

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING
WORK MEETING**

FEBRUARY 3, 2022; 7:35 P.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, CLINT MORRIS, TYSON ROBERTS, BETTINA SMITH EDMONDSON, AND DAVE THOMAS

STAFF PRESENT:

ALEX JENSEN, 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 requested each councilmember share goals for the coming year.

DISCUSSION – COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Councilmember Morris shared a resident's experience in receiving a disconnection notice for late payment specific to the City's utility bill and inquired whether disconnection and fees were implemented via policy or ordinance. Alex Jensen, City Manager, explained the City's approach in working with residents regarding unpaid utility bills and explained the implemented process which should be followed by Staff. He stated he would look into this issue and report back to the Council.

Councilmember Morris also mentioned providing electric vehicle charging stations in the municipal campus parking lot and a discussion followed. Gary Crane, City Attorney, mentioned the possibility of grant funds being available from Rocky Mountain Power.

Councilmember Bloxham expressed concern regarding the language reflected at the bottom of the utility bill which he believed to be confusing and a discussion followed.

Councilmember Thomas requested clarification regarding identified parameters specific to the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. Mr. Jensen explained the most recent direction received from the federal government which now allowed municipalities to use funding without specific guidelines if it had received less than ten million dollars. He continued to explain the difference between the CARES Act Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding and ARPA funding. Mr. Crane informed the Council the State of Utah had also become aware of this change and the Legislature was attempting to leverage the appropriation of the funding. Mr. Jensen reminded the Council of previous discussions specific to appropriating these funds for one-time projects, freeing up funds previously appropriated for projects in the budget. A discussion took place regarding eligible infrastructure projects.

Councilmember Smith Edmondson mentioned she had been contacted regarding a community pool and Mayor Petro stated she had received similar concerns and a discussion followed. Mr. Jensen informed the Council of previous discussions with Davis School District about a possible partnership for a facility to accommodate the swim teams. He explained challenges associated with a community pool and shared specifics regarding the City's Surf'n Swim facility and a discussion followed. He suggested having Staff present information it had compiled regarding the feasibility of a community pool and the discussion continued.

Councilmember Bloxham inquired whether the City needed to implement the landscaping ordinance based on what the legislature has been discussing this session regarding new residential development landscaping requirements. Mr. Crane suggested the City's landscaping ordinance adopted last year was the leader in the state. He pointed out there was no minimum requirement for sod included in the City's

ordinance and believed it required what the legislature desired and a discussion followed. Councilmember Bloxham suggested language reflecting ‘all new residential’ be included with the multi-family and commercial requirement in the ordinance.

Councilmember Bloxham expressed his opinion the City’s Public Works Department employees should be considered first responders as they were also essential to the residents of the City. He pointed out the functions of the department, the value of their work and knowledge and were not publicly recognized. A discussion took place regarding ways in which employees could be acknowledged and the following suggestions were expressed:

- Attend events planned for City Staff such as the Christmas Employee Breakfast
- Inform/remind residents of services provided by Public Works employees
- Highlight services provided by employees through social media
- Highlight positions and services on/with the City’s utility bill
- Acknowledge departments during City Council Meetings

Mr. Jensen believed the Council could visit all departments within the City and identify employees which were also passionate and dedicated to their jobs. He agreed Public Works Employees provided excellent service to residents, but also believed employees in other departments did the same. He clarified funding could be identified for recognition and a discussion followed. Mr. Crane mentioned the pay increase to employees at a time when employees did not expect it.

Mayor Petro mentioned she received numerous invitations to different events in her capacity as Mayor and asked whether the Council would like to be made aware of those invitations and indicated her willingness to pass some of these opportunities to the Council. The Council expressed agreement it would appreciate being informed of them and possibly attending in her stead.

Councilmember Smith Edmondson inquired whether the City had plans specific to a dog park and Mayor Petro shared a brief update on both the Mutton Hollow and the IHC (Intermountain HealthCare) proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder