

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on April 24, 2012, at 8:40 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Brian Duncan
Craig A. Johnson
Karianne Lisonbee
Douglas Peterson
Larry D. Shingleton

Mayor Jamie Nagle
City Manager Robert Rice
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Police Chief Brian Wallace
Fire Chief Eric Froerer
Finance Manager Steve Marshall
City Attorney Will Carlson
Recreation Director Kresta Robinson
Community Development Director Mike Eggett
City Planner Kent Andersen

1. Meeting Called to Order/Adopt Agenda

Mayor Nagle called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. as a specially scheduled meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER LISONBEE SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2011 were reviewed.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2012 AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

3. Public Hearing – Proposed Resolution R12-14 adjusting the Syracuse City budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012.

A staff memorandum from Finance Director Marshall explained that the biggest item in this budget opening is for the Council to authorize payment to Siemens LLC and Rocky Mountain Power for the street lighting project that will happen over the next few months. During the April 10, 2012 Council meeting a bank lease agreement was authorized in order to fund the project. The proposed budget opening would authorize the Administration to execute the lease funds in order to begin the street lighting project. The total bank lease was for \$620,268 and the total purchase price for the project is \$680,268; this amount is made up of a payment of \$167,232 for the purchase of 312 street light poles that are currently owned by Rocky Mountain Power. It also includes payment to Siemens in the amount of \$513,036 for labor, materials, and overhead to complete the street light installation project. The next item included in the budget opening is to account for additional grant funding awarded to the Fire Department from the Division of Fire, Forestry, and State Lands in the amount of \$14,888; the grant has a 50 percent match requirement. There was also an extension awarded for the communications grant through FEMA; the award was \$5,105 with a five percent match. Both of these grants have been added into the budget via the proposed budget opening. The increase in expenditures in the Fire Department can be offset with an expected increase in ambulance revenue. The third item in the budget opening is related to the 1700 South Culinary Water project. Initial estimates for phases one and two of the project were low and staff anticipates actual costs to be approximately \$350,000 rather than the budgeted amount of \$320,000. The fourth and final item included in the budget opening is an increase to the garbage fund due to increased participation in the program; the additional revenues will cover the increased costs in the fund.

Mayor Nagle then convened the public hearing.

TJ Jensen, 3242 S. 1000 W., asked for an explanation of the need for the budget opening. Mr. Marshall then summarized the staff memo that he provided to the Council in response to Mr. Jensen's question. Mr. Jensen then stated that he wanted to commend City Manager Rice and the rest of the administrative staff as well as the Council for being forward thinking regarding the street lighting conversion project. He stated that he thinks the initial start up cost of \$500,000 seems somewhat high, but he understands that the project will save the City a significant amount of money in the future. He stated that it sounds like all of the budget changes being recommended are within the realm of what the budget can handle.

There being no additional persons appearing to be heard Mayor Nagle closed the public hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION R12-14 ADJUSTING THE SYRACUSE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4. Authorize Administration to execute Fiscal Year 2012-2013 employee benefits contracts.

Administration requests authorization from the Mayor and Council to approve moving forward with the following vendors for our full-time employee benefits:

- o Staff proposes that the City use Select Health as the medical carrier for the FY 2012-2013 budget year. They have been the City's vendor over the past few years and have provided great services to the City.
- o Staff proposes that the City change to Humana Dental as the dental carrier for the FY 2012-2013 budget year. This new vendor has a bigger network than the existing provider and can provide better benefits at a lower cost.
- o Staff proposes that the City use Lincoln Financial as the disability insurance carrier for the FY 2012-2013 budget year.
- o Staff proposes that the City use Opticare as the vision insurance carrier for the FY 2012-2013 budget year. They have been the vendor over the past few years and have provided great services to the City.
- o Staff proposes that the City use Bloomquist Hale as the employee assistance program (EAP) for the FY2013 budget year. They will provide some valuable assistance to full-time employees who need assistance in a variety of areas including work life & wellness, financial counseling, and crisis services.

Mayor Nagle explained that Mr. Marshall reviewed this item during the work session that was held prior to this meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONTRACTS. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

5. Authorize Administration to execute the amendment to the interlocal agreement between Davis County and the City of Syracuse for animal control services.

City Recorder Brown stated that the contract was provided to each member of the Governing Body and attached to the front of the contract was a cover letter from the Davis County Sheriff's Office, who is responsible for animal control oversight. She stated that the contract is fairly self explanatory, but she did want to note that the County is actually recommending a decrease in animal control service costs. Mayor Nagle stated she was very relieved to see that.

COUNCILMEMBER LISONBEE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DAVIS COUNTY AND SYRACUSE CITY FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the City is required to use Davis County for animal control services or if there are other options available to the City. Mayor Nagle answered that the City always has the option of funding its own animal control division, but that would be very costly. Councilmember Peterson agreed and stated that Police Chief Wallace is asked this question on an annual basis and the answer is always the same. Mayor Nagle stated there has been a lot of discussion about this topic because the cost for service has greatly increased since the time that the City originally contracted with the County. Councilmember Johnson stated that the City is basically "at the County's mercy". Mayor Nagle stated that is what happens when the City contracts with the County for a service; the City often loses its voice.

Councilmember Lisonbee stated she thought that there is another city in the area that oversees its own animal control services. Councilmember Shingleton stated that South Ogden City oversees their own animal control services. Councilmember Johnson asked what their experience is been. City Manager Rice stated that it is very costly; the city pays for an officer, his vehicle, animal housing space, and several other overhead items. Councilmember Johnson stated that he appreciated the answers to his question and said that he was simply curious.

Mayor Nagle stated there has been a motion and a second regarding the proposed contract; she called for a motion. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

6. Proposed Resolution R12-15 authorizing the application for Land Water Conservation Grant Fund for the development of Centennial Park Phase Two: Sunshine Playground.

Cindy Gooch approached the Council and explained that she and the City staff are asking for the Council to support them in making an application for funding through the Land Water Conservation Grant Fund for Chloe's Park, also known as the Sunshine Playground. She stated that the City applied for the same grant last year and there was a limited amount of funding available. She stated that there were four projects that were awarded funding and the City's project was fifth on the list of projects. She stated that the City was told to apply for funding again last year and staff received some tips for how to make their application more attractive to the selection committee. She stated that the funding for the grant comes from offshore oil drilling fees that are charged to drilling companies. She stated the moneys collected through the fees are controlled by the Federal Government and when the decision was made to begin charging the fees the commitment was made to use the revenues generated by the fees as grants that could be allocated for the development of parks, beautification of public areas, and improvement of national parks throughout the United States. She stated that the application is due on May 1 and it has been prepared and is ready to be submitted. She stated that staff will request \$200,000 in grant funding. She then noted that the City does have a 501(c)(3) organization established, but the government will not award grant funding to that type of organization and instead they will only award grants to cities. She stated the City is allowed to use money from the 501(c)(3) organization as match funds, but the grant funding must be given to the City itself. Recreation Director Robinson noted that there is over \$200,000 in the 501(c)(3) account that can be used for matching funds. She stated that all of that money has come via donations from private donors.

Councilmember Peterson asked when the grant will be awarded. Ms. Gooch reiterated that the application is due May 1 and if the City is awarded the grant the funding should be made available to the City by mid-October of this year. She stated that because the grant is considered federal money there is a small amount of environmental paperwork that is required, but that should be fairly simple.

Councilmember Lisonbee asked what the funds will be used for if the grant is awarded. Ms. Gooch stated that the City has already received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and all of that funding must be used to purchase the playground equipment for the park. She stated the money from this particular grant could be used to provide landscaping, fencing, and any additional necessary ground work.

Councilmember Peterson asked if the funding from this grant combined with other funding should be enough to allow the City to start on phase one of the project, to which Ms. Robinson answered yes. She stated there is currently enough money available that the City could start phase one now, but the City has been holding on to any money so that it can be used as matching funds. She stated that she believed that the funding from this grant in combination with other money currently being held by the City would be enough to complete phase one of the project.

