

**CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
January 5, 2010**

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in regular session at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order and high school student Sean Deichmueller led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council Members were present: Pete Rust, Carl Morck, Ted York, Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, Director of Public Works Mike Nelson, Fire Chief/Emergency Services Director Mike Kennedy, Chief of Police John Love, Director of Human Resources Debbie Klein Robertson, Parks and Recreation Director Walt Bratton, Parks Supervisor Allan Wilson, City Attorney Ford Bussart, and Public Information Coordinator Stephen Pyles. Recreation Supervisor Alyssa Krumholz, Main Street Manager Maggie Adams, and Green River Future's President Brad Sutherland were also present.

UNVEILING OF ERIC DOWDLE PAINTING

Green River Art Council Board Members Pam Wolfe and Ellen Newell unveiled the folk art painting of Green River. Ms. Wolfe stated the painting represents both the historical past and present Green River. Several local people are included in the original painting. People can still be in a Giclee print of the painting for a small fee. Ms. Wolfe stated the city will receive 50% of every print that is sold. To date, the Art Council has received \$4,700 which is close to 25% of the original painting cost.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member York moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Boan seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

PRESENTATIONS

Green River Futures Update

Board Chairman Paul Stephens noted board members Pati Smith and Jeff Wilson were also in the audience. He gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the Tomahawk Project. He noted Main Street, and especially board member Mike Frink, has been a tremendous help with the project. Once completed, the restored 16,000 sq. ft. building will provide locations for twenty businesses. It will be a catalyst to downtown development and the Green River community.

The building is key to downtown revitalization, but the project will not be able to continue without the continued support from the City and a \$2 million Wyoming Business Council grant that will be submitted before the March 1st deadline. Grant awards are scheduled for sometime in May 2010. The funding will be used for predevelopment work to hire architects and engineers to develop renditions of the building. The grant is absolutely critical to the project.

Mr. Stephens noted Green River Futures recently received a \$150,000 energy efficiency grant which will be used to replace the windows and doors of the building with as near an original look as possible. Futures provided the \$17,000 matching funds for the grant.

The board has provided a rate of return of 283% on the cities \$160,000 FYE 2010 investment with Green River Futures through the acquisition of grants for the Tomahawk. They have spent \$90,000 to bring the building up to electrical and fire codes to jump start the project. To date the total investment in the building, including purchase, is \$640,000, and there is a lot of work to do yet. The asbestos removal will start next week and will be done by a local certified asbestos removal contractor.

The board has received over thirty letters of support from the citizens of Green River and various community leaders, along with Green River High School computer drafting student's visualizations for the building. The recurring theme is "stop talking about it and get it done."

In closing, Mr. Stephens emphasized the importance of showing City and Futures unanimity on the project to the Wyoming Business Council. He thanked the governing body for their support in the past and in the future. Futures is here to be a work force for the City. They have nine qualified volunteers on the board that can carry out economic development projects. They can accomplish a lot with a collaborative effort.

Drawing for Main Street Shopping Spree

Main Street Promotions Committee Member Mike Frink reported sixteen businesses participated in the promotion with 723 entries. There was a minimum purchase of \$19.99 required to enter the drawing.

Mayor Castillon drew the winners. Betty Simmons won the \$250 shopping spree, and Teresa Freeman won the \$100 shopping spree.

PROCLAMATIONS

National Mentoring Month

Representatives from Big Brothers Big Sisters read the proclamation, and Mayor Castillon proclaimed the month of January 2010 as National Mentoring Month.

Community Radon Action Month

Laura Hansen read the proclamation, and Mayor Castillon proclaimed January 2010 as Community Radon Action Month.

Responding to questions from the governing body, Ms. Hansen stated people can contact the Community Development Department and they will give them information on how to obtain radon testing kits.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

ORDINANCES

Prohibiting the Use of Cell Phone While Driving

First Reading: An ordinance amending Chapter 24 of the Green River Code of Ordinances, to include Section 24-16 of the Green River Code of Ordinances, City of Green River, State of Wyoming, prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

Council Members Boan, McCullough, Maes, Rust, and York presented their support for and against the ordinance and directed questions to Chief Love regarding enforcement.

Chief Love feels the law is already covered under 24-12 Inattentive Driving. He believes it will be difficult to get a conviction on the proposed ordinance. He actually sees more accidents caused by people changing CD's than using the cell phone. If voluntary compliance is what the governing body is looking for the ordinance will do that.

Council Member Boan moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried (6-1) with Council Member York voting no.

RESOLUTIONS

Budget Increase for GRRC Exercise Equipment

R10-01: A resolution for the governing body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, to approve an increase in expenditure authority in the General Fund to purchase exercise equipment for the Recreation Center in the amount of \$6,650.

Responding to a question from Council Member McCullough, Mr. Bratton stated only one of the sponsors had requested the return of their donation for the Make a Name for Yourself Program.

