

**BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2011, 12:00 NOON**

PRESENT:	Dennis Fife Bob Marabella Bruce Christensen Scott Ericson Ruth Jensen Tyler Vincent	Mayor Mayor Pro Tem Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Kristy Law Bruce Leonard Jason Roberts	Recreation Manager City Administrator Finance Director/Deputy City Recorder

Merit Increase

Councilmember Jensen said she was not in favor of a merit increase. However, if the merit is not given to employees that make over \$60,000, that amount could be given to other employees and that would increase their merit to almost 4.5%. These are the employees that are doing the labor and keeping the City afloat. This would help those that really need it.

Councilmember Christensen said if a business doesn't have vision and leadership at the top, employees don't know what to do.

Councilmember Vincent stated that many of the employees that earn over \$60,000 work extra hours and do not get paid overtime.

Mayor Fife said some of this is taken care of with the comp ratios. A person that is at 100% comp ratio is not allowed to get the same merit as someone who is at 82%.

Mayor Pro Tem Marabella said maybe there's a balance. He suggested Mr. Bosworth run the numbers to see the effect if employees that are above \$60,000 receive a 1% merit and if they are below a 3%. It might be that the 3% could bring employees from a 92% comp ratio to 96%.

Councilmember Christensen, Councilmember Vincent and Councilmember Ericson felt the 1.6% merit increase should remain in the budget as is. Mayor Pro Tem Marabella and Councilmember Jensen wanted to look further into the possibility of a higher increase for those making less than \$60,000. **The 1.6% merit increase will remain in the budget as is.**

Sports Complex/Parks

Ms. Law came forward and said she was asked if she would support moving the money allocated for Pioneer Park improvements to the sports complex. She did not feel this was the right time to put money into soccer fields at Pioneer Park because of the developments at the sports complex property. There could only be two soccer fields at Pioneer Park. One oriented east and west and another that would have to be a midsize that would run north and south. She felt the money would be better spent with other funds as they become available for the sports complex. The Pioneer Park property would be better used to alleviate severe parking issues during events.

Ms. Law addressed the concerns regarding access. Brett Jones, City Engineer, told her that the road could be chip sealed or asphalted with the amount of money allocated. There would still be enough left to do soccer field construction.

Councilmember Christensen expressed concern with crowding the fields with teams from outside the community. There are not hotels for them to stay in and very few restaurants. All it does is crowd the fields so local youth can't play. Ms. Law explained that the local teams will have first choice. Mayor Fife explained that if this is developed as planned, it will become a regional facility. Mr. Larsen prepared an economic analysis of the sports park. He estimated that softball tournaments alone would bring in approximately \$58 million in sales in the community. This is based upon analysis done in Cedar City. Mr.

Jones' plans include road construction from Forest to the fields and from 1200 West up to the fields, with parking. This is a temporary road that could last 5-10 years. It also includes fields and sprinkler systems. It is possible the City could get volunteers to assist in the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Marabella felt that the City should approach local businesses about donating toward the fields.

Councilmember Ericson said everyone agrees there is a need for additional fields. If just the soccer fields were done and only a dirt road with dust guard it would be \$75,000. This is the minimum amount to get a road there. It is estimated it would cost \$88,000 for a parking lot and \$400,000 for three soccer fields. He felt it would be better to do all the fields rather than one at a time because it would be more economical. It would be better to do a sprinkler system that works for all three fields rather than doing three separately and buying all the grass at a time. He added that if there is not a road base on the parking lot it will violate the City's ordinances.

(See further discussion under MET below)

Youth Empowerment Team (YET) Coordinator and Youth Volunteer Council (YVC)

Councilmember Jensen suggested doing a grant every year. The money being paid to the coordinator could be put in a fund and then a committee could be formed to determine where the money would be allocated.

Mayor Pro Tem Marabella said he met with Bonnie Mortensen, Dr. Lloyd and Gary Dixon last week. Dr. Lloyd told him that if this is not a full-time position the Board will resign. Mayor Pro Tem Marabella told them that the City contributes monetarily to the Family Support Center, the Boys and Girls Club and police officers in the schools. All these programs contribute to the community. He told them he did not feel the City should pay for their full program when other programs are getting grants. He also met with a citizen that was on the original board and he did not have anything good to say about the program. Mayor Pro Tem Marabella was still in favor of two part-time positions for YET and YVC.

Councilmember Vincent and Councilmember Christensen were in favor of making the position full-time for a year and reevaluate.

Councilmember Ericson felt contracting out the program was the best solution. There are several non-profit organizations that could do it for less money than a full-time position. He felt that something needed to be done. There are too many suicides, too many teen pregnancies and other issues to do nothing. He recommended giving Ms. Mortensen a one-year contract and re-evaluate when the contract is up.

Councilmember Jensen said there is almost \$100,000 budgeted for this program. If there is a full-time position with benefits that takes \$55,000-\$60,000 that does not leave much to be spent on the youth.

The majority of the Council was in favor of contracting with Ms. Mortensen full-time for one year. The contract would give her the option to participate in the insurance and would not include retirement.

Municipal Energy Tax (MET)

Mayor Pro Tem Marabella was in favor of raising the MET to the maximum 6% and lowering the utility rates to make it a wash.

Councilmember Christensen, Councilmember Jensen and Councilmember Vincent wanted it to remain at the same level.

Councilmember Ericson said one option to build the entire sports complex is to do a revenue bond on the MET through the Municipal Building Authority. This is an option in the future as a more broad based approach to funding the sports complex through all the users. Mr. Roberts said if the MET was raised to 6% it would bring in an additional \$650,000 a year. Councilmember Ericson said this could be used to pay the revenue bond. He felt the MET should stay the same this year, but this is an option in the future.

Councilmember Christensen said as there starts to be activity in that area this may be an option. The Council will start to see citizen support or uprising as time goes on.

The MET will remain at the same level.

Capital Projects

The Council agreed to leave all the capital projects in the budget.

The Council asked for more information on the parks. Mr. Fannesbeck will go over these at the next budget work session.

A motion to adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual was made by Councilmember Ericson and seconded. All councilmembers voted in favor. The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 2:04 PM.