

# City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011

**ATTENDING:** Mayor Pat Brady, Council Members Philip Engleman, Keith Brady, Irene Daw; Employees Conae Black; Citizens, Eduard Korycan, Joanne Ekker with the Boys Scouts Troop 284 Karson Nelson, Ross Thayn, Cody Giles, Quinn McNeil, Michael Jacklin, Anthony Jacklin, Troy Pettit.

**ABSENT:** Dan Harrison, Kent Johnson.

**CONDUCTING:** Mayor Pat Brady, the meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

The Pledge of allegiance is directed by ~~Dan Harrison~~. Directed by Karson Nelson who is Boy Scout Troop 284's group leader.

1. Discuss/approve/deny consent agenda. Keith Brady arrived at 7:40 p.m. Mayor Brady came back to this agenda item because with Council Member Keith Brady's presence there was now a quorum. **MOTION:** Philip Engleman moved to approve the consent agenda. Irene Daw seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Irene Daw, Philip Engleman and Keith Brady voted aye. The motion carried.

Minutes for February 8, 2011 regular meeting  
January 2010 Recorder's report  
February 2010 Treasurer's report  
March 2011 Payment Approval report

2. Discussion on Elgin Cemetery. Mayor Brady said right now Grand County owns and operates the Elgin Cemetery. James Madden is the current sexton for the cemetery. Grand County is requesting that Green River City take over the Elgin Cemetery mainly because those buried in that cemetery are people from Green River and not Moab. After talking with Mr. Madden he thought that all Grand County Cemetery District would have to do is quick claim deed the property to Green River City but will contact their attorney to make sure. It would include the cemetery and the five acres in front of it. Some of the costs are \$500 for spraying weeds about three times a year and \$4,800 for Joanne Ekker's wages. There are some things that need to be taken care of. The road is presently on private property which would mean moving the sign. The extra five acres needs to be surveyed so we have the lots in the right order. The cattle guard is a safety hazard and needs some improvements. Presently the only lots available are on the south side along the fence. The northwest side of the cemetery needs to be upgraded to make it useable. There was a big hole there that was filled with dirt mixed with cement and rebar. That needs to be removed and replaced with useable dirt. The drainage along the roads in the cemetery is poor. The water is running off onto the graves causing them to collapse. The city may have to purchase a casket lowering device for caskets without a vault. Right now there is no charge for opening and closing the graves and perhaps the city might consider charging for that. Philip Engleman asked if Grand County gets any other funding from other sources. Joanne Ekker said they receive taxes from the Special Service District. Conae Black asked how many lots are available. Joanne Ekker said about 45 or 50 not counting the area that is not usable these are just along the fence. Conae Black said the Elgin Cemetery is part of a Special Service District so Grand County would have to change their boundary lines to exclude the Elgin Cemetery. Philip Engleman wanted to know what Huntington and Castle Dale does for revenue for their cemeteries. Mayor Brady thought it would be a good idea to get more information from those municipalities. Joanne Ekker said there is a person out of Emery County who developed a computer program to organize the grave plots and that is the program that Grand County uses.

Mayor Brady asked if Jim Madden was a paid employee. Joanne Ekker said yes and there are also three other paid employees. Conae Black said there are two cemeteries in Moab and Joanne Ekker said there are some smaller ones in Castle Valley along with the one in Elgin. Philip Engleman said he would like to see Green River City take over the Elgin Cemetery but they need to figure out how to manage it. Joanne Ekker said Jim Madden told her that he thought about \$10,000 a year in expenses would take care of everything. Mayor Brady said a lot of Green River residents have filed many complaints about the way things are handled at their cemetery and Mr. Madden provided those complaints to him.

3. Discussion on animal control issues. Mayor Brady said he put this on the agenda because Tracy Hunter, the animal control officer, asked him to. Irene Daw said Mr. Hunter was planning on attending and because he was not here something must have come up. She said the animal control shelter is in need of some improvements and Mr. Hunter would have a cost estimate of those expenses to her by the end of the week. She has instructed him to pick up a dog-at-large and then try to locate the owner rather than just locating the owner only and not picking up the dog. Mayor Brady said he recently took a look at the animal control ordinance and there are a lot of things that are not getting done. He said he is gathering information from Castle Dale on animal control. They also have a good job description for an animal control officer.

4. Report on Elgin Avenue. Irene Daw has done a lot of research on Elgin Avenue. She prepared a report for the Mayor and each member of the City Council which was handed to the members present. She had all of the facts from the title company gathered and organized. With this search it proves that the property owned by the Nance's clearly state the road going through it. This proves that Elgin Avenue does exist and does not belong to the Nance's. Mayor Brady said the next step is to get this information to the city attorney and asking him to draft a letter to the Nance's stating the city does have the right-of-way through their property and they cannot close it off and they will need to comply with the ordinance on fencing.

5. Report on Water Quality funding for sewer lagoons. Conae Black reported to those members of the City Council present. Philip Engleman thought that Johnathon Cook from Water Quality was going to present to the Council. Conae Black said Mr. Cook went to the Rural Water Conference last week and was not able to attend. She said that at the last Water Quality Board meeting that she and Philip Engleman attended to ask them for the funding on the Planning Study she made a comment that the Council was not fully informed on these issues. The Water Quality Board had a problem with that because the City Council has not had proper communication. There are three members of the City Council that are not present tonight so this will go into the minutes and it will be the responsibility of those absent to read about this. She said the city has had problem with the sewer lagoons being full to capacity for years. Back in 2002 the city acquired some funding to do some major upgrades to the sewer system. We put on an aerator at the lagoons to help with the odor, some sewer lift stations were eliminated, some lift stations were new and others were upgraded, and replaced sewer lines. Ground water infiltrated into the old sewer lines and lift stations which went directly to the sewer lagoons which caused them to be full. When the city made those improvements it made a huge difference because we were frequently discharging into the river before the improvements. After the improvements it was not necessary to discharge for such a long time that we allowed our discharge permit to elapse and we got into some trouble when the lagoons became too full and flowed over. Because of that Water Quality put Green River City on the top of their list to receive funding for sewer lagoon expansion. In 2009 when the stimulus money became available through Water Quality we sought after that funding to add another cell to our lagoon system. When Water Quality saw the cost of the expansion (\$2,000,000) they negotiated with the city to modify our discharge permit to allow us to discharge into the river as long as we put in a chlorination device before discharge. Water Quality asked for this because there were far more applicants for sewer improvements than they had money for. Water Quality said that if the city would agree to that they would fund 100% of the chlorination device with hardship grant money. The city still does not have that chlorination device. It has been designed by Johansen & Tuttle Engineering but we don't have the funds to put it in place. Now what the Council does not fully understand is Water Quality informed the city

through an email to Johansen and Tuttle Engineering that they are going to require us to have a Planning Study done on this project and it was going to cost \$23,000. There was some discussion as to who was going to pay for this. The way we feel is Water Quality should pay for it so we went before the Board and requested the full \$23,000 in grant money for the Planning Study. We were granted that but was told we may not get the full funding of \$200,000 for the chlorination device even though Water Quality is requiring it. Again at this Board meeting we heard many cries for help from a lot of entities and how little money the Water Quality had to work with.

6. Discuss/approve/deny mileage reimbursement rate to be consistent with the established rate used for the Internal Revenue Service travel deductions. **MOTION:** Keith Brady moved to approve the mileage reimbursement rate to be consistent with the established rate used by the Internal Revenue Service travel deductions. Philip Engleman seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Irene Daw, Philip Engleman and Keith Brady voted aye. The motion carried.

Keith Brady arrived at 7:40 p.m. Mayor Brady addressed agenda items 1 and 6 now that there was a quorum present.

7. Department Reports. Philip Engleman said he attended the Rural Water Conference last week. He asked when the last time the city had an audit done on our water and sewer rates. Conae Black said probably back in 2002. He would like to have that done instead of just taking a shot in the dark on how much to raise the rates. Rural Water will come and help with that. He would like to try and budget for a used vehicle. Irene Daw she attended the Planning and Zoning meeting last month and a meeting with those youth that were involved in the vandalism of the Christmas lights and their parents. She reported that the kids at the meeting were very polite and did accept responsibility for their actions. She asked these kids what they would like to see to keep them occupied and out of trouble. Some of their ideas were a movie theater, swimming pool, go carts, bowling alley, skate park and motocross. She was concerned if this went on their permanent record. Mayor Brady said no. She submitted the report from Tracy Hunter on animal control. Keith Brady said he is still planning on having the Outlaw Trail Jamboree. He still has the same issue as always that he doesn't know the trails. All of the people he has asked to help him with this are not interested. Conae Black said she spoke with Glen Baxter about it and he was willing to help with this. It will be held May 5 – 7 and they have a couple new trails this year. We are already getting a lot of interest on the Goblin Valley Marathon. Conae Black said we will probably lose our CDBG funding. The federal government is cutting back on the funding. The federal government cut backs also affect the funding for the airport. She suggests setting up a meeting with city officials, Mike McCandless, Armstrong Engineering and Redtail to go over future plans. She has held the first Queen Pageant Committee meeting and is very excited about the changes that are going to be made there. She spent an entire day with Lotus Community Development Institute to learn how to develop a housing plan for Green River and learned so much from them. Through a grant we will be able to get an Affordable Housing Plan for Green River. She will be working on that with the help of Jack Forinash. Keith Brady asked if this would be a start for us to develop our own housing authority. Conae Black said no, HUD does not have the money to fund another housing authority for our area at this time so we will be working with South Eastern Utah Housing Authority or Emery County Housing Authority. She will know more after Friday if the city will be able to obtain 2 VISTA employees. She would like to see them work on the housing plan and economic development.

8. Adjourn. **MOTION:** Irene Daw moved to adjourn. Philip Engleman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Pat Brady, Mayor

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Conae Black, City Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_