

CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2015  
5:03 p.m.

CITY OFFICES

220 East Morris Avenue #200  
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

PRESIDING  
CONDUCTING

Council Chair Irvin H. Jones, Jr.  
Council Chair Irvin H. Jones, Jr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharla Beverly, Ryan Gold, Irvin H. Jones, Jr., Kevin Rapp,  
Michael Rutter, Debbie Snow and LeRoy Turner

STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Cherie Wood  
Charee Peck, Chief of Staff  
Lyn Creswell, City Attorney  
Mont Roosendaal, Public Assets Director  
Randy Sant, Economic Development Consultant  
Kyle Kershaw, Finance Director  
Jack Carruth, Chief of Police  
Craig Burton, City Recorder

OTHERS PRESENT:

See attached list.

**Matters for Discussion**

**1. Presentation and discussion by The Trust for Public Lands.**

Council Member Turner reported attending a meeting with the Granite property developers the night prior and receiving a final proposal. One of the issues troubling many is the number of apartments that the developer is planning for the area. For this reason, the Council thought a presentation from The Trust for Public Land would be appropriate, considering this might be a possible option. Council Member Turner expressed his desire to see good development come into the area. He suggested that other Council consider a closed meeting after the presentation to discuss land issues.

Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Florence, introduced Mr. David Weinstein and Mr. Paul Maynard, from The Trust for Public Land. Mr. Weinstein reviewed a presentation about his company with the Council. A copy is attached to these minutes and incorporated by this reference.

Council Chair Jones asked for clarification in that The Trust doesn't actually provide any funds for City but will act more as a facilitator in helping the City acquire funds

to purchase property.

Mr. Weinstein explained that his time is in-kind time and he is backed by foundation funding. The technical assistance letter allows him to work in assisting the City pro-bono. The Trust would research any available funds to the City and run campaigns on that.

Council member Kevin Rapp asked if a campaign was run, would it be legal for the City to actually spend money on such a campaign.

Mr. Weinstein replied that would not be legal. City staff is allowed to work on these efforts for a limited amount that does not constitute lobbying. Elected Officials, on their own time, on their own dime can work on a campaign, as long as it does not interfere with their civic duties and utilize any public resources. Mr. Weinstein said that to run this campaign he would have to work a local citizens group, a nonprofit user group or create a new campaign entity but they can help create a new entity.

City Attorney, Lyn Creswell, clarified this by explaining that under Utah State law, once the Council takes action and specifies what the need and intent is, the City can capture that, report it and put it on the City's website. That will be the City's elected official's position although that is not in the form of a campaign; it is useful information for the public to have. Mr. Creswell informed the Council of a Matrix that Deputy City Attorney, Paul Roberts, has prepared on "do's and don'ts" for elected officials, Mayor and City Council; if Council decides to move towards a bond.

Council Member Jones said that the Council cannot campaign but can provide factual information to constituents.

Mr. Creswell explained that the language referring to that is regarding the voter information packet that the County distributes but the City gets the opportunity to state what the City's proposal and proposition is. If there is opposition, that should be reflected in the packet. That is legal and City is able to do these things. If the Council decides to do a GO Bond the City Attorney's Office will be spending a lot more time with City Council on these issues.

Council Member Jones, expressed concern about repeating the 2011 bond experience.

Mr. Weinstein clarified that it comes down to a good campaign and compelling needs and that is why The Trust puts so much time into the polling work. Clear lines of communication and a good campaign are essential.

Council Member Jones thanked The Trust for their time.

- 2. Budget discussion.** Council Member Jones introduced this issue as to address some concerns, Council Member Rapp expressed regarding the budget.

Council Member Rapp to expressed concern acquiring property for the City. He wanted to bring back the Tree Ordinance that was scheduled for budget season, and so now seemed like an appropriate time to discuss it. He reflected back to when Council was told they needed to find funding for it. The packets from last week mentioned \$67K being needed to fund program. The number is inaccurate due to \$10K in CDBG funds no longer being at the discretion of the Council. Council Member Rapp proposed that the \$57K comes from the money that would be spent in replacing the Mayor's vehicle, of \$37K; which will reduce this issue to \$20K. The \$20K can be moved from the Park Improvement capital fund. He remarked that he understood the Mayor has been waiting for a new vehicle and he feels that next year, when the vehicle reaches the 100K miles, then the vehicle should be replaced. Council Member Rapp stated hearing the Mayor say, at a previous meeting, that she really didn't need it. He mentioned Urban Livability Director, Glen Smith, stating these were just speculative numbers. Council Member Rapp stated that he feels the numbers should be less because when properties are abated, although it takes a while, the City recuperates that loss. He expressed concern for public safety, for City trees, in City parks and parking strips. The Emerald Ash is on its way here and a lot of trees will have to be taken down; and funding for that needs to be available. Council Member Rapp presented Option A, as an increase enforcement of property out of compliance with dangerous tress, such as the ones on 300 East and Welby Avenue, which pose a serious threat to those living there. He concluded by expressing his feeling that this should be funded simply because of the public safety aspect of it. He mentioned the part-time person requested by Mr. Smith, who would not just do trees but that would be part of it; maybe other funds can be pulled to cover this position. Council Member Rapp recalled the option of having this also being a service that a contractor could perform for the City, without much cost to the City. A lot of time was spent to pass this ordinance and therefore, he requested to get the ordinance back on the agenda.