Ms. Gooch then noted that when she was employed with the City, the City received \$500,000 in land and water conservation funding to build some parks and it does take time for the City to receive the actual funding. She stated the City may be notified that they will be awarded funding, but until a contract is signed and the money has been given to the City, no money should be spent on the project. She stated that the City should be cautious when dealing with this money.

Councilmember Lisonbee stated that she thinks this is a great idea and is very proactive. She stated that she likes that the funding comes from a source that originated in 1965 when the federal government was depleting a resource and in turn investing in parks. She stated, however, that in the purpose of full disclosure, it is important to plan ahead because anything the City uses the funds for must be used and maintained as a dedicated park in perpetuity. She stated that means the City is required to maintain the park forever even if the money was not used to purchase equipment. She stated that she feels "we" need to keep that in mind. Ms. Gooch stated that is a good point and she noted that Clinton City received this type of grant funding to build tennis courts at the park located at their old municipal complex. She stated the City ended up selling to park in order to relocate further to the north and east. She stated that the City worked with the federal government and got permission to rebuild the tennis courts in the new location. She stated the City does need to keep Councilmember Lisonbee's comments in mind, but it is her hope that the City does not plan on getting rid of the Sunshine Playground any time in the future. Councilmember Lisonbee stated that is not her plan, but in conducting her own research she found several very lengthy articles on the internet about different states that are facing problems because they can no longer afford to maintain parks that were build using this type of grant funding. She stated that she simply wanted to share that information. Ms. Robinson explained that when this park was first proposed by the mother of a local resident, for whom the park is being named, that resident had a lot of ideas that were very high maintenance. She stated many of those components have been removed from the project in order to reduce the City's maintenance costs. Ms. Gooch added that the City has received funding from Energy Solutions to be used for ongoing maintenance. She then noted that she does work for another community, Garden City, and they are only completing a portion of their park with grant funds because they want to build a school on the other portion of the ground.

Councilmember Duncan stated that he wanted to make a comment. He stated that it is very frustrating to him that "we" as citizens pay "our" state and federal taxes every year and the City is then forced, through grant programs, to beg to have that money back with contingents that the park must be built the way the government wants it to be built. Mayor Nagle

reminded Councilmember Duncan that the grant funding is not federal money and rather the funding is generated by fees charged to offshore drilling companies. Councilmember Duncan stated that it is a federal program. He stated that he understands that the funding is quasi-public money, but he is frustrated by it. Councilmember Johnson asked Councilmember Duncan if he is simply making a political statement. Councilmember Duncan answered yes and stated that rather than keeping the citizens money in Syracuse in the first place it is shuffled around to great several different types of government programs before it can be brought back to the City with strings attached. He stated, however, that he thinks he will support the program, but he wanted to express his frustration that the City must work to get money back that should have never left the community. Ms. Robinson stated that she does not disagree with Councilmember Duncan, but she wanted to point out that if Syracuse City does not apply for the money, another community will and they will benefit from the program. Councilmember Duncan stated that it is a federal problem that the City is dealing with.

Mayor Nagle stated that Ms. Gooch and Ms. Robinson have done such great work on this project and she appreciates them very much. Ms. Gooch stated that she has been a resident of Syracuse for a long time and she likes to see it prosper. She stated that her business is securing funding for several different communities whether it comes from the federal government. She stated that she wants to help secure projects that communities can be proud of.

COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION R12-15 AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR LAND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTENNIAL PARK PHASE TWO: SUNSHINE PLAYGROUND. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Mayor Nagle stated that she wanted to note one other item that Ms. Robinson and Mr. Rice have been working on. She stated that the City received an email from a group of residents that is very upset about the condition of park ground located near where they live. She stated that Ms. Robinson visited the property and she and her staff have come up with a great idea to move the existing park structure from Centennial Park to the other park this summer. She stated that she wanted to commend Ms. Robinson for her work to solve the problem.

At 9:20 p.m. COUNCILMEMBER LISONBEE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Jamie Nagle
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, CMC
City Recorder

Date approved: June 12, 2012