

**BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
MAY 7, 2015
5:30 PM**

PRESENT:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
	Ruth Jensen	Mayor Pro Tem
	DJ Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
	Mark Thompson	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Rick Bosworth	Human Resource Coordinator
	Dave Burnett	Public Power Director
	Mary Kate Christensen	City Recorder
	Jared Johnson	Building Official
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief
	Derek Oyler	EMS & Facilities Manager
	Jason Roberts	Finance Director

Ruth Jensen, as Mayor Pro Tem, conducted the meeting.

Fire and Ambulance Departments

Chief Bach gave a presentation on paramedics vs. EMTs in the Ambulance Department. The biggest difference is education.

Advanced EMT

- ❖ Approximately 250 hours of class time work
- ❖ 8-12 hours field proctor
- ❖ Only prerequisite is a Basic EMT Class

Paramedics

- ❖ At least 1500 hours class time
- ❖ More than 500 hours field proctoring
- ❖ 50+ scene team leads
- ❖ Prerequisites
 - EMT Assessment Exam
 - Math 990 or higher
 - English 1010 or higher
 - College Medical Terminology
 - College Anatomy/Physiology
- ❖ Field Proctoring with Full Time Paramedic Department on 24/48 hour shifts

Additional Paramedic Medications that EMTs Cannot Administer

- ❖ Epinephrine – used as a vasopressor drip
- ❖ Dopamine – used as a vasopressor to increase blood pressure
- ❖ Furosemide – used as I diuretic to treat CHF
- ❖ Sodium – used in cardiac arrest and crush injuries to adjust acid base balance.
- ❖ Magnesium Sulfate – To treat cardiac dysrhythmias and seizures in preeclampsia during pregnancy

- ❖ Adenosine – given to patients that are in SVT
- ❖ Procainamide – for cardiac dysrhythmias
- ❖ Haldol – used for acute psychotic episodes, sedation of severely agitated or delirious patients in an emergency.
- ❖ Oxytocin – given after child delivery if the mother begins to hemorrhage.

Chief Bach gave a few real life stories of when paramedics have saved lives, using their abilities, training and/or medications that EMTs are unable to do and not allowed to do because it is not allowed by the state.

Chief Bach gave some of the challenges with the part-time staffing. Since April 2014 when the Council approved part-time people they have hired 27 people, eight of which have quit. The City spent \$11,894 for training on these individuals.

There have been several challenges by having part-time employees. They have been trying to staff eight positions 24/7. Holidays are difficult because people are out of town. They have 64 employees and there are still open shifts. Some are working more than 220 hours per month. There is inconsistent supervision and training. They can only have six hour shifts to work around full time jobs. This results in inconsistent patient care. Most of the part-time employees have families and another job, so they have to have six hour shifts to work around that.

Chief Bach reviewed the response times. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standard for response times is four minutes or less for first responder 90% of the time; eight minutes or less for ALS/EMS units 90% of the time. Brigham City's response time is 12 minutes 90% of the time.

Chief Bach recommended that the City hire six fulltime employees.

Dr. Barry Gardner and Dr. Lance Bryce joined Chief Bach at the table. Dr. Gardner, Medical Director of EMS at the hospital, said time on scene is his biggest concern. The faster they can get critically ill patients to the emergency room the better outcome they have. Time is muscle; time is brain; time is life. In that sense the EMTs/ paramedics are not spending a lot of time on the scene. The medications paramedics can administer can be a matter of life and death, or the difference between a healthy person and a disabled person.

Dr. Gardner said if they deem it necessary to transport a patient to another hospital and they are on a medication drip, they currently have to call a nurse to go with the ambulance to run the pump. This can mean 15-45 minutes to get a nurse in. If Brigham City had paramedics they are qualified to run the pump.

Dr. Lance Bryce, Trauma Director at the Brigham City Hospital, said when the City was forced to go to a part-time department, there were more than 80 people that were filling in. Their scene times were low with an average of 14-15 minutes. This immediately increased to over 20 minutes when the employee force went to part-time. Paramedics will do nothing but augment the trauma side of what the City is trying to do.

Mr. Roberts came forward and explained an error in the Fire and Ambulance budget. The budget is overstated by \$90,000-\$100,000 in the personnel line items. Therefore, the plan presented would

be cheaper than going back to eight part-time people because of this error. In addition, the charges for ambulance service will increase if there is a paramedic onboard.

