

Minutes of the Work Session meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on January 26, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Work Session Room, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Alan Clark
D. Matthew Kimmel
Douglas Peterson
Larry D. Shingleton

Councilmember Hammond was excused from the meeting.

Mayor Jamie Nagle
City Administrator Rodger Worthen
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Finance Director LaMar Holt
Police Chief Brian Wallace
Fire Chief Craig Cottrell
GIS Technician Troy Moyes
Building Inspector Tex Couch

The purpose of the Work Session was for the Governing Body to review the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., review the City Council Calendar, review the City Claim Statement, receive a presentation from the Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District (WIWMD) regarding a green waste recycling program, review updated draft of Syracuse Business Organization Strategic Support (SBOSS) presentation, and discuss Council Business.

Agenda

Councilmember Peterson stated that he noticed that some changes had been made to the format of the agenda. He noted that agenda items for Council Reports, Mayor Report, and City Administrator Report had been shifted to the end of the agenda. He stated it is not a problem for him, but he inquired as to the reason for the change. Mayor Nagle stated that she asked that the order of the agenda items be changed. She stated that prior to being elected as the Mayor she attended several Council meetings and heard murmurings from people about having to wait through all the reports at the beginning of the meeting before the item they were interested in was considered by the Council. She stated that she wants to be mindful of the time of those attending the meeting and get to their business as quickly as possible.

Calendar

Councilmember Kimmel stated that he would like to attend the newly elected officials training hosted by the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) on Saturday, February 6 in Moroni. He asked City Recorder Brown to register him for the session.

Councilmember Shingleton asked if the legislative update open house scheduled for this Thursday will still be held. Mr. Worthen stated he has not received an update regarding the status of the meeting, but he will do some research and send an email to the Council to let them know if the meeting will still be held.

Councilmember Clark stated that he mentioned during the last work session meeting taking a few minutes to decide which Councilmembers will be attending the ULCT conferences this year. He stated that last year Councilmembers Hammond and Shingleton attended, though Councilmember Hammond paid for himself. Councilmember Peterson stated that he remembered the Council deciding to send one member to each ULCT conference if the budget permits. Councilmember Clark stated that is correct, but he added that if two members may be able to attend the conferences if they are willing to share a room and transportation to and from the conference. Mayor Nagle stated that she is comfortable with that scenario as long as both members attending are of the same gender. Councilmember Shingleton stated he would assume that Councilmember Hammond will attend the conferences again this year and pay for his own expenses. Councilmember Kimmel stated he would like to attend the conferences and that he would check his schedule to determine his availability. Councilmember Peterson stated that he believed the spring conference is going to be held over spring break. He stated if he were to attend that conference he would like to take his family; therefore, he could not share a room with another Councilmember. Mayor Nagle asked Councilmember Clark if he wished to attend either conference. Councilmember Clark stated he did not wish to attend, but he felt that someone from the City should. He asked that the Council take a few minutes to finalize the discussion during the next work session.

Councilmember Clark reported that he will be out of town April 22 through May 2; therefore, he will be absent during the April 27 Council meeting.

Claim statement

Councilmember Kimmel stated that page three of the report includes an expenditure for replacement monitors and he inquired as to the purpose of that expenditure. City Administrator Worthen stated that he believed that four computer monitors 'crashed' and it was necessary to replace them.

Councilmember Shingleton stated that pages two and four of the report include similar entries for an expense paid to Bill's Comfort Systems and he asked why the entry is duplicated. Finance Director Holt explained that the expense was originally charged to the wrong account. He stated it was later credited and reassigned to the correct account.

Mayor Nagle asked for an explanation of two expenses for COBRA insurance for former-Mayor Panucci. Councilmember Clark explained that an individual has the right to continue insurance coverage through the COBRA program and it is that individual's responsibility to pay the insurance premiums. He stated that the City pays the premium and the individual reimburses the City.

Councilmember Kimmel stated that page three of the report includes an expense paid to American Capitol Group for consulting fees and he inquired as to the purpose of that expense. Mr. Worthen explained that American Capitol group is the firm that employs the City's lobbyist in Washington, D.C. A member of the audience inquired as to the amount of the expense, to which Mr. Worthen answered \$1,500. Councilmember Kimmel asked if the firm specializes in lobbying for municipalities, to which Mr. Worthen answered yes and explained that the lobbyist is very good at lobbying for earmarked monies for the City. Mayor Nagle added that the lobbyist obtained a grant for the City to assist in replacing the waterline running underneath Bluff Road from the Jensen Park pump house to the roundabout on 2000 West. Mr. Worthen stated that is correct and he added that the lobbyist has helped the City obtain several grants. Councilmember Kimmel asked if the City has kept track of how much money the lobbyist has brought to the City each year. Mr. Worthen stated he is not aware of any kind of tracking document that exists, but he knows that the lobbyist has been successful in assisting the City in obtaining millions of dollars. Councilmember Clark added that the fees the City is paying are quite reasonable when compared to other lobbyist's fees.

