NOTICE OF WORK SESSION

Notice is given of a Works Session to be held by the West Bountiful City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 21, 2009 at 550 North 800 West, West Bountiful, Utah. Reason for the work session is to discuss the 2009-2010 Budget. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Beverly Haslam
City Recorder

Minutes for
Budget Work Meeting
April 21, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Those present: Mayor James Behunin, Debbie McKean, James Bruhn, Cheryl Searle, Valerie Shaw, Kenneth Romney, Craig Howe, Heidi Vordecker

Meeting called to order by Mayor Behunin at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Behunin asked members to agree on broad issues.

Revenues:

- Property taxes are down. Heidi Vordecker spoke with Jim Clayton regarding property tax; large part is from refinery and they changed the reporting date. Property Tax Division will look for large amounts coming in.

- Debbie McKean remarked that the County gets more from personal property tax than the City, but the City has more impact. Craig discussed how assessments were determined.

- Mayor Behunin asked Heidi to put together a revenue projection, and Debbie and Valerie can determine costs for trail improvements, such as the restroom by the golf course.

Big ticket items:

- Jim Bruhn stated that the Engineering Department is out of budget, although they are not yet in the hole. There are necessary items that still need to be taken care of. Water improvements can come out of water bond. They put in $20,000 for part time inspections He introduced discussion of hiring an outside engineer or an on-staff engineer. Paul Bergantz was not present, so they don't have his input.

- Ken Romney stated there are projects upcoming that need to be designed, and CRS's rates are lower than any of the other firms

- Valerie Shaw stated that a firm has more collective knowledge than an individual

- Ken recommends to budget between $60,000 to $80,000 for an on-staff engineer. Craig Howe referred to conversations regarding a three-month overlap. Mayor Behunin is in favor of including the hiring of an in the engineering budget for next year, and include a transition period and additional services.

- Valerie referred to the face that CRS still has a commitment regarding the roads, to which it was observed that after a city engineer is hired, projects can be bid out, either per project or on a year basis. Matt Collier has already been asked to prepare a bid for 10th North, the cost of which will come from the water fund.

- Mayor Behunin concluded the discussion by stating a new engineer will be hired. Starting July 1st, Ken Romney will set up recruitment and he and one other council member will review resumes.

Personnel issues:

- Debbie McKean had a question about the mechanic's position for the golf course: does the City need one since it has new equipment? Craig said a mechanic is necessary to keep the new equipment running well. Debbie asked if there should be no part time mechanics during the summer. Jim stated the City can't do away with golf cart mechanics and replace them with one general mechanic.

- Cheryl Searle expressed the opinion that in this economy the Council should think about the community's reaction to the City hiring new employees. Valerie Shaw referred to question that were posed during closed sessions regarding cutting back on positions, but they never had any feedback.

- Craig Howe stated that if the money is available, there is no reason not to use it on new positions, and the best approach is to focus on what is envisioned for the overall service, and then to pick the right person to fit that vision. A person who can oversee the city assets is a good investment, as is a person who can keep new equipment running well.

- Mayor Behunin stated the goal should be to keep the City more efficient, not just spend money. Ken Romney, referring to the position chart, asked if there were too many supervisor positions compared to employees. Craig pointed out that many of the supervisor positions are filled by one person. As an example, Ken pointed out the City Engineer could fill several positions, including Public Works.

- There was some further discussion: Debbie McKean said it is good to have plans, but they do not need to all happen right now. Cheryl Searle said that people are asked to develop the plans and visions, and when they do not happen right away, they are disappointed. She also mentioned that money should go to reward people who are already with the City, rather than using it for new people. Craig Howe said they should outline their plans, and if the revenues are there, they can go ahead. He also answered one of Valerie's questions that had been brought up in a closed session which regarding a retirement issue.

Priority List:

- A priority list has been developed, but it can be further refined, and items reordered. Cheryl had questions regarding the priority in sidewalk repair. Debbie suggested the drainage at Legacy be moved lower on the list until UDOT completes their investigation, and put the storm drain issue higher on the list. Other items she had on her list were contaminated water, trails, renovation of the park, updated records and filing system.

- Cheryl and Valerie stated they would address their lists at a later meeting.

- Ken said the Council needs to be conservative and efficient. He doesn't think the Council should look at every line item; that should be up to Craig's department. The Council should see the final figures, not details.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. for two weeks.