

**CITY OF GREEN RIVER  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS  
APRIL 21, 2016**

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in budget workshop session at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Rust called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Mark Peterson, Ted Barney, Brett Stokes, Gary Killpack, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Reed Clevenger, Director of Human Resources Cari Kragovich, Director of Public Works Mark Westenskow, Director of Finance Chris Meats, Director of Community Development Laura Profazier, Chief of Police Chris Steffen, and Parks and Recreation Director Brad Raney.

**2016-2017 Community Service Requests**

**RSVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program**

Norman Tripp said the RSVP Program is asking for \$1,000 which is the same amount as previous years. He gave a brief explanation on what they do around the community.

Council Member Peterson asked when was the program started.

Mr. Tripp said the program was started in Wyoming in 1976.

**Green River Food Bank**

Kathy Siler requested the city continue their partnership with the food bank. She said one in twelve families struggle to put food on the table; 39% of Wyoming's children qualify for free or reduced lunches, and 6.2% of Wyoming seniors live in poverty. They served 9,045 pounds of food in Green River, in March. They gave out 90,000 pounds of food from July through March.

Council Member Peterson asked when a truck that is carrying food, wrecks on the highway, is there a law that stops them from receiving that food.

Council Member Stokes said there are certain laws but he not sure exactly what they are. He can look in to it.

Ms. Siler said they have received food from wrecks but sometime the insurance companies won't allow it. They do receive refused food from local stores when a pallet of crackers is damaged and the trucks deliver it.

Council Member Peterson asked Ms. Siler to check in to these laws and then let him know.

Ms. Siler said she has been researching this issue and the concern is with liability. She said there is The Good Samaritan Food Donation Act which protects the donor and the food bank as long as they perceive it to be safe.

**Golden Hours Senior Center**

Sheela Schermetzler said they are requesting \$20,000; \$18,000 will assist with food and supply costs for their congregate and the home delivery services; \$2,000 would be for the emergency assistance program.

She said their numbers have increased by 21% and she estimates the numbers will go up even higher. Some of the seniors that have home meals delivered are all by themselves and that is how they get interaction and it also gives the opportunity to check on them as well. The Emergency Assistance Program assists residents that are considered low income and it currently has 71 out of 636 patrons. This program is valuable to them because they receive assistance in paying their bills, getting meals, and anything else they might need.

As far as other funding opportunities; they are applying for a new grant, they do fundraisers such as bake sales, garage sales, and the Holiday craft fair.

Council Member Killpack said he appreciates everything they do. Council has to budget \$1.2 million less than last year so it will be a hard decision to give funding to everyone. He will not agree to fund all of the community service requests if it means laying off employees. He wants all community service members to understand they will have to cut funding.

Council Member Peterson said the services the senior center provides to the community are great; these are services that are needed so they are important.

### **Youth Home**

David Thorne said their numbers are up in Green River and Rock Springs. He understands the tight budget issues for everyone but he respectfully asks for the city to continue funding them.

Council Member Peterson asked with an overall budget of \$1.3 million how many youth are served in Green River.

Mr. Thorne said they served 36 youth in 2015, in Green River.

### **Sweetwater Family Resource Center**

Kathy Garrison said they are requesting \$6,300 just as they did last year. This allows families to maintain contact through scheduled visitation and support programs. Financially they have been slammed. There are a lot of people suffering; people who are already on the edge and not making much money. Funding has been cut by the state and they are worried. The funding they receive from the City helps provide match money for grant funding. With the \$6,300 in funding from the city they disbursed \$17,817 to help Green River residents with their rent.

### **Flaming Gorge Days**

Dawn Trujillo said they are excited for this year's Flaming Gorge Days event since it is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She gave a brief update on the events for all three days. They are bringing back family fun night on Friday.

Council Member Killpack asked if they were asked to provide financial statements. He wants to know how much they were in the black from last year.

Mrs. Trujillo said she does not know but she can get the information to the council.

### **Green River Chamber of Commerce**

Rebecca Eusek thanked the council for their support and partnering with them. The chamber has proven to be an asset to the city in many ways. One of the biggest is tourism. The chamber sees many visitors from all around the world and that brings money to our area. If funding is cut then they will have fewer resources to spend with the customers.

Angela Shutran said they are requesting \$90,000 which is the same as last year. If funding is cut then services to Green River will have to be cut as well.

Council Member Peterson asked if the chamber puts any money in savings. Some of the events they do generate funding so he wants to know where the money goes.

Mrs. Eusek said they do put funds into savings but they are a break even budget. Any carryover they have goes in to savings.

Council Member Killpack asked if the chamber could increase the cost of the River Festival tickets for the shrimp dinner.

Mrs. Eusek said they can and they did increase it a couple of years ago.

Council Member Killpack asked what they are charging for the marathon.

Mrs. Eusek said they charged \$95 if you pre-register and \$105 if you don't. These were also increased a couple of years ago.

### **Sweetwater County Drug Treatment Court**

Sandy Henderson thanked council for their continued support.

Theresa Tybo said there is a need for this program because clearly we have a drug addiction problem here in this community. They work with a program team and multiple agencies to keep people off drugs and become productive citizens.

Council Member Stokes said this program does work.

Mrs. Henderson said she was told their budget was going to be cut by 56% and she was really worried but they were only cut by \$10,000. Additional funds will come from House Bill 81 which goes into effect on July 1, 2016. She would love to see a Veterans Drug Treatment Court come to the area.

Council Member Peterson asked how many agencies are there.

Mrs. Henderson said there are 20 across Wyoming. The funds will go into a fund like the crime victims funds do and then be disbursed to agencies but she isn't sure how it will be divided.

Council Member Barney said the Veteran's Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming has a veteran's justice officer Specialist; he will get her the information.

### **STAR Transit**

Judy Owens said there are many citizens that do not have the option to jump in their vehicle and go anywhere they want. Most citizens that ride the STAR Transit are unable to drive for many reasons and that is why it is so important to keep funding STAR Transit. If the city reduces their funding it would affect services in Green River. The funding from the city goes towards matching funds for grants they pursue. For every dollar of matching funds they don't get reduces the amount of federal funds they will be able to get.

Council Member Stokes asked if it was true that if the city does not fund them the whole amount then they will not serve Green River.

Mrs. Owens said no, they would have to look at slowing services down in both cities but they would probably start with the trips from Green River to Rock Springs.

Council Member Peterson said the cost of fuel has gone down, so does that help.

Mrs. Owens said they have seen some decrease in fuel costs but they know at some point it will go back up. The amount she has requested is a 7.64 percent reduction from what she asked for last year.

### **YWCA – Family Justice Center**

Amy Gatsky said the Family Justice Center provides services to victims of family violence. It is a shelter for any victims to go and find help they need from multiple agencies. They are requesting \$10,000 and if their funding is cut they may have to cut staffing hours at the location in Green River. In 2015 they had 411 victims and out of that 61 victims were from Green River.

### **Life RU Ready? Sweetwater County**

Kathy Tacke said Life RU Ready is not a United Way ran program it is a coalition made up of School District's #1 & #2, Cities of Green River and Rock Springs, Green River and Rock Springs Police Departments, County Health Department. The program is a life simulation event where kids can test what happens if they have risky behavior. They served 620 kids from Green River last year. The numbers will go down since they will only have 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders

participate. They understand if the council feels their request should be less since they will be having less participation next year.

**City Administrator's Report**

Mr. Clevenger said the next budget workshop will be Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

---

Pete Rust, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Chris Meats, City Clerk