

**Tooele City Council
Work Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Tooele City Hall, Council Chambers
90 North Main Street, Tooele, Utah

City Council Members Present:

Tony Graf

Melodi Gochis

Ed Hansen

Justin Brady

Maresa Manzione

City Employees Present:

Mayor Debbie Winn

Jim Bolser, Community Development Director

Darwin Cook, Parks and Recreation Director

Roger Baker, City Attorney

Shannon Wimmer, Finance Director

Paul Hansen, Tooele Engineer

Kami Perkins, Tooele HR

Michelle Pitt, City Recorder

Cylee Pressley, Deputy City Recorder

Minutes prepared by Katherin Yei

1. Open City Council Meeting

Chairwoman Gochis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Tony Graf, Present

Melodi Gochis, Present

Ed Hansen, Present

Justin Brady, Present

Maresa Manzione, Present

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Winn stated on May 25 she accepted the public improvements on the Overlake project with Perry Homes including landscaping, gutters, sidewalks, etc. She stated there was a dedication of the statue in Veterans Park for the Vietnam veterans with eight veterans in attendance. She stated there has been an increase in vandalism to our parks and has asked the public to report anything they see in person or on the website.

4. Council Member's Report

Council Member Hansen stated he attended the Planning Commission meeting and the Memorial Day dedication of the statue.

Council Member Brady stated he didn't have anything to report.

Council Member Graf stated he attended the "Take Pride Tooele" parade, the Memorial Day dedication, and the procession of Theodore Que Jensen who returned home from Pearl Harbor.

Council Member Manzione stated she attended the service district meeting, spent time with her grandpa who is a World War 2 Veteran, and attended the procession of Theodore Que Jensen.

Chairman Gochis stated she attended the "Take Pride Tooele" parade, the legislative policy committee meeting, Tooele City staff meeting, and the Memorial Day statue dedication. She stated the cemetery also looked beautiful for Memorial Day.

5. Budget Discussion

Presented by Shannon Wimmer

Ms. Wimmer stated she forwarded the changes to the City Council and asked for a list of questions which she would address.

She stated the proposed changes from the general funds were for the following: communications for cell phone stipends, non-departmental expenses included \$5000 for the September 11 celebration, road project was not completed by June 30 and will be continued over, increase in wireless communication in the public works department, increase in temporary wages due to no applicants, \$10,000 for tree city program for the parks, golf course, and the City, HVAC system in youth center comes from the 21 fund, water fund adjustment to temporary wages, removing capital projects in sewer and allocating funds for expansion and relocation for filters and equipment.

Council Member Hansen asked if the scissor lift is just for sewer plant. Mayor Winn stated it is specific for the solar-drying area at the plant.

Ms. Wimmer stated the park impact fee of \$900,000 dollars was received and can be spent for facilities and growth. She stated these funds can only be held for up to six years. She stated the operating expenditure in the general fund was to pay for bonds. She stated the 3-11 account was to pay any professional services, like studies or recommendations.

Council Member Hansen stated the funds are not an exact but asked if they are ear marked for projects. Mayor Winn stated the amount is pretty close, but there are more projects than funds. She stated the items are prioritized and that is where the number for money came from.

Ms. Wimmer stated the council project account is being carried forward, the list shows what the funds are obligated for. Council Member Hansen stated it would be nice to see an amount allocated for the council to put towards any special projects. Ms. Wimmer stated if the council wanted more money, they would have to request it from the general fund.

Ms. Wimmer stated the sewer fund depreciation expense is to be shown and reported on financial reports. She stated the appropriation of the retainer funds for the storm water funds had a revenue of \$532,000; The request of \$1.2 million is to get the projects done within the City.

Chairman Gochis stated the debt service revenues shows as a revenue and not a dept. Ms. Wimmer stated it comes in as a revenue, but is there to pay the actual payments.

Mr. Cook stated the next phase for the park is a detention basin and a dog park. He stated they are not building a concession stand but the room apart of the pavilion is called a concession room. He stated the meeting on the 16th, he would be bringing the contract for playground. He stated there is a discussion for future expansion in parks for multi-use fields, ball fields, etc. Mr. Cook stated there is also a discussion of lights for the softball field with a bid of \$8000 to replace the lighting system.

Council Member Hansen asked Mayor Winn about an increase in wages because the City's wages are lower than the standard in the industry. He stated his concern for employees leaving their jobs. Mrs. Perkins stated there is an analysis done every other year, with things to be targeted in the budget that they looked at the previous year. She stated our current wages fall below the skilled and trade operations in the industry by about 10% because the challenge is how expensive the compensation plan for everyone can be. She stated the City needs to be fair to all the employees. She stated the turn over rate is something they are comfortable with for now but a study may be needed.

Chairman Gochis stated the City has been consistent with trying to meet the standard, but by giving our employees great benefits and retirement packages helps keep the people within the city.

Council Member Brady asked what the 1% looks like. Mrs. Perkins stated the 1% increase is about \$115,000. She stated she will always bring forward numbers, adjusting and advocating for the employees.

Council Member Graf stated he supports what Council Member Hansen is stating, but does not want to rush it and do it correctly. Mrs. Perkins stated when building the salary schedule they have to look at the needs of the origination right now and can take over a year to do it right.

Council member Brady stated the sales tax revenue is projected for an increase of \$7.6 million this year with a budget of \$8 million next year. He asked if the increase of the sales tax will go to employees. Mrs. Perkins stated that some of those funds would be put towards employees' wages, but there is an increase in benefits, new positions, and changes to hours. Mayor Winn stated the only revenue that is for sure is property tax, sales tax revenue is not guaranteed.

Council Member Graf stated the market changes constantly; if the City is more conservative now, the City can do a study and put the money where it is needed most.

Council Member Brady stated the golf sales tax bond was retired this year; the City needs to look at the long term to see where money will be saved and put it where it is most needed.

Chairman Gochis stated the departments are stretched and the funds are allowing enough help within the city.

6. Closed Meeting - Litigation, Property Acquisition, and/or Personnel

Council Member Graf motioned to move to a closed meeting. Council Member Hansen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Council Member Hansen, "Aye," Council Member Graf, "Aye," Council Member Brady, "Aye," Chairwoman Gochis, "Aye." The motion passed.

The meeting moved to closed session.

Those in attendance during a portion of the closed meeting: Mayor Winn, Council Member Graf, Council Member Hansen, Council Member Brady, Council Member Manzione, Chair Woman Gochis, Roger Baker, Michelle Pitt, Jim Bolser, and Shannon Wimmer. Those in attendance for the remainder of the meeting was Roger Baker and members of the Council.

7. Adjourn

Chairwoman Gochis adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The content of the minutes is not intended, nor are they submitted, as a verbatim transcription of the meeting. These minutes are a brief overview of what occurred at the meeting.

Approved this 16 day of June, 2021

Melodi Gochis, City Council Chairwoman