Council Member McCullough moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Maes seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Budget Increase for Bike Park Signage

R10-02: A resolution for the governing body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, to approve an increase in expenditure authority in the Capital Projects Fund for a grant; to install signage for the Pump Park in the amount of \$1,000.

Mr. Bratton stated the city will be reimbursed the \$1,000 by the Travel and Tourism Board before June of 2010.

Council Member Maes moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Rust seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Budget Modification for GRRC Shower Remodel

R10-03: A resolution for the governing body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, to approve a modification in expenditure authority in the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund for the Shower Remodeling Project for overruns at the Recreation Center in the amount of \$160.

Mr. Bratton stated there were additional advertising costs because of the length of time the Recreation Center was closed. The \$160 will cover it.

Council Member Rust moved to approve the resolution. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Budget Increase for Police Special Response Vehicle

R10-04: A resolution for the governing body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, to approve an increase in expenditure authority in the General Fund for a command vehicle in the amount of \$7,000.

Council Member York moved to approve the resolution. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Bank Depositories

R10-05: A resolution establishing and officially designating bank depositories for the purpose of earning a secured rate of return for the City of Green River.

Council Member McCullough moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Boan seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Wyoming Main Street Participation

R10-06: A resolution for the governing body of the City of Green River, Wyoming, authorizing continued participation with Wyoming Main Street.

Responding to questions from Council Member McCullough, Ms. Adams stated the requirements to belong to Main Street are: (1) Application and then acceptance into the program; (2) Maintaining an active volunteer board; (2) Employing a full time Main Street manager; (3) A commitment to participating in the Wyoming Main Street Program, including maintaining a downtown office; (4) The necessary travel, training and operating budget for the local manager; (5) Implementation of a revitalization strategy using the Main Street Four Point Approach; (6) Maintaining standing committees in the areas of design, promotion, economic restructuring and organization which must meet monthly. (7) Development of annual work plans; (8) Submittal of monthly and annual performance reports to the state office; (9) Providing the state with all published materials monthly; (10) Have the local manager participate, as requested by the state

manager in all required training sessions; (11) Promoting and encouraging board member and volunteer attendance at local, state, and nation training opportunities; (12) Acknowledging the state program for services provided through appropriate methods such as publications and signage; and (13) Signing a letter of agreement with Wyoming Main Street annually along with a yearly resolution to renew the partnership between the City and Wyoming Main Street.

Ms. Adams stated the City funded Main Street \$120,000 for personnel, and \$101,906 for operations for the FYE 2010 budget.

Responding to questions from Council Member McCullough, Ms. Adams stated some of the benefits to the City are: Main Street's focus on revitalization of our downtown; Green River Main Street's goals support the City's goals in revitalization and bringing people to the downtown area. They help support the local businesses. They also try to recruit the businesses the citizens would like to have in Green River. The community as a whole benefits from a Main Street program. It offers greater opportunity for growth and expansion. It increases sales and property tax base. The façade program allows the property owners to make improvement investments with some assistance, which will also bring more people to Green River. Main Street does a lot of promotions to try and attract business for the downtown merchants. She has also helped local business with marketing ideas.

Council Members Maes and Rust commended Ms. Adams on the great job the Main Street group is doing for the local residents and to promote tourism.

Council Member Morck moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Boan seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

Election of Council Officers

Council Member Boan nominated Tom McCullough as council president, Council Member Morck seconded. Council Member Rust nominated Council Member Ted York, he declined. The motion to appoint Council Member Tom McCullough as Council President carried. (7-0)

Council Member McCullough nominated Ted York as council vice-president, Council Member Rust seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Bid Award for Narcotics Detective Vehicle

Council Member York moved to accept the bid of First Choice Ford in the amount of \$13,899 for the new narcotics detective vehicle, the total cost of which will be reimbursed by the HIDTA grant. Council Member Morck seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Responding to a question from Council Member Morck later on in the meeting, Chief Love explained HIDTA stood for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The City has received the grant for about ten years. The grant pays the salaries for one city narcotics officer to be in the task force and also buys the officer a vehicle. The I-80 corridor has been designated as one of the high intensity drug trafficking areas, and Green River is part of the I-80 corridor. Therefore, Green River has access to the grant funds.

Contract for the 2010 Bill Thoman Jr. Wrestling Tournament

Council Member York moved to sponsor the 2010 Bill Thoman Jr. – Wyoming Embroidery Wrestling Tournament in the amount of \$750. Council Member McCullough seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

Council Member McCullough forewarned the local agencies, schools, and other groups that ask the City for funding to be aware as the council moves into another budget it will be tighter, and there may not be money available to fund them as was done in the past.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Rust moved to approve the following consent agenda items. Council Member Maes seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