Utility Rate Increases

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen explained that if the City stayed with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) the rate increase would be 29%. The 9% electric rate increase is with Utah Association of Municipal Power (UAMPS). This will bring the City up to what RMP is charging.

Mr. Roberts said there is also a 4% increase in water rates and a 5% increase in the storm drain rate. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen added that the reason the storm drain is increasing is because it has been subsidized; this should make it budget neutral.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen suggested doing a 2% water rate increase this year and review it every year after that and see what the market dictates. Mr. Roberts said 2% would be about \$60,000.

Mr. Pugsley explained that this increase is to cover personnel costs and infrastructure. This year the City experienced two major water incidents due to aging infrastructure. One was the water leak on 990 South and Main. This will cost the City \$250,000. The other is on Watery Lane where there have been several leaks. Last winter they turned the water off, repaired the leak, charged the line and it blew out somewhere else. They fixed it again and it blew out at another spot. This whole line needs to be replaced. In addition, the penstock pipelines are aging and need to be replaced. Another project that needs to be done is to move the cement line under the Mantua Reservoir to outside the reservoir to prevent contamination.

Mr. Roberts said the City used to have approximately \$2.5M per year for capital projects or saving money for emergencies, like the waterline breaking. Over the last four years, when the RMP increases were not passed onto the customers, this has decreased to \$1.5M per year. He did not feel that the City wants to stay at \$1.5M for the long term. Next year this will be addressed again because there needs to be more money going into the utility fund for projects.

Mr. Pugsley added that next year the City will need to look at sewer rates because there will have to be several millions of dollars in projects to meet the mandates coming on the Wastewater Treatment Plant by the year 2020.

Mr. Roberts said the City's capital projects have decreased because there was \$24M in capital projects to get water to Procter & Gamble and to replace water sources. This has been ongoing since 2008 and are just now finishing up. This has taken a lot of staff time. It has been previous Councils' goal to have at least 30-50% of expenses available for emergencies.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen asked about cutting the amount budgeted for the new electric meters (\$370,000) in half. She also asked about the \$250,000 budgeted for the Compost Facility Phase IV. Mr. Pugsley explained that this phase will complete the site. Everything east of the green waste drop off area to the City's property line will be paved. This will provide storage areas for wood chips, green waste, etc.

Mayor Vincent said if something is put off this year it will have to be done next, so it is just putting it off for a year.

Councilmember Peterson asked if there is anything in the budget to further explore the possibility of secondary water, natural gas generation plants and curbside recycling.

Curbside Recycling

Mr. Pugsley replied that he has not heard back from the Council on whether to proceed with curbside recycling since the last meeting when this was discussed. If the Council wants staff to proceed he felt they could do a lot of research in-house.

Councilmember Peterson said Perry City charges residents \$5.00 per month for curbside recycling. Perry receives \$1.20 of that and the private company receives \$3.80. Perry does an “opt-out” so if a citizen doesn’t want it they will not get charged.

Mr. Pugsley recommended forming a task force to look into this further. One point to consider is that the City is receiving revenue from the sale of recyclables. If an outside company does the curbside recycling the City will not receive the green waste.

Councilmember Bott asked if this would help with the unwanted items at the recycling center. Mr. Pugsley replied that most of the contamination is at the site.

The Mayor will work with Mr. Roberts and form a task force.

Secondary Pressurized Irrigation Water

Mr. Pugsley said staff is still talking about pressurized irrigation water. There is still money in fund balance that is set aside for a study. He and Mr. Leonard have discussed this recently and felt that now is a good time to put out an RFP for a water attorney.

Natural Gas Generation

Mr. Burnett stated that this can be looked at three different ways: 1) plant and fuel costs; 2) some costs on facilities and fuel costs; 3) energy preparedness. The previous feasibility study the City did was from a plant and fuel cost standpoint. The engineer recommended that the City have a year’s worth of experience with the UAMPS contract to see how economically that would fit within the portfolio. If the Council wants him to look into any other perspective, he can do that.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen expressed concern with adding any more projects. She felt that any new projects should be budget neutral. Mr. Burnett said this would probably have to be paid through a bond.

The Council scheduled another Budget Work Session for May 12, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.