



HIGHLAND CITY

HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Approved January 22, 2019

Highland City Council Chambers, 5400 West Civic Center Drive, Highland Utah 84003

PRESIDING: Mayor Rod Mann

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Brian Braithwaite, Ed Dennis, Tim Irwin, Kurt Ostler, Scott L. Smith

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator / Community Development Director Nathan Crane, Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells, Finance Director Gary LeCheminant, City Engineer Todd Trane, City Attorney Tim Merrill, and City Recorder Cindy Quick, Police Chief Brian Gwilliams, Fire Chief Reed Thompson

OTHERS: Robert Williams, Wayne Tanaka, Doug Cortney, Brian Trampleasure, Lindsay Trampleasure, Kim Carroll, Dorian Carroll, Sheraka Kellen, Robert Strong, Audrey Wright, Alison Malcuf, Cory Wilkinson, Richard Carter, Jean Carter, Doug Turner, Kendall Thurman, Tim Ball

6:30 PM WORK SESSION (*PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING*)

City Council met at the Public Works Building and took a tour to look at possible sites for a Public Works Building.

7:30 PM REGULAR SESSION (*CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS*)

Call to Order – Mayor Rod Mann

Invocation – Council Member Scott L. Smith

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Rod Mann

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rod Mann as a regular session at **7:30 p.m.** The meeting agenda was posted on the *Utah State Public Meeting Website* at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The prayer was offered by Lily Trampleasure and those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Tate Godwin.

Mayor Mann requested that the Swearing-in Ceremony for the Youth Council take place before the Unscheduled Public Appearances. The Council agreed.

2. PRESENTATIONS

a. YOUTH CITY COUNCIL SWEARING IN – *Civic Events Coordinator Julie Tapusoa*

Civic Events Coordinator Julie Tapusoa briefly explained that the Youth Council had been reconstructed so that anyone who was willing to commit to serve would be able to join the Council. The Youth Council Members for 2019 were as follows: Nathanael Ball, Ella Spencer, Kaylin Favero, Jaxon Jones, Kate Rowberry, Mina Brunson, Shelby Mugleston, Sarah Ostler, Elizabeth Hamblin, Sam Clark, Lucy Evans and Collin Ross. Other members include Lily Trampleasure, Mayor; Tayton Godwin, Deputy Mayor; Brinley Openshaw,

Recorder/Secretary; Megan Mabey, Government Chair; Brennon Jones, Publicist; London Kelley, Service Chair; Madison Matthews, Events Co-Chair; Sydney Hunt, Events Co-Chair; and Miranda Mugleston, Junior Advisor.

City Recorder Cindy Quick administered the Oath.

1. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Time has been set aside for the public to express their ideas, concerns, and comments. (Please limit comments to three minutes per person. Please state your name and address.)

John Brusard, a resident, believed that Highland City was not a destination community, so having 27 pickleball courts would not be supported. He suggested having six to eight courts instead.

Brandon Backman, a resident, informed the Council that he had been promoting Beacon Hills Park for the past ten years. He noted that the Mountain Ridge Park would partially be paid for by the sale of excess property but he preferred to see that money be spent to finish existing parks in Highland instead.

Doug Turner, a resident, echoed Mr. Backman's comments. When he moved to Highland, he was excited at the prospect of having a park behind his home but he realized that it had remained unfinished for ten years. He urged the City to use the funds to finish the park, rather than start a new one.

Sara Hamblin, a resident, said that she loved living in the Beacon Hills community and she would like to see the park finished as well. She reported that there was a porta-potty located near her home and noted that it has been blown over frequently. Her kid's friends would often come to her home to use their bathroom when that happens.

Jean Carter, a resident of Beacon Hills, said that they had been waiting for the park to be finished for ten years. She had faithfully paid the \$20 monthly fee for green space which totaled \$2,400 and the park was still only three-quarters of the way finished. She requested that the City finish the park before they spend money on a new park.

