

**WORK SESSION TO RECEIVE INPUT
ON 2021-2022 BUDGET
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
April 1, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
	DJ Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Joe Olson	Councilmember
	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
	Robin Troxell	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Boss	City Recorder
	Rick Bosworth	Human Resources Director <i>via Zoom</i>
	Dave Burnett	Public Power Director
	Paul Larsen	Community & Economic Dev Director <i>via Zoom</i>
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief
	Derek Oyler	Finance Director
	Jason Roberts	City Administrator
	Elizabeth Schow	Library Director
	Lynna Shin	Associate City Attorney
	Brandon Thueson	Fire Chief
	Royce Wilkerson	IT Director
	Kristy Wolford	Community & Activities Services Director

Mr. Oyler addressed the Council stating that the work session was requested by the Mayor to discuss any items Councilmembers would like to see included in the budget.

Councilmember Peterson requested implementation of an employee loyalty/longevity bonus. He also requested golf course revenue be retained by the golf course and used to improve cart paths. Mr. Oyler explained the golf course revenues shown at the previous Council meeting were based on a calendar year and were the first surplus in four years. The previous years ran a deficit and required a General Fund transfer to prevent a negative fund balance. Historically \$10,000 has been budgeted from the Capital Improvement Fund. If there is a significant surplus, staff can look at the budget for cart paths. Mr. Oyler advised of the possibility for a future budget revision after June 30th when the numbers have been reviewed.

Councilmember Bott's comments concerned the rising costs of power. He would like to see a bigger commitment to the nuclear project the City is a partner in. Mr. Oyler reminded the Council of the rate stabilization fund created three years ago for fluctuation in the wholesale power purchase market. August (rolling blackouts in California) and February (southeast freeze) brought extenuating circumstances on a national level that affected the City's wholesale purchase and caused a loss of approximately \$1M. This exhausted approximately half of the \$2.15M rate stabilization fund. Mr. Oyler confirmed the loss would have an effect on 2021-2022 capital projects in the utility fund. Mr. Burnett addressed the February freeze effect on rates and explained it was not just Texas, but the southeast portion of the US, that affected our grid and created a greater demand for energy and gas.

Councilmember Troxell referred to her recent comments about the City's website and getting information out to the public. She also felt that City facilities and parking lot updates and repairs should be a priority. Mr. Roberts responded that the website is an ongoing project City staff are currently working on. He advised that there is not enough money in the budget to do everything needed in Facilities. There is \$300,000 budgeted in the Facilities Fund. He supported a future work session to discuss current plans and priorities.

Councilmember Olson echoed Councilmember Bott's support of the nuclear project and tied it to the importance of technology in energy. He also supported the value of getting information out to the public via the City website. He would like to see the City promote community involvement in service projects and volunteerism.

Mr. Oyler used the remaining time to discuss the airport and employee wages. In 2010, the airport capital project fund had approximately \$750,000 created by many years of General Fund transfers. The funds were used to match federal and state grant funds for airport maintenance and were exhausted as of June 2020. The future budget year has a grant match of \$278,000 on a \$5.5-6M project for an airport pavement rehabilitation and runway lighting project. The current year budget includes \$500,000 for engineering on the project. Approximately 95% of these projects are funded by state or federal funds and depending on the project, the City spends 3-7% at the most. The City has a 20-year grant assurance which means the obligations require the City to continue the upkeep and maintenance on the project the grant funds were used for. Councilmember Farr, whose Council assignment includes the Airport Advisory Board, concurred with Mr. Oyler stating that airport maintenance should be a priority.

In the current year budget, a 1.8% increase was budgeted for employee wages. Mr. Oyler reminded the Councilmembers of a previous City Council goal which was to be at 97% of the average of the other 26 cities in the compa-ratio group. The last 10 years wages have been at 91.5-93.5%. In January, some of the cities in the group that held off on raises possibly due to the pandemic, increased employee wages at a higher percentage than Brigham City's 1.8% increase. This could cause Brigham City's 92.8% to fall. He commented that the longevity bonuses are the same dollars and compete with wage increases. Councilmember Troxell questioned wages and the difficulty in getting new hires. She commented that teens can get jobs elsewhere making more money than the City offers. Ms. Wolford expressed concerns for the pool employees who make on average \$7-9/hr. Mr. Roberts added concerns about the industry and possible loss of electric linemen. Public Works and Police have seen some improvements in filling their positions. Mr. Roberts assured the Council that staff is watching the job markets and keeping a close eye on wages.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the April 1, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Dated this 16th day of April 2021.

Christina Boss

Christina Boss, Recorder