarding Strategic Planning/Budgeting Priorities - *Chair Overson*

Chair Overson called for discussion regarding budgeting priorities of Council Members.

Chair Overson cited her concern for the maintenance of street lights. She noted that there are a lot of street lights that need maintenance and many lights in her district are out. She said lights need to be lit and poles in disrepair should be replaced. She suggested that it is not unreasonable to have all street lights up and working and the budget should be adjusted if needed.

Council Member Barbour advised that the City has a contract to maintain lights. She asked about the process for communicating when lights are out. It was noted that there is a process for citizens to call the City and report lights out. Chair Overson asked about the contract provision and questioned if more funding is needed to repair lights. Council Member Armstrong asked if there was a voicemail service available for evening callers.

Council Member Armstrong stated his concern for the increasing gang presence in the City. He noted that the City has a great police department, but said he feels there needs to be more funding available to increase their presence. Council Member Barbour advised that the Unified Police Department (UPD) is requesting two more officers in their budget and she is in favor of that. She noted that this year's budget will be a greater increase to initially add more officers, but upcoming years' funding will also be needed to maintain them.

Council Member Burgess commented that he would like to see more funding available for Neighborhood Watch programs. He added that when the program is used correctly, it significantly curbs criminal activity. Chair Overson asked Council Member Burgess if he had a process in mind to implement the program. Council Member Burgess stated that citizens in his district have voiced their complaints. He said he would like to implement volunteers first and then seek funding for the program as needed. Council Member Barbour asked about the possibility of partnering with Community Councils and Emergency Preparedness personnel to create a more effective program. She asked what the total number of officers will be. It was noted that this is a question for Chief Wyant. Council Member Barbour commented that she wants to know the Chief's vision for the "ultimate number" of officers he feels will be needed in the City. Chair Overson stated that the City relies on Chief Wyant to make that number clear.

Council Member Barbour noted that UPD is trying to build into their budget the cost for maintaining the current police department. She observed that some of the costs will be offset due to using officers for traffic only.

Council Member Barbour cited concern with the gateway areas into the City. She noted that there is no uniform signage. She stated that piece-meal signage has always been the process in the past and she does not feel that it is an effective means to add signs.

Council Member Brad Christopherson joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Chair Overson recapped the CDBG funding decisions for Council Member Christopherson.

Council Member Christopherson noted that UPD added one officer last year and another officer was added this past January.

Council Member Armstrong stated his concern for eventually putting power poles underground. He noted that 5400 South is a gateway into the City and needs to be a "showcase" area. Chair Overson stated that the decision to bury power poles would be made by UDOT. Council Member Armstrong asked about the possibility of creating City code for burying power lines. He added that the LARP Committee has discussed the maintenance of City parks. He advised that weeding, fertilizing and lawn-care maintenance needs should be addressed immediately. Council Member Christopherson asked who owns the property at 6200 South Redwood Road. Chair Overson suggested asking City Administrator John Taylor about who is responsible for maintenance of that property.

Council Member Christopherson stated that maintenance of the City is a priority for him: He clarified that he does not want to wait until next summer to spend this year's budget. He suggested that now is the time to be spending those dollars allocated to maintain the areas around the City.

Chair Overson asked what the expectation is for maintenance. Council Member Christopherson stated he would like to see a percentage of maintenance projects spread out throughout the available months. He said he does not want to see projects being done only at the end of the year. Chair Overson summarized that a timeline needs to be clarified for how the funding is spent throughout the year. Council Member Christopherson emphasized the possibility of a "use it or lose it" philosophy. He cited the following maintenance concerns:

- Weeds pulled on Redwood Road
- Plants replaced
- Dead areas cleaned out

Council Member Armstrong asked about making these concerns part of the upcoming Neighborhood Spring Cleanup Day. He suggested approaching church leaders in the area to recruit volunteers to help with the referenced concerns. He recommended listing concerns within each area and getting volunteers to take charge of each area. Chair Overson suggested sending a letter to the ecclesiastical leadership and scout districts in the area informing them of the areas of need and asking them to organize groups who will take ownership of the projects.

City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle gave additional clarification on CDBG funds, as provided by CDBG Consultant Kathy Ricci.

Discussion was held regarding the appropriation of sidewalk funds.

Council Member Barbour stated that people in her district have brought up code enforcement issues in regard to beautifying the City Center property. Chair Overson suggested leading by example. The idea was recommended to implement a City motto this year of "Leading by Example."

Council Member Armstrong was excused from the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Council Member Burgess asked if the beautification of City Hall can be included in the Economic Development plan. Chair Overson stated that upcoming developments will be made known soon.

Chair Overson commented that if there are budget questions in the next few months, Council Members should schedule meetings with Scott Harrington or John Taylor and get clarification, so that a line-by-line budget discussion during City Council Meetings will not become necessary.

Council Member Barbour asked about the possibility of having another round-table discussion in the near future. All Council Members agreed that this meeting was beneficial and productive.

Chair Overson discussed date and time possibilities for the next special planning session. It was suggested that once the tentative budget is presented, another meeting should be scheduled. Council Member Barbour observed that a more thorough breakdown for maintenance projects can be given at that time.

Council Member Christopherson noted that sound businesses have a 3% increase built into their budgets to avoid having to make mid-year adjustments.

3. Other Matters

Chair Overson cited the breakfast invitation offered by CrossPoint Church. She also brought up the ULCT conference and called for discussion regarding the banquet. Council Member Brad Christopherson stated that he will not be attending. Council Member Barbour said she would prefer going to an outside restaurant, rather than going to the banquet. She observed that the City benefits from the Council and Mayor spending time together. Discussion ensued. The decision was made to forego the ULCT banquet and entertainment.

Council Member Burgess asked about getting more information regarding the cemetery. It was noted that more information will be made available as the budget becomes clear.

4. Adjournment

Council Member Barbour **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Planning Session. Council Member Christopherson **SECONDED** the motion. Chair Overson for discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Christopherson-yes, Burgess-yes, Barbour-yes, Overson-yes, and Armstrong-yes. **All City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.


Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 04-16-14

Minutes Prepared by: Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator/Deputy Recorder