Thomas Richey, a resident, said that his father was the Mayor when the Beacon Hill subdivision was put in. The intention was to finish the park as funding came in. Concerning pickleball, Mr. Richey was unsure that 27 pickleball courts would be self-sustaining.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

Items on the consent agenda are of a routine nature or have been previously studied by the City Council. They are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Councilmembers may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

a. ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Special City Council Work Session November 20, 2018

Regular City Council Meeting December 4, 2018

Special City Council Session December 17, 2018

b. ACTION: Preliminary and Final Plat Approval for Petra Place Subdivision

Council will consider a request from Clyn & Nianne Young for final plat approval of a 3-lot single family subdivision located at 11144 N 5500 W. The Council will take appropriate action.

Council Member Ed Dennis requested continuing the approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2018, because he had not had a chance to fully review them yet.

Council Member Ed Dennis MOVED to approve the minutes from November 20, 2018, and December 17, 2018 (as amended), as well as the Preliminary and Final Plat Approval for Petra Place Subdivision. Council Member Scott L. Smith SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

<i>Council Member Brian Braithwaite</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Ed Dennis</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Tim Irwin</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Kurt Ostler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Scott L. Smith</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed.

Council Member Ed Dennis MOVED to continue the minutes from December 4, 2018, until the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Tim Irwin SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

<i>Council Member Brian Braithwaite</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Ed Dennis</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Tim Irwin</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Kurt Ostler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Scott L. Smith</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed.

4. PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION: UPDATING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION AND STORM DRAIN RATES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USERS

Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells oriented the Council regarding a proposal to update the fee schedule for pressurized irrigation (PI) and storm water rates for non-residential users. She explained that an audit was conducted on the rates and some discrepancies were found. Non-residential users were defined as businesses, churches and schools. Currently, the PI rate was a base rate of \$20 and a square footage rate based on the entire lot. The storm drain rate was a square footage rate of the parking lot. With this system, the City was essentially charging users double for parking lots. Staff was proposing a PI base rate of \$20.12 for every lot and a square footage rate based on permeable surfaces. They were also proposing a storm drain rate based on the square footage of all non-permeable surfaces. There were 58 non-residential customers in the City, and 24 of those were churches or schools. Some of their bills would go up and some would go down, but overall there would be a net decrease. With the proposed changes, the PI fund would decrease \$27,000 annually, which was only a 1% decrease in revenue. Staff was not concerned about the long-term effects for the PI fund. The next utility rate increase would take place in 2021, and the Council would review the rates at that time to ensure that they were still adequate. Storm drain would see a decrease of \$18,000 annually.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite wanted to be sure that every fund was paying for itself. He asked if the City could still meet the obligations they had with the 1% annual decrease. He also wondered if they should raise the rate now instead of waiting until 2021.

City Administrator Nathan Crane reminded the Council that they recently had a discussion about the PI master plan. Once that was completed, the City would start looking at the utility rate study for PI and determine whether the rate needed to be changed. They could address this utility earlier than 2021.

Finance Director Gary LeCheminant was not concerned with the decrease.

Mayor Mann opened the public hearing at 8:02 PM and called for any citizens who would like to speak on the item to come to the podium and state their name for the record.

Citizen Comments:

There were none.

Mayor Mann closed the public hearing at 8:02 PM.

Council Member Ed Dennis MOVED that City Council approve Resolution R-2019-01 updating the fee schedule for Pressurized Irrigation and Storm Drain rates for non-residential users.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council Member Brian Braithwaite Yes

Council Member Ed Dennis Yes

Council Member Tim Irwin Yes

Council Member Kurt Ostler Yes

Council Member Scott L. Smith Yes

The motion passed.

5. ACTION/ORDINANCE: APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE SMALL CELL INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

City Attorney Tim Merrill oriented the Council regarding an ordinance to regulate Small Cell installation and maintenance. He explained Small Cells could be attached to poles or buildings to enhance WiFi connectivity. State Law requires that the City allow these small cell devices but the City could regulate where they could be installed and how many.

Council Member Ed Dennis commented that this was a very lengthy ordinance for such a small item. Attorney Tim Merrill explained that some cities were implementing most of these terms through a franchise agreement. He was concerned that something like that could become a negotiation, so he proposed an ordinance that would establish all of those terms.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite commented that the League of Cities and Towns had been studying this for two years and he commended staff for being ahead of the game. It would be a great benefit to the residents but it was good to establish the rules now before companies came in asking to install them.