Councilmember Clark inquired as to what bank the Administration has decided to transfer the City's accounts to. Mr. Worthen stated the Administration has decided upon using Zion's Bank and he will provide more information on that situation during his regular meeting report.

Presentation from WIWMD regarding green waste recycling program.

Councilmember Clark introduced Nathan Rich, Director of Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District (WIWMD). He stated that Mr. Rich has made this presentation to three other cities and the recycling program that he plans to discuss is already underway in Fruit Heights.

Mr. Rich stated it has been some time since he has visited Syracuse City; the facilities are substantially nicer than they were the last time he was here. He stated that he would like to invite the Council to visit the WIWMD facilities some time. He stated that during his presentation he planned to provide a brief overview of the WIWMD facilities and the services they provide, he wanted to discuss the recycling drop-off center, and he wanted to discuss curbside recycling and recycling of green waste. He then explained that WIWMD is a special service district owned by Davis and Morgan Counties and 15 cities within those counties, Bountiful City excluded. He stated the name of the district has changed several times and the current name reflects an integrated approach to solid waste management. He stated that when discussing recycling, the buzz words "reduce, reuse, and recycle" are often used, but there are two other tiers in the integrated solid waste management hierarchy that he wanted the Council to consider; recover – waste to energy, and residue – landfill. He stated the landfill is the foundation of any solid waste management system. He then reviewed the WIWMD system components. He stated the Davis Energy Recovery Facility is home to an incinerator that is used to generate steam, which is sold to Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) for renewable energy. He stated that also at the facility they perform metals recovery and recycling. He stated this is done by gathering the metals from the incinerator ash and then recycling them. He stated the WIWMD also operates the Davis Landfill as well as a Landfill Gas to Energy Facility where they perform 2.4 MW electrical generation. He stated the WIWMD has been operating the Green Waste Recycling Facility since 2002 and they recently completed an expansion project to provide better customer service facilities that house a household hazardous waste drop-off area as well as a give and take area. Councilmember Peterson stated that he likes the give and take facility. Mr. Rich stated that the items left at the give and take area by people go very quickly. He stated that once the expansion of the facility is completed it will be possible to move the give and take area indoors.

Mr. Rich then reviewed a slide titled 'System Performance 2008'. He explained that the total waste received by the WIWMD was 284,014 tons; 129,020 tons went to energy recovery; 9,443 tons was green waste; 5,266 tons were metals; 713 tons came from recycling bins; 145 tons were made up of tires; 99 tons of carpet pads; and 15 tons of used oil. He stated that means that 144,701 tons of the material the WIWMD received was recycled which translates to a landfill diversion rate of 51 percent. He stated that is strong performance, particularly in Utah where the average diversion rate is only about five percent. He stated his message is not that it is not necessary to be concerned about recycling, but that people should understand what they are getting for the fee they pay to have their garbage collected. He then reviewed a pie chart detailing the same numbers included in the previous slide. He then explained that the construction of a recycle drop-off facility is ongoing and he provided the Council with a photo of the groundbreaking event for the center held on November 4, 2009. He then reviewed renderings of what the facility will look like when it is completed. He explained there will be a series of windows on the side of the building that people will use to sort their recyclables; there will be storage space inside the building as well as a bailer to make the materials more compact. He stated once the materials are baled they will be sent to Salt Lake City as saleable products. He stated that this will save the WIWMD a considerable amount of money since every time a recycling bin is sorted in Salt Lake City, that service costs \$175. He then reviewed the next slide titled 'why curbside collection and recycling of green waste?'. He explained that green waste makes up a large quantity of easily recyclable material and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that yard trimmings make up 13 percent of all municipal solid waste. He

