

**BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE  
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 4, 2013  
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:	Dennis Fife	Mayor
	Scott Ericson	Councilmember
	Ruth Jensen	Councilmember
	Brian Rex	Councilmember
	Mark Thompson	Councilmember
	Tyler Vincent	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Jim Buchanan	EMS Director
	Mary Kate Christensen	City Recorder
	Jared Johnson	Building Official
	Kristy Law	Recreation Manager
	Jason Roberts	Finance Director
	Paul Tittensor	Police Chief

**Merit Budget/Equity Adjustments**

The Mayor stated that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.1%. He put 1.7% in his budget. The federal government is giving 1.7% for Social Security and the military. This comes to \$147,000, of which \$8,000 is allocated for equity adjustments. This will probably be increased by \$5,000 with some of the things being discussed. This does not include an increase for the Police Department. They would like to see more equity adjustment. Most officers are under 90%.

The Police Department would like to see more equity adjustments in their department. There are several officers that are below 90 percentile. It has been difficult to recruit officers at the Police Officer I and II levels. They are brought in at the 85 percentile. The Mayor would like to bring them in at 100 percentile and 97 percentile for Officer II. This would help attract more officers at this level. The survey indicates that Brigham City is close to Ogden and Logan to those comparable in wages. Mr. Roberts added that the officers are comparable; it's those at the lower grades that are not. Mayor Fife said there are three different options: 1) add an extra 1% to those below 90%, which would be approximately \$14,000; 2) \$19,000 would bring them up to the 90 percentile; 3) another option is to bring them all up to 92% unless they were already above that. The Mayor felt there should be a spread based on their experience level.

**Overall Budget**

Mr. Roberts stated that the auditors looked at how the City was doing overhead allocation. They recommended these costs be allocated to different funds. This has been done in this budget. This increases expenses in the utility fund and decreases expenses in the general fund.

**Fleet**

There was a discussion on how the fleet fund works and the possibility of extending some vehicle's estimated life. About one-third of the fleet is past their estimated life. The fleet fund could be used to subsidize the general fund and the utilities fund, but the overall state of the vehicles needs to be looked at before this is done.

**Waste Collection**

Councilmember Jensen asked about privatizing waste collection to save money. Mayor Fife stated that this makes money. Councilmember Jensen asked Mr. Roberts to show her the numbers for this, including the cost of the trucks, the manpower and fuel.

**General Fund Capital Projects**

Mayor Fife said there are no capital projects in the budget other than what might be left over from last year. The Council passed a resolution to limit the transfer from the utility fund to the general at 15%. The City has never transferred funds from the storm drain fund. This could be a way to get more money in the general fund. Approximately \$150,000 could be transferred.

The Mayor's budget is not balanced at this point. He has asked each department to decrease their expenditure line items to see if this will make it a balanced budget. The budget is approximately \$57,000 short. There will be no money for capital projects in the general fund. The Council has committed \$30,000 this year and another \$35,000 next year for pickleball. The City has signed a contract with the Box Elder School District to finish the 400 South 800 West intersection for \$300,000. Class C funds could be used for this, but this would reduce maintenance on other roads. There is also money to purchase the tri-plex behind Zion's Bank for \$105,000. These are commitments that have been made that are not in the budget. Mayor Fife said there are some projects in the capital project fund that have been underspent that may come up to about \$200,000.

Mayor Fife said there is a restaurant interested in purchasing property and building a restaurant in the Academy Square area. This would offset part of the purchase price for the tri-plex.

### **Swimming Pool**

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Law came forward. Mr. Johnson explained that the swimming pool is overdue for a new liner. The plaster on the pool has an estimated life of 12 years and it has been 17 years. When they pulled the cover off last week they found that the plaster on the walk-in area has come up and is in pieces. The joints are failing and there are numerous cracks. The pool is leaking 42,000 gallons of water a day.

They sent out an RFP and received three back. The quotes to replace the plaster came in from \$149,000-\$414,000 with different materials and life spans. Another option is a PVC liner. These quotes came back from \$121,000-\$482,000. Liners seem to be the trend especially with the weather changes in this area. The company with the lowest liner bid of \$121,000 is from Minneapolis. They have done one pool in Utah, but most of their work is on the east coast. There is a 15-year warranty on the liner material and a 3-year warranty on the install. Liners are relatively new, but the oldest ones have exceeded their life expectancy and have gone 25-30 years.