Jim Russard, a resident, said that there was virtually no signal in his neighborhood and he felt the technology would definitely be helpful to the residents.

Council Member Tim Irwin MOVED that City Council adopt the ordinance regulating small cell facilities within Highland City.

Council Member Scott L. Smith SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council Member Brian Braithwaite *Yes*

Council Member Ed Dennis *Yes*

Council Member Tim Irwin *Yes*

Council Member Kurt Ostler *Yes*

Council Member Scott L. Smith *Yes*

The motion passed.

6. ACTION: APPROVAL OF THE FINAL MASTER PLAN FOR MOUNTAIN RIDGE PARK

City Administrator Nathan Crane first stated that staff's role was to present information to the Council regarding the issue. It was the Council's role to decide what would be best for the residents of Highland. The City had received a number of comments from the community, both negative and positive. He noted that they were under a compressed timeframe and were already at least a month behind. Staff wanted direction from the Council before holding a community open house and beginning the conditional use process. He gave a brief background of the project and said that the City purchased the property in 2008 prior to the construction of the subdivision that surrounded it. The City used funds from the park bond to purchase it and the land was designated as a major park with sports complexes. An open house was held in November and many public comments were made. Staff took those comments into consideration and created the proposed master plan. The plan included 27 pickleball courts, a central food court, two multi-use playing fields, an all-accessible playground, a large pavilion, a restroom building, a Parks maintenance building, and 180 parking spaces. He then addressed funding and emphasized that the numbers were estimates. Parking and road improvements would be roughly \$981,000; the pickleball courts with lighting and restrooms would be \$3 million; the east field would be \$670,000; the west field would be \$742,000; and the playground would be \$811,000. It was noted that the City Council had no desire to go into future debt to complete the park, so they would be using existing funds. Staff estimated \$1.1 million to \$1.6 million in existing revenue to put toward the park, with a portion of that coming from the sale of property at Spring Creek Park. Because the property was purchased with the park bond, the funds were restricted and could only be used for capital park projects. Staff estimated operations and maintenance to be \$50,000 to \$55,000 annually. Additionally, there would be an increase cost of \$30,000 to \$60,000 for Recreation staff.

Council Member Tim Irwin asked if the Recreation staff would be in charge of scheduling all parks and City Administrator Nathan Crane answered affirmatively. If this park were added to the City, Recreation would need another staff member to handle scheduling for all parks and fields. Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells added that the scheduling was done online but still took a lot of time for staff to create the schedule and resolve conflicts as they arise.

Council Member Scott L. Smith asked about the soccer fields, and Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells said that there were nine in the City. City Administrator Nathan Crane said that they could have three rotating fields at Mountain Ridge Park. They could also look at doing baseball fields which was the original intention for the park.

Council Member Scott Smith asked if there had been any report from the advocates raising money for the all-accessible playgrounds and City Administrator Crane responded that he had not had contact with them recently.

Council Member Smith asked about a small strip of land on the master plan and staff explained that the area could be used for bocce ball or another amenity. It was not included in the overall budget.

Council Member Smith asked if the pickleball courts could be restriped for tennis and a resident said that they could not. There was some discussion regarding the reasons why the courts could not be used for both. If the courts were converted into tennis courts, it would be a permanent change.

Chris Thackery, the pickleball ambassador for the Alpine tournament, explained that playing pickleball on tennis courts was not ideal because there was not adequate fencing.

Kendal Zimmerman, a resident, was concerned about the impact the park would have on the houses to the south and west of the park. There would be traffic congestion, noise, and light pollution.

Robert Williams, a resident, was concerned that the proposed location for the all-accessible playground was not close enough to the parking lot. He understood that they did not want a playground close to the street but children with disabilities should still be able to access the all-accessible playground. He also was not in favor of putting the Parks maintenance building as part of the park property. He emphasized the importance of the Council being transparent in this endeavor and wanted to be sure that they truly were looking at all the options.

Robert Strong, a resident, felt happy to see they planned for a bocce ball area, because there was a decent amount of interest in that at the neighborhood meeting.

Jim Russard, a resident, commented that only three pickleball courts could fit within a full tennis court.

Thomas Richey, a resident, asked what the City intended as far as phasing. He was worried about starting another park that the City could not complete.

Mayor Mann said that 60% of the money from the sale of the park property would be put toward this project, with the other 40% being used on other parks in the City.

Brad Pace, a resident, believed that pickleball tournaments would have a lot of participation. He felt that they may see between 500 and 600 people. In terms of congestion, that would be about the size of a normal LDS Stake Conference. He did not believe that tournaments would cause a traffic concern. Light pollution should not be an issue, because there had been a lot of advances in lighting technology to minimize those concerns.

Tim Alders, a resident, commented that he wondered when the government would stop funding entertainment for other people. He felt that a small percentage of the population played pickleball and it did not feel it was right to make the citizenship pay for the entertainment of a few people. He was concerned about how the City would fund the maintenance of the park. He asked if the pickleball courts would be self-sustaining because he did not want his taxes raised to pay for it.

Cory Wilkinson, a resident, did not think that the proposed park was for the benefit of the community as a whole but for a small collection of people. The City should not be funding a park that they only hoped would sustain itself.

Mary Waters, a resident, was excited about the prospect of having a park near her home but was concerned about the proposal. She previously worked at a basketball facility near the point of the mountain that was supposed to host tournaments. However, tournaments and sponsorships did not come. Now, that building was a warehouse. She also noted that Highland did not have amenities to accommodate tournaments, such

as hotel and restaurants and would not benefit from the potential increase for those services. She asked if the park would still happen if the sponsorship did not come in.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite explained that if sponsorships did not happen, the park would move forward with significantly fewer courts. He noted that donations would only cover the pickleball facility, not the entire park. Leagues and tournaments would help pay for the maintenance. He commented that any park would have costs associated with it, even if it were just soccer fields.

Council Member Scott L. Smith added that pickleball tournaments would not take place every week. The courts would be open the rest of the year to be used by citizens.

Ms. Waters felt that the process was very quick and she would like to see the Council take more time in making the decision.

Lorna Reed, a resident, said that she had lived in the area for 22 years and all that time they anticipated a park for the property. She never had a green space for her children to play in while they were growing up, however, she paid her park fee for as long as there had been a park bond. She divulged that she was the one who initiated the discussion about pickleball at this location and she had worked hard to make it happen. At first, they thought about doing eight courts but that would not be self-sustaining. It was her understanding that the magic number for a self-sustaining pickleball area was 27 courts. She also reported that no taxes would be raised to create the courts. She and her associates were working diligently to find sponsorships and donations. She had attended every City Council meeting where the proposal for pickleball was discussed, and she put in a lot of hours seeking donors. She commented that if residents wanted to make changes in their community, they just needed to put the time and effort into getting it done.

Brad Pace, a resident, explained that there were three activities that could generate revenue on the courts: reservation fees from everyday use, fees from leagues and clinics, and local regional tournaments. He encouraged everyone to look at tournaments.com to see what kind of revenue could be generated by different types of tournaments. The City could use their discretion on how the courts were rented out and what those fees would be.

Mayor Mann asked the Council for their thoughts on the proposal.

Council Member Tim Irwin was very supportive of pickleball and emphasized that the City would not be spending more money than it had in the creation of the park. The park would be funded by the sale of property and donations. Other users had come to light during the process, including baseball, bocce ball, tennis, and even a skate park. If the Council voted to approve the master plan, it did not guarantee that this park would be built; it would only be built if the funds were available.

Council Member Scott L. Smith stated that the City had set in motion a way to pay off the existing park bonds. Once those bonds were paid off, the money that had previously been going to the bond could go directly to parks. It was the Council's understanding that the people of Highland wanted to be debt free.

Council Member Irwin said that the Council was adamant about not spending more than it had.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite said that transparency was essential. The Council was going down the path with pickleball courts because they thought it was a good idea. He thanked the residents for their input and questions. He took time to address some concerns. The Mountain Ridge Park was originally designed as a baseball park but he felt that was no longer the most useful design for the City. Pickleball was an up-and-coming sport and was family-oriented. There was always the option to repurpose the courts if the sport were to dwindle out in 20 years. Pickleball would be noisy but so would any other use they put in the park.

The reason the City was under the gun to get the courts build was because of funding opportunities. He was confident that the pickleball courts, soccer fields, and other amenities would be used by Highland residents. The Council and staff had spent many hours researching and considering the option. There would be another open house where residents could ask questions and give feedback on the design of the park.

Alan Rencher, a resident, supported the building of parks and he was excited to use this one. He encouraged the Council to rely on facts and statistical data. He requested that a legitimate traffic study be conducted so the City had a better understanding of what this use could generate. He also felt concerned that secret meetings were happening behind closed doors. He said the first time he heard about the proposed park was in December. Although he supported the park and pickleball, he felt that 27 courts were too many.

Vanessa Moody, a resident, said she was an avid athlete and also enjoyed pickleball. However, she also thought that 27 courts were excessive. She was concerned about the impact of traffic on the local subdivision, school, and churches, and she asked that a traffic study be done. She also hoped that the City could find a better location for the courts.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite said that 27 courts would bring in tournaments and much needed donations. Anything less would not be able to pay for itself. The City could pay to maintain eight courts, or they could have 27 courts that generate enough money to pay for maintenance. The Council had considered other areas in the City but this was the only place that was feasible.

Sheraka Kellen, a resident, suggested that the Council look at the pickleball courts in St. George because they spread their courts out. She asked what the plan would be for the area if the courts were not built.

Council Member Braithwaite explained that the park would be built differently if they did not get the money for the pickleball courts. They would not build 27 courts unless they received funding. The park would be redesigned at that point.

Council Member Tim Irwin understood the residents' concerns about unfinished parks but all of those unfinished parks were being used and enjoyed by Highland residents. The previous and current City Councils had been adamant about paying for the parks as funding comes in.

Chris Thackery, a resident, explained that St. George had 24 courts and their City Council was currently considering putting in an additional 12. Orem had built several courts which were always busy and difficult to schedule. If Highland were to do a small number of courts to accommodate the locals, it would not generate donations.

Council Member Kurt Ostler asked for an update on their fundraising efforts, and Mr. Thackery reported that a GoFundMe account had been started and they had received \$2,500 from individuals. It had been more difficult to get donations from corporations because they did not have a master plan to present to them. Lorna Reed stated that they had between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in pledges. Once they had a master plan, she was sure that more solid donations would be generated.

There was a discussion about the timeline for donations and tournaments. If they were not able to break ground in January, their opportunity for a fall tournament would roll over to the next year. Council Member Ed Dennis commented that one tournament had decided to stay in Brigham City but there was still the possibility of getting another tournament to Highland within the year. City Administrator Nathan Crane explained that if the Council wanted to move forward, the City would start the process and spend \$100,000 in drawings and engineering.

Council Member Kurt Ostler asked how much they anticipated raising and Ms. Reed said their goal was at least \$750,000, but she anticipated raising more than that.

Council Member Ed Dennis said they had been very open in public meetings about the timeline. The funding window closed on December 31st. Companies may not be willing to donate until the fourth quarter of 2019. He was in favor of the proposed master plan but wondered about how quickly they should be moving. There was a discussion regarding corporate funding, and Ms. Reed again emphasized how important it was for a master plan to be in place.

Council Member Ed Dennis reiterated that they needed to have a master plan approved so that Ms. Reed could have something substantial to show potential donors and fundraising targets needed to be reached by a certain time for it to be feasible. He thought it was premature to move forward with a formal design, but they needed to approve the master plan.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite said that the date of March 1st was already established as the day the funding needed to be in place to move forward with the courts and they should stick to that commitment.

City Administrator Nathan Crane said that they would need to start construction in March if they wanted to have a facility open in September and were already a month behind in meeting that deadline. They needed to do construction drawings now if they wanted to meet the goal.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite MOVED to approve the proposed Final Master Plan as presented for Mountain Ridge Park.