explained that recycling green waste will improve the operation of the waste to energy facility since wet grass does not burn well in the incinerator and 90 percent of those materials will end up at the landfill at the end of the day. He stated that there is currently an existing green waste recycling facility being operated by the district and they have the facilities in place to handle the program. He then reviewed photographs of some of the components that make up the green waste recycling facility. He then stated that last summer the WIWMD piloted a program in Fruit Heights that he feels has been successful. He stated that one of the struggles with curb side collection is that in order to control costs the program needs to be mandatory. He stated, however, that it is hard to make the argument that everyone in the City needs a green waste can; therefore, they need to figure out how to have a successful optional green waste recycling program. He stated that green waste cans must be picked up weekly and the cost of the green waste can needs to be less expensive than the cost the customer would pay for a second garbage can. He then stated there needs to be some discussion about the fact that green waste recycling is a seasonal operation and the City would need to decide what to do with the green waste cans during the winter months. He stated that in Fruit Heights the green waste recycling is an opt-out program rather than an opt-in program, which improves the participation rate. He stated opt-out means that everyone will receive a green waste recycling can and if they do not want to participate in the program they can call and opt-out and have their can collected by the City. He stated that if someone does not want to participate in the green waste program they should not be allowed to keep the can because they will only use it for garbage and contaminate the green waste recycling system. He stated that in Fruit Heights they were hoping for a 50 percent participation rate and they ended up with a 35 percent participation rate, which is not too bad. Mayor Nagle inquired as to what percentage of those customers had second garbage cans before the green waste recycling program was kicked off. Mr. Rich stated that approximately 55 percent of the residents in Fruit Heights had two garbage cans, which was one reason the WIWMD focused on them for the pilot program. He stated that they believed that many of those second garbage cans would be replaced by green waste cans, but only half of those with two cans turned in their second can; the remainder picked up the green waste can as a third can. He stated that the cost per month per customer for green waste recycling in Fruit Heights is \$8.30; that cost is divided among the hauler and the WIWMD who receive \$2.95 and \$5.25 each respectively. He inquired as to the current cost that Syracuse City residents pay for a second garbage can, to which Mr. Worthen responded \$6.70 per each additional can up to three. Mr. Rich explained that in Fruit Heights the WIWMD agreed to pay the cost to deliver the cans to the customers in order to help keep the cost of the program low. He stated that there is consensus on the board that the WIWMD would do the same for Syracuse City, and thereafter the City would bear the costs of administering the program. He stated that garbage haulers will likely charge more to collect green waste cans because there is a smaller number of those cans compared to garbage cans and the hauler must use a different truck and make a second pass through the City. He then revisited the issue of seasonal collection of green waste and explained that the WIWMD has allowed the program participants in Fruit Heights to use the green waste can for garbage during the off-season winter months. He stated that does not increase the amount of waste the WIWMD must deal with because if people have garbage they will get rid of it no matter the means of doing so. He stated that the risk is retraining people in the spring to start using the cans for green waste once again. He then reviewed the results of the green waste pilot program in Fruit Heights. He explained that Fruit Heights has 1,379 first garbage cans, 753 second garbage cans, and approximately 550 green waste cans were placed. He reiterated that about half of those using a second garbage can turned in their second can. He stated that October was the first really good month for the program with 36.7 tons of green waste being collected, translating into a 15 percent recycling rate. He stated that is a good diversion rate for a city the size of Fruit Heights with only 35 percent of their residents participating. He explained that Woods Cross has the longest running curb side recycling program and they only average a 10 percent diversion rate while 96 percent of their residents participate. He stated he was pleased to see good numbers associated with an optional program. He stated that he was initially dreading how much contamination there would be in the green waste materials. He stated that the city of West Jordan collects highly contaminated materials, but their green waste program is mandatory. He stated the level of contamination of materials in Fruit Heights is pretty light. He then stated the next thing for the City to do is to consider how to proceed from this point. He stated the City should try to determine the level of interest among the citizens for a green waste program; meet with a hauler to determine what their costs would be; advertise the program; gain consensus; and try to introduce the program in the spring. He stated the WIWMD had agreed to accept \$2.00 per can per month and they will deliver the cans for any city that wants to participate. He stated that is among the details that must be discussed before trying to introduce a program.

Councilmember Kimmel inquired as to how the green waste recycling facility was paid for. Mr. Rich explained that the green waste recycling facility was part of the overall budget for the WIWMD, but it has been their goal to have the facility be self sufficient. He stated that that is not currently the case, but it is their goal. He stated the facility covers its direct operating costs, labor, fuel, and approximately half of the capital costs. He explained they have a little over \$1 million worth of equipment that is used for green waste recycling. Councilmember Kimmel asked how the remaining costs are covered. Mr. Rich explained that the green waste program is entirely funded through tipping fees and the fee paid by each household. He added that the district receives a substantial amount of revenue from energy sales as well. Councilmember Kimmel inquired as to the projected revenues generated by compost sales. Mr. Rich explained that if this program went district-wide over the next five years, the WIWMD could use the figures from Fruit Heights to generate projections. He stated that the goal of the facility is to extend the life of the landfill and to increase recycling. He stated the compost product is a good product and it is available for a good price. He stated that one of the questions he often gets is how the green waste materials are being recycled and when people see that the recycled product is available for reuse as compost they know that recycling is taking place. He stated the district's goal is that the green waste facility breaks even.

