

**WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS  
THE STATE OF THE GOLF COURSE  
IRRIGATION SYSTEM  
AND  
FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLING  
December 7, 2017  
5:00 PM**

PRESENT:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
	DJ Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Ruth Jensen	Councilmember
	Mark Thompson	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Joseph Bach	Fire Chief
	Mary Kate Christensen	City Recorder
	Chris Marx	Golf Pro
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief
	Derek Oyler	Finance Director
	Jason Roberts	City Administrator

EXCUSED:	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
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**Golf Course Irrigation System**

Mr. Marx explained some of the issues they have been having with the irrigation system at the golf course.

The irrigation system was installed in 1987, 30 years ago. Typically irrigation systems last 18 years. In 1998-99 there was an update to the pump station to make it more efficient. Breaks in the system have increased over the years. Most golf courses typically have 1-4 breaks; the most he's heard of is nine. Eagle Mountain has consistently had breaks in the 20s and 30s in the early 2000s. In 2009 the Grounds Superintendent and the Director of Parks & Recreation went to the Council and asked for funds for a new irrigation system. It was estimated the cost would be \$2.85M. The Council denied the request due to lack of funds.

In 2010, when Mr. Marx started at the golf course, they started making preparations for the future and to make the system last as long as possible.

In the last 15 months, over \$140,000 has been spent to fix the system, including labor. When there is a leak, golfers start complaining and it becomes the Grounds Superintendent's first priority. Leaks are increasing because the pipes are getting thinner and thinner. There are 2,400 sprinkler heads on the golf course and they are brittle and are breaking. This year alone they worked on 104 repairs. There are seven pumps in the pump station, one of which runs continually and they don't know where the water is going. Not only does this affect golf course staff, it also costs the City time and money.

Mr. Marx had a drawing prepared and sent it out for a high level bid. The low bid was \$3.1M. He hoped they could do it for less than that. A new system will lower power use 30-40%. It will also save 25-30% in water usage, but it will probably save more because the pump will shut off. He recommended the construction begin in September 2018 to avoid interruption of play.

If the Council agrees to funding the project, he recommended construction begin September 2018.

Mr. Roberts said there is very limited additional revenue to go towards this project. The only consistent revenue source would be the money saved by making the improvements. Other than that, staff will have to

look at existing revenue sources. He was unsure whether this can be done without using reserves. Revenues came in higher than budgeted. Other possibilities include the Olympic Legacy Fund. Even after getting very creative, Mr. Roberts did not think there would be more than \$2.25M.

### **Fire Billing**

Chief Bach came forward and stated that they sent last year's billing to Fire Recovery to see what they could have collected. Mike from Fire Recovery was on the phone and explained that almost all auto insurance policies contain language that allows fire departments to recoup costs for providing emergency services. If they are not billed, the insurance company keeps the money. The program can be set up to bill only insurance companies, not individuals. They average \$500 per car accident. This is net after their fees.

Services that can be billed include motor vehicle incidents, vehicle fires, structure fires, hazmat calls, special rescues, etc.

After reviewing Brigham City's run volume, they could have recovered \$93,000 total. They charge 20%, so the net to the City would be approximately \$75,000 per year.

Chief Bach invited Steve Harrington to the table. Mr. Harrington works for the Brigham City Fire Department, and is also on Garland's Fire Department. He is the individual who administers this for Garland. They started with this service in June 2014. Mr. Harrington said Utah law allows municipalities to recover costs, but not make a profit, and it has to be done by ordinance. Most of the people the Fire Department services is on the freeway, so they are not paying any taxes toward fire equipment or personnel. In the first year, Garland only had one out of 13 billable calls that was a resident of their City. They receive an average of \$8,000-\$9,000 per year. They are a small department, with only 150-180 calls per year. Brigham City runs approximately 2,500 per year.

Chief Bach explained that Fire Department employees will have to input the data into the system, but they do that now with medical reports. It will take a little more time. Mr. Roberts added that they are looking at how medical billing is being done and if a specialist in bill coding could make money for the City. If an employee makes a mistake on coding, it can cost the City money. The volume on the fire billing will not be enough to require another employee, the ambulance billing has more possibility of driving that.

Chief Bach reiterated that they want to bill strictly to the insurance company. If they send a bill to someone that does not have insurance, they will not try to collect it. Mayor Vincent felt this was appropriate, especially Brigham City citizens because they are paying for these services. Mr. Roberts stated that the City might be required to send them a bill, but there could be a policy that they would not be sent to collections.

The Council gave staff direction to go out for requests for quote.

*The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the December 7, 2017 Work Session.*

*Dated this 18th day of January 2018.*

Mary Kate Christensen  
Mary Kate Christensen, Recorder