Council Member Scott L. Smith SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

<i>Council Member Brian Braithwaite</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Ed Dennis</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Tim Irwin</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Kurt Ostler</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Council Member Scott L. Smith</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 4:1.

The consensus of the Council was to begin construction drawings.

NOTE: The Council took a five-minute break and reconvened at 10:16 p.m.

7. MAYOR/COUNCIL AND STAFF DISCUSSION AND COMMUNICATION ITEMS

a. Cemetery Policy – City Recorder Cindy Quick

City Recorder Cindy Quick presented some statistics regarding the cemetery. Recently, there had been some complaints regarding the cleanup policy and it had been suggested that a small change to the policy may help. Under the current policy, Highland City does a full clean up four times a year. They also do weekly maintenance of perishable items. During that maintenance the cemetery is mowed and any item that interferes with the mower would be removed, however, employees often put them back. Every time the City completes a major cleanup, they receive complaints; however, they do not receive complaints about the weekly cleanup. It was difficult for staff to determine what should remain on a headstone and what be cleaned off, which is why the City opted to do a complete cleanup. Staff compared the policy to the policies of surrounding communities and found that American Fork and Pleasant Grove do a complete cleanup twice a year. Orem does a complete cleanup once per year. All cemeteries do weekly maintenance.

She asked the Council if they wanted to change the policy to reduce the number of cleanings and if staff should retain items that are removed from headstones for families to claim.

Tim Alders, a resident, spoke passionately about his daughter's burial place. He had decorated her headstone with plastic flowers, Christmas lights, and other non-perishable items. However, after a major cleanup, he found those items carelessly tossed next to the garbage can. Mr. Alders felt that he owns the property and it was a criminal act for the City to remove anything from it. He felt if the City must remove items, they should store them inside somewhere, so that families could get the items back.

Mayor Mann agreed that items should be retained and stored in a safe area. He suggested that staff could provide certain hours for families to come and pick up their items and have a staff member available to help. Unfortunately, there would be no way to prove whether or not the items belonged to that person.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite asked how much space they would need to retain items after a major cleanup. Josh Castleberry responded that there were at least two pickup trucks full of items after Memorial Day and that did not include perishable flowers. He also noted that the cleanup dates were posted at all three entrances to the cemetery. Staff was concerned about reducing the number of major cleanup days because the wind blows items around. They would spend more hours during the weekly cleaning if they went down to two or three major cleanups a year. It was noted that the current policy was put in place roughly eight years ago because they had received complaints when they were only doing one annual cleanup.

After some discussion, the Council decided to keep the number of major cleanup days but wanted to find a better place to store items taken from headstones during those cleanups. City Engineer Todd Trane suggested having a Conex storage unit on site to store the items. Eventually, staff wanted to have a permanent storage facility on site but felt a storage unit could suffice for now. They would post hours when staff would be available to help families retrieve their items. It was also suggested to alter the signage to make it clear that the four cleanup days would be a complete cleanup.

b. Recycling Contract – *Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells*

Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells explained that the City was charged three different ways for garbage. They pay Republic Services to haul garbage from residents' homes to various locations, North Pointe charges tipping fees to take the garbage, and there were costs for employee salaries. The recycling from the City was taken to Rocky Mountain Recycling and Republic Services pays those tipping fees. The average cost for recycling tipping fees had increased from \$4 per ton to \$50 per ton. Therefore, Republic Services was asking for a contract amendment so that the City could help cover those tipping fees. The current contract goes through June 2020. If the Council wanted to amend the contract, staff recommended that they first enter into a contract with Rocky Mountain Recycling to pay the fees with them because it would be less risk to the City. They also recommended that the Council adjust all rates now to a level where they were meeting the cost of providing services through the end of the contract. Currently, the revenue from garbage was more than they needed and they were putting \$23,000 per year into the General Fund in subsidy.

The Council expressed concerns about garbage subsidizing recycling. They asked if they could renegotiate the contract to extend beyond 2020. Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells said that Republic Services may consider a longer term if the City took on some recycling costs. City Administrator Nathan Crane noted that the City received criticism when they extended the contract last time without going out for bid.