Mayor Nagle explained that the time allotted for this agenda item has expired and she expressed thanks to Mr. Rich for providing green waste recycling information to the Council. She stated she would appreciate having Mr. Rich's contact information so that she may make further inquiries about the program. Mr. Rich reiterated that he would like for the Council to come and visit the facility. Councilmember Clark stated he would like for this item to be added to a future agenda so that the Council may have more discussion. Mayor Nagle concurred. The Council decided to add the item to the agenda for their last meeting in February.

Review updated draft of Syracuse Business Organization Strategic Support (SBOSS) presentation.

GIS Technician Moyes stated that this updated presentation highlights the SBOSS organization. He stated that SBOSS can be defined as an organization committed to advancing the general welfare of the businesses and citizens of Syracuse City. He stated that he has met with 12 or 13 business owners in the City and the feedback he had received from them regarding the idea to create SBOSS has been very positive. He asked the business owners how their businesses are doing and they in turn had some questions and feedback for the City, such as when is the construction going to be completed; the economy is tough and the businesses are not meeting their goals; Syracuse residents do not seem to be supporting the businesses as the business owners feel they should be; and the residents of the city love coupons and cold cereal. He then asked the business owners what they think about SBOSS and they told him that they think it is a great idea and it would be wonderful to meet with other business owners. He added that businesses are already trying to network with other businesses, but it makes sense to do so in a more formal setting. He stated they were all very supportive of the idea. He stated he asked the business owners what ideas they have for improving business in Syracuse City and they provided him with the following suggestions: start a community paper with coupons and advertising as well as articles that talk about local businesses and what makes various businesses unique; be more involved in community events; and create more events that would attract more visitors to the City. He then stated that he would like to recommend that the kick-off summit for SBOSS be held February 10, 2010. He reviewed the draft agenda that he has prepared for the meeting as well as a small video marketing Syracuse City. He stated possible discussion items at the event could include the structure of the SBOSS organization; business to business discounts; local mailers and a local newspaper; an annual business expo; a shop in Syracuse promotion; business networking; City support; yearly awards; and community events.

Councilmember Clark asked if there are any grants available to help fund this type of organization. Councilmember Shingleton suggested that the City approach Davis County Economic Development to see if they could provide some assistance. Mr. Moyes added that some of the larger businesses do not seem to mind 'footing the bill' for the organization because they feel that SBOSS will benefit them in the long run. Councilmember Clark stated he is simply concerned about covering the City's costs in this endeavor. Mr. Moyes stated that the City will not financially support SBOSS. Councilmember Clark stated that he understands that, but regardless there will be staff time committed to the organization and it would be nice to see if there are any options for covering those soft costs. Councilmember Shingleton stated that one thing to consider is that some staff time may be spent supporting SBOSS, but SBOSS should ultimately benefit the City by the way of increased sales tax revenues resulting from residents choosing to stay and shop in Syracuse. He added that he spoke to the owner of the new Wendy's restaurant and he spent \$200,000 more on his Syracuse building than on his other buildings in order to be in compliance with the building standards of the City. He stated that his biggest concern is that it may be difficult to recover those costs if the citizens of Syracuse do not support his business. He stated that he was willing to do a lot of things to garner community support. Mr. Moyes stated that is true of all of the businesses that he has spoken to.

Mr. Moyes then asked if the Council was comfortable with scheduling the SBOSS kick-off event for February 10. He stated that there are 125 brick and mortar businesses in the City and he inquired as to whether all of those should be invited. Mayor Nagle stated that it might be good to invite the home based businesses to the event as well. Councilmember Peterson stated during the original discussion regarding SBOSS the Council had determined that only the brick and mortar businesses should be invited to the initial event. He stated those businesses could then decide if they home based businesses should be part of SBOSS. After a short discussion the Governing Body agreed that only the brick and mortar businesses should be invited to the kick-off event. Mayor Nagle and Councilmember Shingleton complimented Mr. Moyes for his great work in preparing the presentation for the event.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Jamie Nagle
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, CMC
City Recorder

Date approved: February 9, 2010