

**MINUTES OF THE EPHRAIM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
EPHRAIM CITY BUILDING
5 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011
7:00 PM**

The Ephraim City Council convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Parrish, Mayor
Kim Cragun, Mayor Pro Tem
Greg Dart
Terry Lund
Richard Squire

STAFF PRESENT

Regan Bolli, City Manager
Bryan Kimball, City Planner
Leigh Ann Warnock, City Recorder
Alma Lund, Power Superintendent
Len Gasser, Police Sgt.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Olson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

See attached.

Mayor Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Cragun shared a thought. Councilmember Lund led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council reviewed the minutes of the August 3, 2011 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Cragun moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2011 City Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lund. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Dart, Lund, Olson, Cragun, and Squire. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER

The Council reviewed the Warrant Register of August 16, 2011.

Councilmember Squire moved to approve the warrant register of August 16, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dart. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Dart, Lund, Olson, Cragun, and Squire. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Pritchett from Armstrong Consultants was present to introduce himself to the Council. His firm does work for airports and has an interest in this area. He last spoke with Alan Grindstaff ten years ago, who was the City Administrator at that time. Mr. Pritchett has been with the company 25 years.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment on the commercial electrical rate change was opened at 7:06 p.m. Ted Olson addressed the Council regarding the current commercial electric rates and the proposal made by Sunrise Engineering to increase those rates. Electrical rates have recently been raised creating a distortion that is unfair to many businesses. One is the energy rate and the other is the rate at which it is used.

A demand charge is assessed on the rate the energy is used. Some businesses see a big jump just by using a little more than 6,000KWH. The engineer from Sunrise looked at the numbers to see how best to fix this problem.

The solution that was finally decided upon was to modify the energy rates around the 6,000 KWH level and on assessing the demand charge starting at a little bit more than 0 giving them 15-20 KW. This change means the demand is not assessed until the usage surpasses 15KW. The energy rate around that block is amended likewise. For those businesses using 6,000 plus KWH and above won't see any change and those way below 6,000 won't see any change. The only businesses that will notice a change will be those using right around 6,000KWH.

Power Director Alma Lund stressed that this is a fairness act. It doesn't vary the income the City will receive, and will only affect about 12 businesses in the City.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:20 P.M.

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF WORK PROGRAM FOR DELINQUENT UTILITIES POLICY

This program is for customers who get behind on their bills and are unable to pay. A resident actually approached the City and asked if there was some labor they could perform in order to pay off their utility bill. City Manager Bolli wrote up a contract to be used in these instances. The procedure would be to fill out a request form with the information and the reason for the request. Then the City can reject or accept that request on a case-by-case basis. Included in the packet is a consent and waiver form and the actual policy that will be adopted tonight. There is also a time sheet to keep track of the hours worked, and the Department Head for whom the work is done will sign off on that work. This will be a help for families for a short period of time, not on a monthly basis.

Mayor Parrish expressed the importance of customers being accountable, and this is a great opportunity for them to step up and help the City and themselves in the process.

The bill is credited at minimum wage. Mayor Parrish would like to add an age limit of 16 to the policy.

Councilmember Dart moved to adopt the policy establishing a program for customers to work off their utility bills contingent upon language indicating a participant needs to be at least 16 years of age and the resolution of workers comp. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lund. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Dart, Lund, Olson, Cragun, and Squire. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF ECO 11-03—A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ONE ALL-NIGHT RECREATION EVENT AT THE FOUR-PLEX PER YEAR

Councilmember Dart established that all those who were present at the public hearing in March were notified about this new ordinance. It became apparent there were other issues regarding public usage of that complex. The Council said they would come back at a later date regulating start times for games throughout the year as well as addressing an all-night tournament. “We want to be fair to those around the park as well as to the Recreation Department.” This ordinance allows one all-night tournament per year and during that tournament the normal time restrictions would be waived.

Mr. Peterson, an Ephraim resident, addressed the Council and stated he is concerned about the lights and feels there should be a scheduled time for the lights to go off. Some games run late and the lights are on way past midnight. He said the residents around the park would rather see a hard lights off time rather than an established game start time. They would like the lights off at 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The northwest field could have later hours as it doesn’t affect the neighbors. They also request no music and no PA system after 10:00 p.m. any time.

