

Approved

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GRANTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 11, 2008 AT THE GRANTSVILLE CITY HALL, 429 EAST MAIN STREET, GRANTSVILLE, UTAH. THE MEETING BEGAN AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order.

Mayor C. Byron Anderson officially called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Mayor and Council Members Present: Mayor C. Byron Anderson; Council Members Brent Marshall, Tom Tripp, Mike Johnson, Paul Rupp, and Todd Castagno.

Appointed Officers and Employees Present: Susan Gustin, Mike Haycock, Jeremy Walker, Rachel Wright, Dave Aagard, Brenda Loveless, Dan Chamberlain, Julie Johnson, Jolene Sturzenegger, Steve Barrett, Danny Johnson, Brad Pace, George Huber, Robin Hensley, Jim White, and Joel Kertamus.

3. Review of proposed 2008-2009 budget.

Councilman Tripp stated he is concerned with the amount the City contributes to the employee 401K accounts. He stated that 14% into the 401K is high compared to other cities and private industry. He stated that the Council needs to be careful with the taxpayers' money. Councilman Tripp stated he also felt the proposed cost of living increase for employees was high. He stated the Federal Government is only giving a 2.5% cost of living increase. Councilman Rupp stated that compared to private industry he feels the City employees are well paid and there should be a balance. He stated that in private industry there is not an automatic pay increase. Public Works Director Joel Kertamus and Police Chief Danny Johnson stated that merit raises are not automatic. They both stated they have denied merit raises.

Mayor Anderson stated that the employees are an asset to the City. He stated that the City has well qualified employees. He stated that private industry and government cannot be compared because they are very different in how they are run. He stated that cutting the employees benefits will not get more streets repaired.

Councilman Marshall stated that he had spoken with the City Treasurer and that the State of Utah mandates many employee benefits. He stated that the 401K program is not mandated by the State, but he does not have a problem with the amount being funded into the employees' retirement accounts. He stated that in the past the employees at times did not receive cost of living increases. Councilman Marshall stated that many of the employees continue to stay employees with Grantsville City because of the benefits they receive. He stated that many people look at retirement, vacation and sick leave when considering jobs. He stated he does believe the benefits are better than some other employers, but feelings of jealousy should not be considered when making a decision. He stated he does not feel the employees should be held down because others may not receive the same benefit. He stated the City has a lot of long term employees. He stated he feels they are the best asset for the City because of their knowledge and expertise. He stated he feels the 401K program should be left alone. Treasurer Susan Gustin stated the public safety retirement is mandated by the State of Utah. She stated that the City matches what is put into the public safety retirement account for the non-public safety employees. Councilman Tripp stated that the public safety department has jobs that require them to put their lives on the line.

Councilman Castagno stated that in the past wages were drastically low. He stated the employees stayed working for Grantsville City. He stated that currently the City employees are being paid comparable to other cities, but in the past they had not been paid well. He stated they stuck it out through the tough times and he feels they deserve the benefits they are receiving. He stated the budget is balanced. He stated that the Council could look at the benefit package the City employees receive throughout the next year to see if an adjustment needs to be made. Councilman Johnson stated that retirement is a benefit that keeps employees from looking for different jobs. He stated he agreed with Councilman Castagno that they should look at the benefits the City employees are receiving over the next year. Councilman Johnson stated he appreciates the City employees.

Motion: Councilman Tripp made a motion to adjust the proposed budget by reducing the non-public safety employees' 401K from 13.3% to 7%. Councilman Marshall seconded the motion. Councilman Tripp and Rupp voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Johnson, Marshall, and Castagno voted against the motion. The motion was denied.

Motion: Councilman Marshall made a motion to keep the proposed budget as presented and that the City review employee benefits over the next year to see if they are in need of adjustment. Councilman Castagno seconded the motion. Councilman Marshall, Johnson and Castagno voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Tripp and Rupp voted against the motion. The motion carried.

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4. July 4th Celebration.

Mayor Anderson stated that Jason Duhon is working on the Fourth of July. Councilman Marshall stated the fireworks have been ordered. He also stated that the cemetery for the Memorial Day program looked nice and wanted to tell the maintenance department and city employees thank you.

Mayor Anderson asked for the City Council meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, 2008. Councilman Marshall made a motion to start the City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, 2008. Councilman Castagno seconded the motion, all others voted in favor and the motion carried.

5. Adjourn.

Councilman Marshall made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion carried. The special meeting was officially adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jeremy A. Walker
Recorder

C. Byron Anderson
Mayor