In addition to needing a new liner, there are other issues. The gutter system is above the liner which has leaks. This would cost \$60,000-\$80,000.

Councilmember Ericson said this is the 18<sup>th</sup> year the pool has been open and the City has not put any money into maintenance of it. The City should put money aside to maintain City facilities. Mayor Fife said he would like to propose that, something similar to the fleet fund. The City currently has two emergency funds – a disaster fund and an electrical emergency fund. There is over \$5M in the fund balance in cash in the utility fund. This is enough to replace a million dollar generator if it is needed. An idea he and Mr. Roberts have discussed is to take some money from this fund and possibly some from the fleet fund to start an asset fund. All City buildings are getting run down and need major repair. The Council felt this was a good idea. A public hearing will be required to transfer money from one fund to another.

Councilmember Jensen asked how many people go to the pool. Ms. Law said in 2012 there were 28,479 open swim admissions, 949 swim lessons, and 5,791 after hour pool parties. The City subsidizes the pool approximately \$100,000 per year.

### **1100 South/1100 West Intersection**

Mayor Fife said this intersection is on the Wasatch Front Regional Council's budget for 2019 for \$1.5M. There's a possibility this could be moved up to 2016. The City may need to put some money into an environmental study.

The Mayor explained that there is a new proposal from BRAG to create a new MPO called the Box Elder/Cache MPO and would be administered by the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) and they would set up a separate board. In addition to the \$400,000 from the federal government there is also \$30,000 allocated for another person and BRAG has some mobility funds. They would charge Brigham City the same amount Wasatch Front would. They would hire a fulltime person to work on transportation as well as trails. They feel they could dedicate that amount of money to Box Elder County, Perry, Willard and Brigham City.

### **Councilmember Rex's Concerns**

Purging of E-Mails – Councilmember Rex felt that the City's e-mails should be automatically purged. Mr. Roberts explained that they are retained on the server and e-mails should be retained for two years, and then deleted. Councilmember Ericson said it would be helpful if e-mails could be searched on the server for GRAMA requests. There is software available to do this. This will be discussed further.

Due to time constraints, the Council postponed further discussion until after Council meeting. The meeting adjourned to a regular City Council a meeting at 7:00 PM.

The Council returned to the work session at 7:30 PM.

Update on Love's Truck Stop – Mayor Fife stated that the contract has been disbanded. Love's is still interested but because of the water conservancy grant on the property the county cannot sell it until the grant is transferred to another property.

Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) Contract – The current contract expires in 2016. The Mayor said RMP is meeting with the City and will discuss the contract. There is some concern about going with UAMPS. They said they can give Brigham City a contract for five years at a stable rate that will be close to what is being paid now. In the meantime, the City is considering other sources as they become available. The City could try to fund its own gas generation system. Councilmember Thompson felt this was the most positive option because natural gas prices are low right now. Mayor Fife said there are groups that say they can build it and then the City would pay them back. This could be as much as \$50M, but in the long term it might pay off.

Mayor Fife said there is an additional \$200,000 in the utility fund than there was last year. This is after all expenses for projects. There will be over \$2.1M in this fund for capital projects in the utility fund. This is after the transfer, so it is difficult to justify a rate increase. Staff and the Public Utility Advisory Board are looking at a restructure of the rates based on an individual's usage. He added that the electric fund is not covering itself.

Billboards/Signs – Councilmember Rex stated that the Airport Advisory Board is looking at putting a sign on the municipal hangar which would be visible from the freeway. He suggested something be done with the Bird Refuge billboard. Mayor Fife said the agreement with the people interested in building a restaurant at Academy Square states that they can have use of these signs. The agreement also states that they will need to do something to advertise Brigham City as well. Councilmember Ericson recommended researching the cost of redoing the sign.

Councilmember Rex said there is no signage for the Brigham City Museum-Gallery. Kaia Landon, Director of the Museum, would like to see a shared sign with the Senior Center, similar to the one recently installed at the golf course.

A motion to adjourn to a closed discussion to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real property was made by Councilmember Jensen. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers voting aye. The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 7:56 PM.