Councilmember Cragun feels a 10:00 p.m. hard lights off time is not feasible. 10:30 might work because sometimes the games run long and a little wiggle room is needed there. He also suggested midnight on weekends. Mr. Peterson said that is too late, that 11:00 p.m. is late enough. Councilmember Cragun felt that would work if an exception was made for the Sanpete Shootout Tournaments because they will run later than that. Or it could be stipulated that those games be played on the northwest field.

The Recreation Board has not had a chance to review this ordinance. Mayor Parrish feels the Board should review and discuss the ordinance, then bring it back to the Council with recommendations based on resident input and other information available.

Ted Olson pointed out that the City’s power department finances the lights for the fields and they draw quite a bit of power. A substantial savings would be sustained if lights were not turned on until dusk. “This one little thing will save the City thousands of dollars.”

Mr. Peterson suggested having the rec people prep the fields in the morning rather than at night with the lights on.

Abraham Hundepool suggests kicking the game start time back ½ hour as it would save electricity as well as accommodate the neighbors. He also suggested a vacating time be added to the ordinance as well. Within ½ hour of a game, everyone is cleared off.

It was brought up that there are traditions and expectations on some of those tournaments. Time has to be allowed for adults to get to the park after work. The Board has talked about going to 5:30 rather than 6:00.

Erin Madsen stated \$16,000 was raised at the last “Sanpete Gives Back Tournament” for a family here in Sanpete County. The only thing in the ordinance that affects this tournament is in section three where the PA system is brought up. If it has to be turned off at night they would like to be able to turn it back on in the morning.

All will be discussed by the Recreation Board and the Council before a final ordinance is adopted. Neighbors will be notified before it is passed.

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF ECR 11-10

The resolution was introduced in written form and read in full.

Councilmember Cragun moved to Adopt ECR 11-10 a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Funds for Wastewater Revenue and Refunding bonds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lund. A roll call vote was taken: voting “yes” Councilmembers Dart, Lund, Olson, Cragun, and Squire. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Terry Lund

Cemetery—the Cemetery Board has made the decision to redo the roads at the Cemetery and need to follow up on price quotes. A marker has been run over by the lawn mowers; the Board will try to get the ok of the owners to have to stone moved. CIMS is still coming along.

Crossing guards—There will be six people acting as crossing guards at the elementary school this year. They like volunteering and are out there rain or shine. He would like to see letters of appreciation sent to the crossing guards. Other counties require BCI checks for volunteers outside the classroom. We need to decide if that is something we want to do.

Kim Cragun

Tree Committee—We need a Tree Commission Meeting. We will choose a slower growing tree to replace some that have died.

Richard Squire

Rec Board—Mark and Merriel Wathen installed an information board at the ball parks and we need an appreciation letter sent to them for that.

Greg Dart

News Letter—Things are due by Friday for the next newsletter.

Fire Department—Chief Steck brought up the need for a cement pathway behind the station. We need to look into finding funds for cement back there.

Bryan Kimball

Planning and Zoning—there is an NRCS grant to repair a structure that has washed out twice now. The County took action on it yesterday for commissioners to act as sponsor for us. This will be a good chance to get funding that will pay for all the engineering and work to be completed. We will donate labor and materials for a soft match. The County will want an agreement so they are not held liable for their match.

Len Gasser

Police Department—We are gearing up for the college kids coming in and we are ready for a new year.

Weed enforcement is going very well. Everyone in the City has been cooperative. People have been clearing out their weeds within the first 2-3 days after being notified or have asked for an extension. 90% of the cases have been taken care of.

Regan Bolli

Park— Grading and digging for a volleyball court will begin tomorrow at the Canyon View Park.

Ephraim City Days--Ephraim City Days is this Saturday from 2-5. We are hoping for a big turnout there.

Mayor Parrish

Open House—There will be an apartment building open house on Friday. Meet the Candidates Luncheon is at the Senior Center tomorrow at noon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember Cragun moved the meeting adjourn at 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Squire. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on September 7, 2011, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council room.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Date