

CITY OF GREEN RIVER
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS
June 14, 2011

The Governing Body of the City of Green River met in workshop session at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Castillon called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Gene Smith, Adam Coppolo, Tom McCullough, Jim Boan, and Lisa Maes. The following were present representing the City: City Administrator Barry Cook, Director of Public Works Mike Nelson, Acting Director of Finance Trish Mansfield, Director of Community Development Laura Hansen, Director of Human Resources Debbie Klein Robertson, Chief of Police John Love, Fire Chief/Emergency Services Mike Kennedy, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Allan Wilson, City Attorney Galen West, and Public Affairs Specialist Stephen Pyles.

Council Member Killpack was not present.

Report on URA by John Dahlgren

URA/Main Street Administrator John Dahlgren welcomed guests that were in attendance from the National Trust, Main Street board, and Main Street staff.

He said the Urban Renewal Agency was created in 2002 by Resolution R02-64. Tim Dienger was hired as the first Urban Revitalization Director in 2004. The first URA Plan attempted was in 2004, and from that plan the Urban Renewal Code-Design Review was adopted by Ordinance 04-09. The Urban Renewal Agency's Vision is to revitalize the downtown area and other areas within the city that could benefit from renewal plans.

The steps to complete an Urban Renewal Plan are:

- Adopt by resolution the need for a URA
- Adopt by resolution an area of operation
- Adopt by resolution a "Plan" area
- Adopt by resolution a Plan for the Plan Area.

Mr. Dahlgren said the difference between Main Street and URA is, the URA has state statutes backing it and Main Street is a program and does not have statutes.

The Mayor said there are advantages in combining the two.

Council Member McCullough thanked the visitors for their time.

The Mayor echoed what Council Member McCullough said. He said he is planning to attend the National Main Street Conference next year. He also encouraged council members to attend. The conference will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, April 1st through the 4th 2012.

Council Member Coppolo said he will plan to attend next year.

Council Member Smith said he chose not to go because of budget limitations but he would love to go and see the small towns along the tour.

Council Member Maes said the URA has done very good work and she thanked the visitors for attending the meeting. She cannot wait until they can see what will come of the downtown area.

City Hall Security Mock Drill by Officer Mark McDonald

Officer McDonald said there are trends that are going on throughout the United States that is prompting agencies to come up with security plans.

The mock drill had many participants: The City of Green River Police Department, The City of Rock Springs Police Department, Sweetwater County Sheriff's Department, Green River High School Drama Department, WWCC Criminal Justice Department, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Green River Fire Department, community volunteers, the Army Recruiting Sergeant in Rock Springs, and the Lander Police Department.

There were two training objectives: One was the interagency communications testing. This tests the command post controls, dispatch effectiveness, and the collaboration of all agencies to save lives and provide safety to the community. The second was to identify the strengths and weaknesses as a community.

The participants discussed what they learned from the mock drill:

- The importance of people calling the police department if they see suspicious activity
- Dispatch security is an issue
- They need to limit the access to offices in City Hall during meetings
- Victims need to remember they can help themselves and others who are in worse shape.
- Reinforce communication between law enforcement agencies.

Council Member Coppolo thanked him for holding the training and for the report.

Adjournment to Special Council Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Council reconvened the workshop at 7:27 pm.

City Administrator Comments

Mr. Cook said the timeline for the CIP Project is:

- Advertise for project on 6-15-11, 6-22-11, and 6-29-11
- Mandatory Pre-bid meeting on 6-30-11
- Bid Opening on 7-7-11
- Award the bid on 7-12-11
- Notice to Proceed on 7-27-11

He said there are some people putting concrete down in the gutter by the curbs to assist them in and out of their driveways. This is causing a problem because it stops water from draining down the gutter and is eroding the streets. The staff is going to meet to see what can be done to solve this problem.

Mr. Cook said at the WAM conference there was a lot of debate on the policy of funding for operations to cities and towns. The cities and towns are in need of additional funding for operations. The formulas being used now are not working so they are looking at better ways to help. One proposal that is moving forward is for Capital Improvements. They will go into the session to ask for a bigger amount to be put in for Capital Improvements and to broaden the definitions of what it can be used for.

City Attorney Comments

Mr. West had nothing to report.

Mayor and Council Comments

The Mayor said he met with the Mayor of Rock Springs and the County Commissioners today about funding SWEDA. Both organizations have chosen not to fund SWEDA.

He received a letter from Sweetwater County Sheriff Rich Haskell saying due to the budget cuts to Sweetwater County Sheriff's office and the County Commissioners complaints of deputies spending too much time in city limits of Green River and Rock Springs, they will be unable to assist with the Flaming Gorge Days this summer. They will provide help with backup calls, if needed. There will be a reduction in detention officers so expect an increase in booking costs.

The Mayor also talked about forming a coalition of municipalities. This would help all involved, especially the smaller communities. The cities of Green River and Rock Springs will be taking the lead on this. They are hoping this will help with the legislative initiative.

He was approached by Commissioner West to reconsider funding the County Health Board. The Mayor told him it was not in the budget, but if there should be any residual money along the way they might consider funding them.

Council Member Smith had nothing to report.

Council Member McCullough said he is glad the resolutions passed and the budget is done for another year. Regarding the county health board, if it is funded then it should be on a prorated amount since the city has lost \$1 million due to the population.

Council Member Coppolo echoed Council Member McCullough on his comments. He does not believe that it should be the same across the board because we are smaller so we receive less money.

He said he was disappointed in some parts of the budget. The city needs to plan for the future. He said if the employees help the council out then they will help the employees out in return.

Council Member Maes said she agrees with the other council member's comments on funding amounts being the same across the board. She said the county needs to look at what they receive in funding to what the city receives. It should be based on population.

She is happy to see the employees getting a raise this year and the city covering the cost of health care costs. She is glad they could come up with the early retirement program, this will help the city. She feels the city is acting responsibly because they have cut back every year trying to prepare for the low revenues.

She does not think the population percentages should be tied to the workers because the amount of workers you have is tied to programs and services you provide. If you take some of the programs and services out then you can cut back on the staff.

Council Member Boan said it is a shame to see SWEDA not getting any funding from Rock Springs or the county but if that is the case, he recommends the city not fund them either. SWEDA cannot survive without the money from all entities so he would rather see the money being used for a grant writer or something that will benefit the city.

The Mayor said the funding of SWEDA was all contingent upon the other entities funding them also, so it will have to be re-addressed.

Council Member Boan said this budget was not perfect, but the city has come a long way to bring everything back in line. He is thankful for everyone's input and the background information that was given.

The Mayor said economic development is needed, but they will have to find the best way to do it. He is sorry things did not work out with SWEDA.

Council Member Coppolo suggested having a workshop to have people present ideas on what they think would help with the economic development in the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

H. Castillon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey V. Nieters, City Clerk