MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK MEETING **OCTOBER 21, 2021; 7:30 P.M.**

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: **MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, TOM DAY, DAWN FITZPATRICK, CLINT MORRIS, AND DAVE THOMAS**

STAFF PRESENT: **GARY CRANE, AND KIM READ**

The meeting was held in the Council Conference Room of the Layton City Center.

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and turned the time over to the Council.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Councilmember Thomas reported the pickleball courts at Ellison Park were nearly finished and were just waiting to be painted. He reported on a conversation he had with one of the workers regarding the construction process and installation of the 'structure'. Councilmember Morris mentioned the play structure at Harmony Place was also nearly completed.

Councilmember Bloxham indicated the pickleball courts at Andy Adams Park were also very popular. He mentioned the on ramp to Gordon Avenue from Highway 89 and expressed his opinion it was a nice entry into the City. He also mentioned the pickleball court lighting was very bright at Andy Adams Park and expressed concern it could have a negative impact to the adjacent residents.

Councilmember Day also expressed concern about the late night and early morning use at Andy Adams reservoir. Gary Crane, City Attorney, said he would check with the Police Department regarding complaints.

Mayor Petro reported she had received complaints regarding the sight line or clear view associated with the masonry wall turning left onto Gordon Avenue from Highway 89 and Councilmember Bloxham expressed agreement with that concern and a discussion followed.

Councilmember Morris requested an update regarding the Kays Creek Irrigation Agreement and Mr. Crane provided an update and reported a meeting would soon be scheduled with individual shareholders. He indicated a meeting had taken place with the Conservancy District and reported it was pleased with how its water would be delivered. Mr. Crane reported once the Kays Creek Board approved its resolutions, the process would proceed with the shareholders. He added everything was moving forward, it was just taking time. He assured the Council the City had responded to anyone with questions during the process.

Councilmember Bloxham inquired if the Legislature had any intent to address issues as a result of JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative). Mr. Crane provided an update and a discussion followed. He believed the Legislature was now recognizing issues and challenges resulting from that implementation and mentioned the healthcare component also needed to be addressed. Councilmember Bloxham believed a primary responsibility of the Council was to ensure safety to citizens.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick also asked if the courts had caught up since experiencing delays associated with COVID-19 and Mr. Crane responded court cases were extremely behind and a discussion followed regarding federal legislation which would provide additional funding for domestic violence incidents. He reported one or two trials a week were still being conducted via Zoom. Councilmember Morris asked if the

Council could become involved with returning to a normal prosecution and court process. Mr. Crane indicated there weren't many options available to the City and didn't believe there was anything it, or the Council could do to further that action. He stated court operations were determined by the Administrative Office of Courts and a discussion followed. A discussion also took place regarding serious crime in Layton City and Mr. Crane explained how policy dictated release of perpetrators which were unvaccinated for COVID-19. Mr. Crane explained how the Receiving Center was being used in place of taking drug offenders to the county jail and reported it was recognizing an approximately 78% success rate.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick expressed concern with the City's website and shared some examples which illustrated it wasn't user friendly. She suggested public notices should be on the front page and expressed concern some of the information on the website wasn't current and continued to share examples.

Councilmember Thomas inquired which department was responsible for the website and a discussion took place The Council complimented the Community and Economic Development Department's website and Councilmember Bloxham suggested most people received their information from websites and expressed his opinion the current website wasn't dynamic. Councilmember Day mentioned the Council had expressed concern with the website for a number of years now. Mayor Petro believed the City should consider outsourcing a website similar to what Community Development had done. Councilmember Bloxham stated he had complete confidence in the IT (Information Technology) Department but expressed concern with Staff's resistance in moving forward with a new website. Councilmember Fitzpatrick suggested citizen input would be important and the discussion continued.

Mayor Petro requested clarification whether the Council still had concerns specific to social media and Councilmember Morris believed the City should equally be providing information on both the website and social media.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick expressed concern about the City's current form of Government and inquired at what time the City would move to a full-time Mayor. She was also concerned about the compensation for the Mayor compared to the councilmembers. She provided a handout she obtained from the Utah Transparency website reflecting cities and their respective compensation and benefits and reviewed the different salaries. The Council discussed and compared the information.

Councilmember Thomas asked if the City had received further direction regarding COVID-19 funding distribution guidelines with how the City could appropriate the received funds and Mr. Crane responded the City was still waiting to hear about specified regulations and mentioned the State had received additional COVID-19 funding designated for affordable housing.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick pointed out there was a difference between unaffordable housing and low-income housing and a discussion followed. Councilmember Thomas asked if there were still low-income housing developments located within the City and Mr. Crane responded in the affirmative and he reviewed the methods and best practices implemented throughout the State.

Councilmember Day inquired about the progress of the 2700 West/Layton Parkway project as poor weather was quickly approaching and asked about possible penalties associated with a completion date. Councilmember Fitzpatrick responded Stephen Jackson, City Engineer, was taking her on a field trip the following morning to the site and invited Councilmember Day to attend. Mr. Crane stated he would investigate and inform the Council of the progress and subsequent completion date and a discussion followed. Councilmember Fitzpatrick indicated she would also be asking questions about the 2200 West/Layton Parkway intersection and described what she had observed at the intersection. Mr. Crane provided an update regarding that portion of the road project and a discussion followed.

The Council discussed situations in which the City wasn't allowed to make certain exceptions specific to City Ordinance and Code.

Councilmember Morris reminded the Council of previous discussions regarding street lighting and dark

areas within the City. He requested the topic be revisited and/or discussed during a future meeting.

Councilmember Bloxham mentioned the Council had been unanimous on increasing the Police Department's budgets and/or salaries and expressed his desire to explore or ensure the mental health of the City's Police and Fire Department Staff and a discussion followed. Councilmember Fitzpatrick suggested those services should also be available to police officer's and firefighter's families and the discussion continued.

Councilmember Bloxham also suggested the Council consider ways of expressing appreciation to those individuals serving on City Committees. Councilmember Fitzpatrick suggested those individuals could be invited to the employee Christmas breakfast and Mr. Crane believed previous omissions of those invitations were an oversight. Mayor Petro also suggested the Council visit the different meetings.

Mayor Petro expressed concern about Valley View Drive accommodating traffic as a frontage road once Highway 89 was completed and suggested it needed to be completed with a curb and gutter. She believed the City should take the lead and move forward with the improvements.

She also reminded the Council of the Veterans Day Parade scheduled for Saturday, November 13, and inquired how many of the Council would not be able to attend. She also mentioned the luncheon planned for Friday, November 19, 2021, for those working on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints temple.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Kimberly S Read, City Recorder