Council Member Turner mentioned getting a bulletin that mentioned that the Emerald Ash will take a few years before it gets here; this would allow the City some planning time. He asked the Council to be more guided when discussing the Mayor's vehicle and her ability to perform her duties and reflecting the City's image. He cautioned that the longer this is pushed back, the more a new vehicle is going to cost. Council Member Turner addressed Council Member Rapp, advising him to look at other options than this car situation.

Council Member Rapp expressed being open at looking at other options.

Council Member, Ryan Gold, reflected about the Mayor's car issue being brought up the prior year and the prior week, and reminded the rest of the Council that it is part of the City policy to replace the vehicle, which does reflect on the City image and the Mayor was gracious enough to forgo the replacement last year. He suggested this issue needs to be put aside.

Council Member Jones reminded the Council of their limited power, as far as the budget goes. This is a capital budget item and the Council does not have the power to

tell the Mayor not to buy a new vehicle. The Mayor's vehicle is a line item the Council has no power to veto. Council Member Jones agreed with Council Member Rapp, that Mr. Smith has funds for a part-time graffiti removal employee; which was hard to find. To be able to make this good employee full-time, the City would task the employee with the tree removal duties. As far as total cost, Council Member Jones, suggests using discretion over tree abatement and setting up an annual amount that once it runs out, it runs out. It is up to the Council to decide how many dollars to put into it. The Council can also decide to pass the ordinance and fund it, but leave it up to the Mayor on how she is going to pay for it.

Council Member Rapp agreed.

Mr. Creswell reminded the Council that at the time the ordinance was presented Mr. Roberts asked the Council how they wanted to approach the issue of dead or diseased trees; if they wanted to make this the property owner's responsibility. Mr. Creswell advised the Council not to adopt a City responsibility on private property unless the City is going to fund enforcement and remedies associated with that.

Mayor Wood addressed the Council regarding FTEs (full time employees), explaining that FTEs add to the 2016 issue. The two positions that were added to this year's budget came with funding sources and that is the only reason this other one was not included. The City could not find a funding mechanism to fund this FTE.

Council Member, Sharla Beverly, suggested changing language from "we are going to go out and look at private property" to "City will address complaints" to avoid legal liabilities.

Mr. Creswell replied that he would look into it.

Council Member Jones expressed his biggest concern being the Police, Public Safety and Public Works. As the economy improves, it gets hard to find good Public Works employees, although the City is competitive with other cities, the Council really needs to look at wages and salaries. He expects that the survey being conducted is going to show that the City is low. The Police Department is down six officers and the City is experiencing many officers retiring. When the survey comes in, after budget season, the Council will need to resolve this issue. Council Member Jones proposed to look at a salary enhancement, since it is too late to do a property tax increase, but somehow take care of PD so the City is not a revolving door.

Council Member Beverly suggested an agreement with officers that the City will pay for training but the officer agrees to a certain number of years of service.

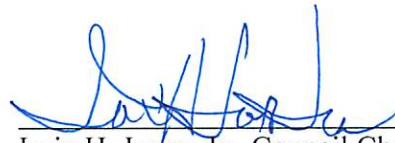
Mayor Wood explained that she has been discussing this issue with Chief Carruth and one of the best ideas is to scout officers at post, offer to outfit them, which is about \$1,200 dollars if they come and work for South Salt Lake. The Mayor and Police Chief are looking at what can be done, since the Police Department has not been fully staffed for over a year. Another issue is not providing officers raises every year and

other cities are offering pay for years of service.


Council Member Turner asked if Central Point might be an option to solve these issues and what time frame is the City looking at to get some help from there.

Council Member Jones responded that it will take a couple of years before the City can rely on such funds.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Irvin H. Jones, Jr., Council Chair



Craig D. Burton, City Recorder

