

MINUTES OF HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

PRESENT: Mayor Jay W. Franson
Councilperson Brian Brunson
Councilperson Steve King
Councilperson Kathryn Schramm
Councilperson Claudia Stillman

STAFF PRESENT: Barry Edwards, City Administrator
Winifred Jensen, City Recorder
Lonnie Crowell, Community Development Director
Matt Shipp, City Engineer
Jody Bates, Administrative Assistant
Emily Gillingwater, Enhancement Coordinator

EXCUSED: Councilperson Glen Vawdrey
Lynn W. Ruff, Finance Director

OTHERS: Kevin Hamilton, Mark Guymon, Nyle Sampson, Jonathan Chapman, Peter Chapman, Collin Hoggard, Jared Maggard, Vaughn Burton, Charlie Pedigo, E. Doyle Robison, Kevin A. Par, Terry Melendez, Daniel Valadez, Dale Valadez, Stephanie Jones, Cindy Hansen, Lisa Allphin, Greg Carter, Kim Carter, Carl Jones, Terri Kent, Deanna Romrill, Christie Dalley, Wolf Muelleck, Julie Muelleck, David Beck, Kelly Reimschissel, Alison West, Larry Mendenhall, Andrea J. Whitlark, Erin Pritchett, Chris Webb, Amelia Webb, Dylan Webb, Brenda Thurgood, Terry Potter, Justin Englebright, Brenda Holtom, Trish Coburn, Ethan Coburn, Craig Larsen, Dianne Larsen, Brent Wallace, DeEtte Englebright, Lynn Warr, Lynn Lonsdale, Stephanie Thacker, Hamid Mortezaadeh

The meeting was called to order by Councilperson Steve King as a special session at 7:00 p.m. Notice of the time, place, and agenda had been provided the *Deseret Morning News*, *Daily Herald*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *Lone Peak Press* August 13, 2007. The prayer was offered by Wini Jensen, and those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Jonathan Chapman. Brian Brunson, Mayor Pro Tem, took over conducting the meeting until 7:45 p.m. when Mayor Jay W. Franson attended the meeting.

1. Truth and Taxation Public Hearing

Barry Edwards made a presentation for the Truth in Taxation Hearing by noting its purpose was to consider a certified tax rate strictly for library operations, which doesn't have anything to do with the General Budget. He explained, based on a tax rate of .00197, this would generate \$200,000 annually for a library and along with this increase the City's total certified tax rate would be .001420. This would mean that a tax on an average \$350,000 home would be

\$273.45. Barry Edwards further explained the \$200,000 library budget would be spent as follows: \$47,250 for librarian salary and benefits, \$8,100 for supplies, \$28,000 for library card refunds, \$5,000 for training, and \$111,650 for book purchases and processing.

Brian Brunson explained the focus for the discussion needed to be based on whether the City should adjust the tax rate to permit \$200,000 in revenue for a library. Public input was taken from the following individuals: Doyle Robison, Terry Melendez, Hamid Mortezaadeh, Kelly Reimschissel, Stephanie Jones, Brenda Thurgood, Terry Potter, Lisa Alphin, Alison West, Terry Potter, Craig Larsen, Larry Mendenhall, Trish Coburn, Alison West, Justin Englebright, , Lynn Warr, Stephanie Thacker, David beck, Dee Whitlark, Wolf Muelleck, Dianne Larsen, DeEtte Englebright, Cindy Hansen, Dan Valadez, and the following members of the City Council: Brian Brunson, Steve King, Kathryn Schramm, and Claudia Stillman. Public comment included the following:

Kelly Reimschissel felt the increased taxes for the library will be costing \$39, and not \$6, based on a \$350,000 home. Also, participating in the American Fork Library would cost less than \$39.

Stephanie Jones, Chairman of the Library Board, explained having a librarian on staff will allow Highland's library to participate in a regional library system by going county-wide. She also noted a librarian is needed to manage the library and do book purchases. Being a certified library would make it eligible for state and federal grants. She further explained the library board is committed to raise \$300,000 for an opening day collection.

Brenda Thurgood questioned why Highland needs a library when citizens can have access to the American Fork Library for \$20, for which she felt was a fair tax to charge those who use it. She later recommended waiting for two years for a \$200,000 budget until the city can get caught up inasmuch as the City is obtaining a new city building, fire station, and justice center.

Stephanie Thacker explained when the library survey went out 460 responded and 81% of those were in support of a library. The General Plan survey, which went out a year ago, had a 73% response of citizens who wanted a library. She felt this is a good indication what citizens want.

Lisa Alphin felt Highland needed a library and she favored putting money into building the community. Alison West inquired what the City is spending for library card refunds, and Barry Edwards noted it is \$28,000. She indicated this \$28,000 could go into a city library. This would also give residents access to other libraries in the County wherein buying a card for another library places the funds into a library which doesn't belong to the community.

Terry Potter noted Highland City is growing faster than most communities in Utah and he felt our children need the use of a library if we value education and knowledge. He indicated he likes having facilities close, modern, and convenient and felt Highland is only going to grow

larger. He liked the idea of paying for things in advance and if we have a vision for growth, let's buy it now.

Stephanie Jones felt the momentum is moving for a library and a lot of people have donated time and effort, and felt this is reflective of the type of community we have. She felt by investing in Highland's library a county-wide system would come, and an identity is needed for Highland.

Craig Larsen preferred to see the City work with American Fork where there is use of a library with more assets, rather than just convenience when it comes to having the same things available to him here which he has now.

Larry Mendenhall felt the city needs to look at a resource for the entire community for young and old, and the only way to make it work is to establish it, fund it, and grow it now in order to have it in the future. He felt \$45 is a small price to pay to establish a legacy.

Trish Coburn felt going to a library in American Fork is too far. She favored having a library close and recognized the value of having a library for her children to access.

Alison West favored Highland City having a library, purchasing books which are different from the ones in American Fork, and have access to other libraries so there are more resources available. She felt the City should work for a county-wide system and have a nice library system for the future.

Justin Englebright, a member of the library board, reported of the 3,390 residents sent questionnaires on the library, 470 were returned and it showed 81% favored a library. He noted the library board has spent hundreds of hours working towards a library and he felt it is better to have it now when it is cheaper. He further noted they are working to get money donated and didn't expect the City to do it all.

Lynn Warr agreed with most of the comments on a library, but in terms of general taxes he pled with the City to do all it can to keep them lower. He noted last year he had a 41% increase in taxes and this year he is showing 16% increase on his tax statement, which he felt was steep.

Doyle Robison addressed his concerns with increased taxes. He also indicated he felt Highland needed a library, as well as a post office.

Dee Whitlark, a member of the library board, indicated if \$20 per person in Highland could be raised the library could have an opening day collection amounting to \$300,000. She felt it is important for a community to have a library.

Wolf Muelleck inquired how the City could make sure \$200,000 is budgeted every year for a library and funds didn't go somewhere else. Barry Edwards indicated this was the reason

for applying the methodology of placing a library certified tax rate which would be recorded separately, and by tying a rate it would be easy to identify a budget.

Dianne Larsen, representing her neighbors noted Barbara Melendez doesn't want the library to be a dumping ground for old books, but something we would want. Wendy Hart had expressed knowledge of the huge cost for computer programs, and felt the City should put money into books and resources which are not existing and lobby for a county-wide system that serves our needs.

DeEtte Englebright felt a library is needed for her children and that Highland is not a quality community without a library.

Cindy Hansen indicated when she moved outside Logan she was not able to get a library card. She noted Provo and Orem don't want smaller communities connected to their library and feared this could happen to Highland. She felt even by needing to start out smaller for a library, at least she would have access.

Dan Valadez felt it is important that money spent on a library, and not just for the children, but for all ages.

2. Adoption of Resolution No. 2007-12, "Adoption of Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-08"

Motion: Brian Brunson moved to adopt Resolution No. 2007-12, "Adoption of Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-08" setting the tax rate at .001223. Motion was seconded by Kathryn Schramm.

Amendment to the Motion: Kathryn Schramm moved to adopt Resolution No. 2007-12, "Adoption of Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-08" and accept the tax rate of .001223, and of that amount .000197 be identified as the library component. Motion was seconded by Claudia Stillman. The motion failed with Steve King, Brian Brunson, and Mayor Jay Franson voting against the motion. (Mayor Franson voted in order to break a tie.) Those voting in favor of the motion were Kathryn Schramm and Claudia Stillman.

Substitute Motion: Claudia Stillman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2007-12, "Adoption of Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-08" with the tax rate for FY 2007-08 of .001420. Motion was seconded by Kathryn Schramm. The motion passed by the following voting in favor: Kathryn Schramm, Claudia Stillman, and Mayor Jay W. Franson. (Mayor Franson voted in order to break a tie.) Those voting against the motion were Steve King and Brian Brunson.

3. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2007-16, "Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08"

Motion: Brian Brunson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-16, "Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08, with the budget adjustments which were delivered by staff.

Motion was seconded by Claudia Stillman.

Motion to Amend: Steve King moved to include in the approval of the budget the additional items staff outlined on page five of the agenda background sheet, and an additional \$250,000 request for road improvements adjacent to Highland Glen Park which are to come out of road impact fees. Motion was seconded by Claudia Stillman, and it passed by unanimous vote.

Amended Motion: to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-16, "Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08, with the budget adjustments which were delivered by staff, to include in the approval of the budget the additional items staff outlined on page five of the agenda background sheet, and an additional \$250,000 request for road improvements adjacent to Highland Glen Park which are to come out of road impact fees. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Barry Edwards indicated the expenses for the election budget had been overstated and he asked for a vote of reconsideration to add an amendment to reduce the election budget to \$8,800.

Motion: Brian Brunson moved to reconsider the motion on the budget. Motion was seconded by Steve King, and it passed by unanimous vote.

Motion: Brian Brunson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-16, "Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08 with the budget adjustments which were delivered by staff, additional items staff outlined on page five of the agenda background sheet, an additional \$250,000 request for road improvements adjacent to Highland Glen Park to come out of road impact fees, and reduce the budget for election expenses to \$8,880. Motion was seconded by Kathryn Schramm, and it passed by unanimous vote.

4. Other Business

A. Mayor Franson reminded the City Council of the public meeting on the issue of 9600 North to be held Wednesday, August 22, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., at Legacy Elementary School.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Kathryn Schramm moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Claudia Stillman, and it passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.