Council Member Brian Braithwaite suggested splitting the fees in half rather than taking on the entire fee. It would help the City maintain a good relationship with Republic Services and they may come back with a better deal for Highland in the future.

The Council requested more data regarding the number of cans in the City and how tipping fees were calculated, etc., before making a decision on the contract.

c. Funding Needs FY 19/20- *City Administrator Nathan Crane*

City Administrator Nathan Crane oriented the Council regarding the funding requests for Fiscal Year 19/20. There had been a lot of discussion about the significant increase to public safety but Highland simply did not have the funding to accommodate it. He asked the Council if they were interested in implementing a Public Safety Fee. A decision on this needed to be made by May 2nd in order to go through the required process.

Mayor Mann reported that he had started a discussion about this with residents and they seemed to be more favorable to a fee rather than increased taxes. Council Member Brian Braithwaite commented that residents were generally more interested in paying costs for public safety than anything else.

Council Member Ed Dennis suggested making the change in the next fiscal year to give the City more time to educate the public and conduct surveys. He wanted to postpone the fee until the Council had a better feel of the situation.

There was a discussion about the pros and cons of proposing the fee during an election year. Council Member Ed Dennis suggested that they put more effort into getting their own zip code which may generate additional revenue from online sales. Council Member Scott L. Smith agreed.

Police Chief Brian Gwilliams said that the public safety issues were based around personnel. They were running against a deadline and if the City chose to wait they will lose out. He was willing to put the legwork in to get it going. He felt the City had already kicked the “can” down the road for six years and were well behind the curve.

Council Member Dennis understood that it was a major concern for public safety but the City would not be able to fund it. They needed to look into doing some serious cuts.

Fire Chief Reed Thompson responded that they had already cut everything they could and their request was for just the essentials. He would like to have the opportunity to speak with the Council about their needs.

Council Member Smith was fine with a public safety fee but he thought that they should address increases after the economic study had been completed. Council Member Ed Dennis agreed. The economic study would provide a lot of good data to help residents understand why fees needed to increase.

d. Annual Survey – *Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells*

Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells outlined the plan for the 2019 resident survey and passed out the most recent version. In the past, residents had been able to fill out a paper survey or complete the survey online but there was a concern that people could take the online survey over and over again. Upon research, she found some tools that would prevent this from happening and it would cost roughly \$300. There was no way to guarantee that the surveys were taken by Highland residents, however. They could ask for addresses on the survey but then staff would have to go through each of those addresses to ensure that they

were in Highland. It was possible but it would take a lot of staff time. She asked if the Council would be interested in doing paper surveys only.

Council Member Scott L. Smith asked why they were asking for gender on the survey. Assistant City Administrator Erin Wells explained that they use the information as a census. She could more confidently generate the survey results if the demographics matched up with the general population. They could also use the information to cross tabs with library-specific questions. The Council consensus was for both paper and online surveys to be made available.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

a. Future Meetings

- January 15, Joint Planning Commission & City Council Work Session, 7:00 pm, City Hall
- January 22, City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, City Hall
- January 29, Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 pm, City Hall

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Highland City Council may temporarily recess the City Council meeting to convene in a closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205

At 11:36 PM Council Member Scott L. Smith MOVED that the City Council recess to convene in a closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property as provided by Utah Code Annotated § 52-4-205.

Council Member Tim Irwin SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

<i>Council Member Brian Braithwaite</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Ed Dennis</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Tim Irwin</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Kurt Ostler</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Scott L. Smith</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Ed Dennis MOVED to adjourn the CLOSED SESSION and Council Member Kurt Ostler SECONDED the motion. All voted yes and the motion passed unanimously.

The CLOSED SESSION adjourned at 12:26 PM.

Council Member Ed Dennis MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting and Council Member Brian Braithwaite SECONDED the motion. All voted yes and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM.

I, Cindy Quick, City Recorder of Highland City, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true, accurate and complete record of the meeting held on January 8, 2019. This document constitutes the official minutes for the Highland

City Council Meeting.



Cindy Quick, CMC
City Recorder