- Authorization for the City Clerk to accept the Public Officials Disclosure Forms as submitted from Barry Cook, Jeff Nieters, Trish Mansfield, Chris Meats, Joyce Peverley, Ford Bussart, Mayor Hank Castillon, Council Members Pete Rust, Ted York, James Boan, Tom McCullough, Lisa Maes, and Carl Morck.
- The contract renewal with the Food Bank of Sweetwater County to assist with the G.R.E.E.N. Assistance Program.
- Authorization for John David to remove an old snow blower from the landfill.
- The 2010 Crystal Classic judge contracts with Bonnie Lampman in the amount of \$1,100 and John Onofrie in the amount of \$1,000.
- Approval of the Minutes for December 15, 2009
- Financial Reports and Payment of Bills: *Outstanding Invoices* = \$458,210.44
Prepaid Invoices = \$45,334.94 *Payroll Expenditures* = \$369,109.98
Pre-authorization Payments = \$803,075.00

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cook:

- Congratulated Human Resource Director Debbie Klein-Robertson on her completion of the two-year certification program from the International Public Management Association for Human Resources.
- The Rio Vista Water District public hearing was held last week on their proposed water line. He will try to get a copy of the report from Keller Associates since the project will have an impact on Green River. They will need to discuss the working relationship they want to have with Rio Vista in regards to getting water to the west.
- Reviewed the workshop agenda items for January 12th.
- He reported on a video conference he participated in yesterday on the financing situation for local governments across the state of Wyoming. Mr. Cook noted the governor recommended a 64% cut for local government funding by the next biennium, while other state agencies were only cut by 18%. Several communities were talking about freezing positions, furloughs, and layoffs because of the financial conditions across the state of Wyoming.

He noted the state will also be participating in the Legislative Savings Revolving Account to the tune of \$91 million that goes into a discretionary savings account over and above what is already in there, which will create a balance of over \$340 million by July 1, 2010. Therefore, the local governments are asking the state not put more money into the account, and instead share some of the \$91 million with the local governments.

Statutorily, the state is required to put a certain percentage into the permanent mineral trust fund. Any money or savings that is generated over that statutory requirement also goes into a separate discretionary savings account. Projections are \$150 million over and above the statutory requirements will be placed in that account.

Today, the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) made a presentation in front of the Joint Appropriations Committee on the governor's recommendation for local government funding, and requested some of the money over and above the statutorily required savings be used to help the local governments.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Bussart had nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Rust asked about the Mineral Trust Fund. Mr. Cook stated constitutionally he doesn't believe the money in that fund can be spent. Anything over and above what is statutorily required to be placed in the account is placed in a discretionary fund. Council Member Rust felt the discretionary funding should be distributed to the cities since the state already has billions of dollars in their savings.

Council Member Rust congratulated Council Member McCullough on his appointment as Council President.

Council Member York had nothing to report.

Council Member Maes noted the 250 participants at the New Year's Eve Middle School Party was a recorded. She felt Ms. Schumacher did a great job with the event.

Ms. Maes stated she attended the meeting with the legislators, and she feels our legislators understand the discretionary savings account. The Wyoming people need to start putting pressure on the legislators for local funding in order to get them to do something about the cities financial situations.

She also noted the sales tax had dropped to 5%. She also felt the state of Wyoming should consider a distribution of natural gas royalties similar to the state of Alaska. Perhaps a petition could be initiated to send to the state. Mr. Bussart explained how the royalties are distributed in Wyoming. She asked the citizens to contact their legislators about sharing the wealth with the cities.

Council Member Boan congratulated city staff on the success of the New Year's Eve Party. He thanked Mr. Cook, Mr. Nieters, and Mr. Bussart for keeping an eye on all of the City's grant money to make sure grant requirements are being met to keep the City out of "hot water".

Council Member McCullough thanked council for their votes appointing him as council president, and congratulated Council Member York on his vice-presidency. He hoped everybody has a great year in 2010. It looks like it is going to be an exciting one.

Council Member Morck asked Chief Love to explain HIDTA.

Mayor Castillon stated he talked with Mr. Cook and Mr. Nieters regarding the 64% reduction in revenues for local governments. He has asked Mr. Nieters to give the governing body some projections based on the reduction. He noted the proposed budget being submitted by the governor isn't necessarily the budget that will be approved. He feels the City needs to be proactive on the distribution of resources, and the citizens also need to do their part by contacting their legislators. He also wants some pressure put on the state to honor their commitment on the Food Tax and the Severance Tax.

Mayor Castillon noted the reduction in revenues is going to affect city employees. He doesn't think the Green River community understands the cut in the level of services that will be lost if the governor's proposed budget is approved. He will give Mr. Cook an updated list of what he wants to be considered regarding the next budget. He is hoping the City won't get to the point of furloughing employees or starting a reduction in work force. That is the last thing they want to consider. But there will be some major impacts to the 2010-2011 budget year.

Mayor Castillon noted Mr. Million was given until January 28th to provide the list of end users for his project. However, Mr. Yeager and Mr. Parker still have their plans for use of water from the Green River. Mr. Bussart noted he had completed his review of the joint agreement, and it could be considered at the next water diversion meeting. Then he can move on with the hiring of the water expert attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Rust moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Council Member Boan seconded. Motion carried. (7-0)

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk