

City of Taylorsville
Work Session
Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84118

Attendance:

Mayor Russ Wall

Council Members:

Chairman Bud Catlin
Vice-Chairman Morris Pratt
Council Member Dama Barbour
Council Member Larry Johnson
Council Member Jerry Rechtenbach

City Staff:

John Inch Morgan, City Administrator
John Brems, City Attorney
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director
Del Craig, Chief of Police
John Taylor, City Engineer
Marsha Thomas, Judge
Jamie Brooks, Court Administrator
Penny Knight, Business License Clerk

Excused: Council Coordinator Jessica Springer

Others: John Gidney, Jeremy Eveland, Jennifer Ha, Wayne Harper, Mary Ann Davis, Brian Berlin, Carol Berlin, Paul Sellers, Marty Woodruff, Chris Despain, David Despain

18:03:02 Chairman Bud Catlin called the Work Session to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all Council Members were present.

1. Discussion Regarding Court Issues – *Jamie Brooks & Judge Marsha Thomas*

18:04:00 Judge Marsha Thomas introduced herself to the new Council Members and reviewed her professional background. She then presented a report on the Domestic Violence Court Program.

18:06:03 Judge Thomas described how claims are processed in the Taylorsville Court.

18:11:31 Judge Thomas addressed questions from the Council. Court Administrator Jamie Brooks gave clarification on court filing data that was previously provided.

18:16:06 Judge Thomas addressed Chairman Catlin's concerns regarding costs of the Domestic Violence Program and reviewed the benefits of consolidating domestic violence cases.

18:17:32 Judge Thomas described best practices for administering the Domestic Violence Court Program.

18:19:28 Judge Thomas discussed issues surrounding non-compliance by defendants. She described differences between cases processed through the criminal court and those handled in the domestic violence court.

18:23:26 Judge Thomas gave explanation regarding plea and abeyances and described different types of sanctions. She discussed scenarios surrounding the failure of defendants to appear.

18:26:10 Judge Thomas reviewed requirements for defendants to participate in the Domestic Violence Program.

18:29:57 Mayor Wall gave clarification on costs to the City for treatment that may be provided for defendants.

18:31:13 Upon request, Judge Thomas listed members of the Taylorsville Domestic Violence Administrative Team.

18:31:46 Judge Thomas addressed questions regarding fines and how they are set.

18:34:19 Council Member Pratt inquired about the Uniform Bail Schedule and Judge Thomas gave additional clarification.

18:35:40 Council Member Catlin expressed doubts regarding the effectiveness of the domestic violence program and cited its inability to reduce recidivism rates.

18:38:15 Council Member Johnson stated concerns on the length time that cases are drawn out.

18:41:01 Judge Thomas answered questions regarding defendants who violate the terms of plea and abeyance.

18:42:24 Judge Thomas confirmed that the Taylorsville Domestic Violence Court does not currently qualify as a Problem Solving Court.

18:44:24 Judge Thomas affirmed that she does not perform any more judicial reviews for cases in the domestic violence program than are done in the criminal court.

18:45:49 Council Member Rechtenbach cited the need to receive straight answers. He said the Council must consider the information provided and then find ways to make the court more cost efficient.

18:48:30 Mayor Wall cited value to the court programs, but noted that some programs are not affordable.

18:51:31 Judge Thomas rendered her informed opinion that putting domestic violence cases back in with criminal cases would not save costs.

18:52:26 Court Administrator Jamie Brooks introduced two of the new City Prosecutors to the City Council, Jeremy Eveland and Jennifer Ha. The new prosecutors agreed to provide contact information to the Council Coordinator for distribution to the Council.

2. Discussion Regarding UDOT Flex Lanes
– Council Member Rechtenbach & John Taylor, City Engineer

18:55:03 Council Member Rechtenbach referenced recent open houses regarding the proposed UDOT Flex Lanes project. He stated that residents are not in favor of the Flex Lanes and noted that these projects are not City projects, but rather State projects.

18:56:37 Council Member Rechtenbach recognized Representative Wayne Harper, who has been instrumental in finding funding for State projects in Taylorsville.

18:57:28 Representative Harper described background on funding for road projects in Salt Lake County. He reviewed road projects in recent years and described projects planned within Taylorsville. Representative Harper listed priorities for projects, as taken from the East-West Transit Study. He cited allocations for the two intersections at 4700 South and 5400 South on Bangerter Highway and the flex lanes on 5400 South.

19:03:31 Representative Harper addressed questions from the Council. He confirmed that the flex project is a “test” project. He cited other states that have been happy with the reversible lanes.

19:07:02 Council Member Johnson expressed concerns about the short distance of the projects.

19:08:15 Representative Harper emphasized that it would take a legislative bill in order to alter any of the three projects.

19:09:19 Council Member Barbour cited the many concerns expressed to her by constituents and the impact that the flex lanes project may have on Taylorsville businesses and on safety. She noted specific concerns with safety at the Harvey Heights subdivision.

19:11:21 Representative Harper agreed with Council Member Barbour and described issues with east-west traffic.

19:13:10 Issues regarding a potential signal at Harvey Heights were discussed.

19:13:56 Council Member Rechtenbach stated that additional lanes are shown to reduce congestion and enhance safety. He cited Taylorsville’s responsibility to effectively manage the traffic that comes through the City.

19:15:53 City Engineer John Taylor addressed safety issues with left hand turns on 5400 South. He said that one-half of the time, left hand turns will actually be safer with the flex lanes. He noted that substantial safety problems currently exist on 5400 South and said that the flex lanes do not add to those problems. Mr. Taylor noted that the proposed improvements are designed to benefit future traffic, as well as mitigate current problems.

19:17:34 Representative Harper gave an update on the status of the Mountain View Corridor and said that it should be complete in 3 ½ to 4 years.

19:21:55 Council Member Johnson expressed concern over the impact of the flex lanes on businesses along 5400 South.

19:23:18 Representative Harper described proposed transportation projects and reviewed a priority list. He stated that the flex lanes are one part of a solution that will make a difference. He said there is a distinct potential for completing road projects further west of Bangerter on 5400 South and predicted that these will positively impact Taylorsville traffic.

19:29:00 Mayor Wall said that the flex lanes will actually open up access for businesses. He said that if the flex project is not done, the process for improvements going west will be halted.

19:27:49 Council Member Johnson expressed his major concerns regarding the impact of the flex lanes on businesses.

19:30:46 Mr. Taylor confirmed that moving traffic is safer than stopped traffic. He said that this project is innovative and is an option preferable to the taking of businesses and property.

19:31:34 Council Member Barbour asked for clarification on the possibility of the 5400 South Project moving further west.

19:31:57 Representative Harper said that if he is successful in running the bill that he is currently working on and it is passed, the projects further west will be able to get underway. He stated that the earliest the project would start would be the summer of 2011.

19:33:47 Mayor Wall stated that UDOT has indicated that a signal at Harvey Heights is not likely.

19:35:01 Representative Harper gave explanation on requirements and presented a time frame for the big picture.

19:36:34 Council Member Barbour expressed hope that UDOT would take the concerns of citizens near 5400 South into consideration.

19:37:52 Council Member Rechtenbach asked that UDOT ensure ingress and egress for the entire 5400 Corridor. He said that it is important that the Council not be short-sighted.

19:40:01 Council Member Rechtenbach referenced a Town Meeting scheduled for January 22, 2010, which will be hosted by Representative Harper.

19:42:22 Council Member Johnson said that the problem will not be solved until bottlenecks further west are addressed.

19:43:04 Mr. Taylor confirmed that he would stay abreast of the issue and keep the Council updated.

3. Discussion Regarding the Proposed Good Landlord Program – *Mark McGrath*

19:43:44 Community Development Director Mark McGrath noted that a lot of previous discussion has been held regarding the Good Landlord Program. He cited his intent to bring the ordinance back to the council for consideration at the January 20, 2010 Council Meeting.

19:44:42 Mr. McGrath discussed projected staffing needs and predicted that another half-time employee will be needed to facilitate the extra licenses.

19:45:52 Council Member Pratt suggested that additional staffing may be required in other departments.

19:46:39 Mr. McGrath discussed the Good Landlord Training Class. He recommended relying on the Apartment Association to teach the class and then monitoring its effectiveness.

19:48:31 Council Member Barbour stated that she took the Good Landlord Training Class years ago and cited the benefits of the class. She said that the cost of the class is \$59 and would be well spent.

19:49:29 Council Member Johnson suggested finding a volunteer to teach the class. Mr. McGrath noted that the class would have to be an all-day class and be taught at least once a month, possibly more.

19:51:47 Mr. McGrath reviewed ideas for coordinating with other agencies/departments.

