

Minutes for
Work Session
April 19, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Those present: Mayor Kenneth Romney, Dave Tovey, John Baza, James Bruhn, Valerie Shaw, Mark Preece, Craig Howe, Heidi Voordeckers, Ben White, Chief Randy Lloyd.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Romney at 6:17 p.m.

1. Review of Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Draft 2 in preparation for adoption of tentative budget on May 3, 2011.

Budget Draft 2 was prepared without a property tax increase so they can concentrate on operational issues. They will discuss property tax separately. Revenues reflect grant revenue of \$105,000 and a transfer of park impact fees of \$105,000 to fund the DSB Trail project (\$210,000). Miscellaneous revenue has been increased to account for the cell tower lease, and \$19,000 is being transferred from RAP tax to fund the Arts Council, Fourth of July Celebration, and purchase of a utility vehicle for the parks department. Expenditures reflect personnel costs that have been greatly reduced because of removing the 401(k) benefit, attrition of the planning and zoning position, cutting the 2% merit increases, and reduced health insurance renewal rates. An amount of \$30,403 is netted in unallocated funds, and it is recommended reserving these funds in case they replace the parks truck.

Valerie Shaw said she was concerned about using RAP tax for anything but the parks and it should not be used to buy a truck. Heidi indicated the truck would be used 100% by the parks.

5% of salaries of each public works employee has been allocated to solid waste (trash can repair, replacement, etc.).

The golf course is now showing \$30,000 negative. Mike Bickers is looking for other places to cut. Heidi suggested an immediate budget freeze. Their projections may be high; the weather has been bad, so they should estimate lower. They are asking the pro shop to have people order items as much as possible rather than keeping them in stock. Part of the reason the golf course is out of balance is monies from the General Fund have not been contributed, as has been done in previous years. The golf course is going to be a big challenge this year, and they will keep focused on it.

Ben White addressed some issues regarding storm drains. If they transfer \$18,000 out of Capital Improvements, some of the money would be used to rebuild pumps. Ben wants to work on them as soon as possible and not wait until July. There was some discussion about flooding problems. An area on 400 North by 1100 West has water backed up, and Valerie noted a ditch there does not appear to have been cleaned out regularly. Craig stated with the transfer of funds, they will just be able to keep current. When thinking about the budget, they should be going over what needs to be done this year. Some of the areas with flooding concerns could be addressed in a special improvements discussion.

Heidi said in regards to infrastructure issues, the city borrowed money to take care of issues in the past. Now they are burdened with having to pay that money back, and there is nothing left for current infrastructure projects. She suggests they continue to look at a property tax increase to fund some necessary projects.

Craig prepared a document titled State of the City – Basic Services, which can be made available to the public. It basically outlines some of the immediate problems the city faces and it states some of the reasons for raising property taxes. A graph shows unfunded streets and storm projects. The capital improvement projects are listed from highest priority to lowest, along with the expected cost of each project. A pie chart shows the allocation of property taxes between West Bountiful, Special Districts,

Davis County, and School Districts. (West Bountiful gets 12%, or \$173.00 per household.) Another chart shows how much it costs the city per household to provide health and safety (fire, snow removal, police, animal control, street and park lighting, and street sweeping).

There was some discussion about the project priority list. They are trying to determine what projects will do more for extending the lives of the infrastructure.

For the benefit of the public that was attending this meeting, Mayor Romney explained some things which were done in the past which has put the city in difficulty today. A couple of examples are that in the past, money was saved up to fix one or two streets, but they should have been spreading out the money for more maintenance. Also, past councils estimated high on how much money would come in from the commercial developments. Legislative changes have taken some of that revenue away, and West Bountiful, due to its smaller population, is now getting a smaller percentage of sales tax due to the population adjustment.

In accordance with statute, the administration will present to council a tentative budget by the second week of May. The tentative budget will not include property tax increases. If they decide to change the property taxes, the budgeting process will be extended. They will not get figures from the county that they need until the first week in June.

Mayor Romney closed the meeting at 7:10 pm.

MAYOR KENNETH ROMNEY

HEIDI VORDECKERS (CITY RECORDER)

NATHALIE ELLINGSON (SECRETARY)