19:53:51 Council Member Pratt inquired about any avenue for pulling the business licenses of non-conforming landlords who do not participate in the Good Landlord program. Mr. McGrath gave clarification and said that code enforcement will be monitoring all businesses whether they participate in the program or not.

19:55:51 Mayor Wall stated that business licenses for landlords will be treated as a conditional use and licenses can be pulled for code enforcement violations.

19:56:47 Mr. McGrath addressed efforts to ensure compliance with the fire and building code. He cited the use of self-check lists and explained that inspections would be conducted based on complaints only.

19:58:40 Mr. McGrath addressed pre-existing or grandfathered tenants. He stated that existing tenants would not be required to obtain a criminal background check.

19:59:42 Discussion was held regarding the requirements for criminal background checks.

20:01:29 Council Member Johnson cited a need for consistency.

20:02:40 Mr. McGrath reviewed the timeline for compliance in obtaining business licenses.

20:04:03 Council Member Rechtenbach suggested issuing licenses according to Council Districts. Mr. McGrath agreed that this was a good idea.

20:04:40 Mr. McGrath said that Finance Director Scott Harrington has anticipated a projected revenue increase of approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. He noted that the revenue for business license fees other than rental units will remain nearly the same.

20:06:20 Mr. McGrath confirmed that the ordinance will be in effect as soon as it is passed.

20:07:20 City Administrator John Inch Morgan gave additional clarification on projected revenue.

20:08:22 Mayor Wall noted that evictions will be handled through the criminal courts and will not result in costs to the Taylorsville Court. City Attorney John Brems referenced small changes that will be made in the new version of the ordinance. Mr. Brems confirmed that issues with the Apartment Association have been resolved.

20:09:38 Council Member Pratt suggested that Items V and W be combined. Mr. McGrath agreed to consider that suggestion.

20:10:11 Council Member Pratt inquired about fee schedules and Mr. McGrath gave clarifications on fees for a single family residence.

20:17:24 Council Member Barbour confirmed that landlords are required to go through the training program every two years.

20:19:27 Mr. McGrath discussed incentives for landlord participation in the program.

20:19:53 Council Member stated that he was told by Paul Smith that landlords do not have to be a member of the Apartment Association in order to take the class.

20:20:41 Council Member Johnson said that he would like to submit some comments and suggestions on the ordinance. Mr. McGrath asked that Council Member Johnson's input be submitted to him.

4. Discussion of Current City Council Committee Advisors – *Chairman Catlin*

20:21:46 Chairman Catlin reviewed the new assignments for Committee Advisors. Council Member assignments are, as follows:

Budget Committee -	Morris Pratt
Economic Development Committee -	Jerry Rechtenbach
Healthy Taylorsville Committee -	Bud Catlin
Historic Preservation Committee -	Morris Pratt
Leisure Activities Parks & Recreation (LARP) -	Dama Barbour
Ordinance Review Committee -	Larry Johnson
Public Safety Committee -	Bud Catlin
Arts Council -	Bud Catlin
Association of Municipal Councils (AMC) -	Larry Johnson
Youth Council -	Jerry Rechtenbach
ChamberWest Board -	Dama Barbour
Sanitation Board -	Jerry Rechtenbach

5. Other Matters

20:25:23 Council Member Pratt inquired about cities who are participating in the Unified Police Department (UPD) and any related fees that may be charged to residents. Mayor Wall confirmed that cities have options for funding. He gave clarification on the difference between the Unified Police Department and a Unified Police District. He noted that no cities have opted into the District.

20:28:14 Discussion was held regarding fees and Mayor Wall gave explanation on Taylorsville's involvement. He stated that he would never be in favor of charging fees to citizens.

20:35:07 City Administrator John Inch Morgan noted that he has recently sent out the tentative Mid-Year budget. He stated that it will be available on the City website by tomorrow morning, January 2, 2010, and that a hard copy is available for review in the Recorder's Office. Mr. Morgan relayed that a public hearing will be held next week to receive public comment on the mid-year budget. He gave additional explanation on the format of the budget.

20:38:44 Issues with the sound system in the Council Chambers were discussed. Mr. Morgan relayed that a vendor has recently performed an evaluation and determined that operators need to be educated on monitoring the master controls.

6. Adjournment

20:40:11 Council Member Morris Pratt **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Work Session. Council Member Jerry Rechtenbach **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Catlin called for discussion. There being none, he called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Rechtenbach-yes, Johnson-yes, Pratt-yes, Barbour-yes, and Catlin-yes. **All City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 02-03-10

Minutes Prepared by: Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder