



ROY CITY
Roy City Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022– 5:00 p.m.
Roy City Council
5051 S 1900 W Roy, UT 84067

Minutes of the Roy City Council Meeting held in person in the Roy City Council Chambers and streamed on YouTube on June 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the Utah Public Notice Website at least 24 hours in advance. A copy of the agenda was also posted on the Roy City website.

The following members were in attendance:

Mayor Dandoy
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Joe Paul
Councilmember Scadden
Councilmember Wilson
Councilmember Sophie Paul

City Manager, Matt Andrews
City Attorney, Andy Blackburn
City Recorder, Brittany Fowers

Excused:

Also present were: Police Chief, Matthew Gwynn; Fire Chief, Craig Golden; Parks and Recreation Director, Travis Flint; Public Works Director, Ross Oliver; Management Services Director, Amber Fowles; Glenda Moore

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Mayor Dandoy welcomed those in attendance and noted Councilmembers Jackson, Joe Paul, Scadden, Wilson, and Sophie Paul were present.

B. Discussion Items

1. Proposed FY 2023 Budget

Mayor Dandoy reported the police department wanted five additional officers which would cost \$600,000, and the fire department would like nine more firefighters which would cost an additional \$800,000, and the Complex would like to do upgrades that would cost around \$1 Million. He said the Complex had been shut down for swimming because of the boilers and stated they had received emails from residents asking questions.

City Manager Matt Andrews reported the tax rate had come in on June eighth at 28.5%, and had been sent to Council.

Management Services Director Amber Fowles said she wanted to give Council an idea of the process they would go through at the following meeting. She said at the next meeting they would have to approve a final budget or a tentative budget, and if they wanted to keep the tax revenue the same they would approve the final budget, but if they wanted to change the property tax revenue then they would still need to adopt a tentative budget and then go through the Truth in Taxation process. She stated the County backed into the rate based on home values and the revenue the City had received, and explained if they requested more revenue, then they would have to go through the Truth in Taxation process.

Management Services Director Fowles explained on June 22nd, the City would have to submit

a request to the County with the amount of revenue they wanted, and if it was anything above what they had requested the previous year they would go through the Truth in Taxation process and they could not request more after that time. She said the holding tax rate had come in at 28.5%, which was an indication of how much property had increased over the previous year. Mayor Dandoy asked what the best guess for the date of the Truth in Taxation meeting would be. Management Services Director Fowles replied they had to adopt it before September first, so she would suggest their last meeting be held in August. Councilmember Joe Paul clarified there could be a Truth in Taxation meeting without raising the rates.

City Manager Andrews stated they could meet on August 30th and vote before the September 1st deadline. Management Services Director Fowles added they could vote for a lower rate than what they submitted to the County, but they could not go over the original amount. City Manager Andrews also clarified that it did not have to be a percent, it had to be an actual dollar amount.

Mayor Dandoy asked what an increase in property tax would yield in terms of revenue. Management Services Director Fowles replied that a 5% increase would yield approximately \$200,000 per year and it would be \$16.20 per year increase on the average home in Roy. She said if they went from 5% to 10%, those figures would double, and the average home price was \$433,000.

City Manager Andrews stated they needed to discuss city employees, taxes, the Complex, and the position of economic development director. He said they could not vote on the budget tonight, but they needed to discuss these items before they voted the following week.

Mayor Dandoy stated the Fiscal Year 2022 budget allotted \$12,966,000 to salaries, and because of some requirements they needed to pay to Public Safety, the budget going into this year was \$14,788,000. He noted throughout this process they had not discussed revenue increases to match the expenses incurred due to salary. He opined it was the duty of the Council to generate revenue and the duty of the City Manager to spend it. He said Ogden had made a declaration to pay their firefighters 14% more, their police officers 8% more, and most of their employees 13% more, and he discussed the cities were in a wage war and asked where they could find sources of revenue to match the expenses. He said this was a conversation they needed to have, and if they wanted to have conversations about any of the four items Mr. Andrews had addressed, this was the time to have them before they approved the budget.

Councilmember Joe Paul thought they needed cold hard numbers for the Complex. He asked Public Works Director Ross Oliver what it would cost them to put a boiler in. Public Works Director Oliver replied that with the plumbing associated with installation, it would be around \$200,000 for a new boiler, or they could rebuild the old one for \$50,000 and they would need to have an air coil which would cost \$25,000. He elaborated if they were going to be shut down for that construction, they might as well replaster the Complex at that time, which would cost around \$300,000. He said they had replastered the first year he worked for the City, which was 32 years ago. City Manager Andrews stated if they were going to replaster, they should replace all the plumbing underneath because they would need access to it at some point, to which Public Works Director Oliver replied that most of it had already been replaced on the pool side. Councilmember Joe Paul clarified they would be looking at \$600,000 in total for the work. Councilmember Sophie Paul asked if that figure included the electrical and the remodel of the bathroom. Public Works Director Oliver stated that it would be \$910,000 for the three projects, including electrical work.

Councilmember Joe Paul commented that Orem had the same exact building built in the same year, and they had closed it two years earlier because they had decided it was not worth it to fund it

anymore. He thought it did not make financial sense to put \$1 Million into the pool, as they would lose \$400,000 every year. Councilmember Diane Wilson pointed out that statistically, programs at the Complex had reduced the crime rate in the City, and she further stated since there was projected to be an increase in the younger population of the City, it would be worth it to put that money into the Complex if it would make it last another 20 years. She thought it was a balance between public safety and the recreation Complex, and she thought since there had been a lot of money put into the Complex over the years already, they should not give up on it. She commented it would be \$50,000 per year on average to do the required maintenance, and she thought that was worth it. Councilmember Wilson concluded the Complex provided more to the City than they realized and the programs that were held there were essential.

Councilmember Joe Paul suggested they move the programs to the aquatic center. City Manager Andrews said the Complex was going to be down for six months and they would lose \$1.3 Million. Councilmember Wilson talked about subsidization. Councilmember Ann Jackson commented that all of the citizens she had talked to wanted the Complex to be fixed. There was discussion about subsidizing from the General Fund, and Councilmember Joe Paul suggested they put it on the ballot for citizens to decide. City Manager Andrews said the only way he would put it to the public was if they wanted to supplement the cost with increased taxes, in case they could not raise the funds elsewhere or were unable to bond for it. Mayor Dandoy rhetorically asked if they would want to bond for an old horse or a new horse. Councilmember Joe Paul said he would want to bond for something at the aquatic center.

Councilmember Jackson thought they needed to advertise better for it ,because there were a lot of people who did not know what the Complex had to offer. Councilmember Joe Paul said there was no way in good faith he could raise someone's taxes for something that was losing \$400,000 a year. Councilmember Wilson stated there was a 57% increase in dropout rates when there were not good after school activities available to teens, 47% increased drug use, and 30% increase in arrest rates. Councilmember Joe Paul replied all after school activities did not require a swimming pool and said they had a great Program Coordinator who could get creative and come up with activities that did not require a swimming pool. Parks and Recreation Director Flint agreed they had great Program Coordinator, but he would not want to add anything more to her plate.

City Manager Andrews commented they also had the Hope Center. Public Works Director Oliver said they had access to the Hope Center in the winter months from six o'clock onwards when school was in session, and they used it for basketball from September to March. He did not know if they had the resources to have winter activities outside of that. Councilmember Joe Paul asked what cities that did not have a swimming pool did, and Public Works Director Oliver replied that some cities had recreation centers without a pool. Councilmember Joe Paul did not deny that recreational activities were important and that they had a great recreational program, but he did not think a swimming pool was required. City Manager Andrews said that went back to how many programs they offered outside of swim lessons at the Complex and listed the programs offered. Councilmember Joe Paul said if they held out for a couple of years, then they could bond for a tax increase to put something down, and he thought they were on borrowed time with the School District seeking to obtain the property. Councilmember Wilson asked where they would put a new facility.

Councilmember Joe Paul thought they they should enclose the aquatic center and have the same programs there. He said he would rather invest \$1.5 Million into that than in repairs for the Complex. Councilmember Jackson thought half of the appeal for the aquatic center was to be able to have open area, and she did not think it was worth putting any money into covering the aquatic center because it served a different purpose. Councilmember Joe Paul thought they needed to look

outside of the box and see what other programs they could do versus dumping more money into the Complex.

Councilmember Jackson asked if the new boiler and re-plastering the pool would be sufficient repairs while leaving the rest of the Complex open. Public Works Director Oliver replied all of the repairs would need to eventually be done and it would be better to do it all at once.

Councilmember Joe Paul said they were not ADA approved but they were grandfathered in and he wondered how long that would last. Public Work Director Oliver replied he was not able to answer that question, and noted there was a lift for wheelchairs but no elevator access. Councilmember Wilson said she knew they wanted to keep it open but nobody else did and thought they needed to do a vote.

Councilmember Sophie Paul said they were going to have a lot of people mad if they closed it and they were going to have a lot of people mad if they kept it open. She expressed frustration that while this had come up in every Council for the last 10-15 years, it never got onto the budget and now the current Council had to be the bad guys to make the decision. City Manager Andrews commented the Complex had great staff who had kept it maintained as well as possible, but they needed more money to keep it operational and sustainable. He said that the fact of the matter was they would be throwing money at it and it would still be losing money, and that in good conscience he knew they needed police officers and firefighters and he was not willing to spend more capital to fix the Complex.

Councilmember Joe Paul commented if he was voting with his heart, he would vote to keep it open, but he was voting with every citizen's pocketbook and said they needed to make good financial decisions. He added they did not even own the property, but they leased it. Councilmember Jackson thought it was unfair to consider that they did not own the property as a factor because they did not own the parks which lost more money overall than the Complex, and she added the Complex was an important resource they had already put a lot of money into. She said every City with a pool lost money to it, but it was a resource for the citizens. Councilmember Joe Paul replied that most cities were not 7.5 square miles with 40,000 residents and a need for more businesses to generate sales tax. He said their forefathers wanted Roy to be a bedroom community and had not been thinking to the future, and now the Council had to deal with it.

Parks and Recreation Director Flint stated the Complex was open 4500 hours a year which was more than anything else in the community. He saw the amount of people that came to the Complex and received physical and emotional well-being, and it gave them a place to hang out with people their age. He said he saw a lot of kids using the basketball courts in the evenings and was scared of what would happen if they lost the courts.

City Manager Andrews stated the senior citizen population would be the first to bring the pitchforks and torches if they raised the taxes because they were a part of a program that was 100% government subsidized, yet the only path forward that he would agree with was if they did a tax increase. Councilmember Joe Paul asked why it was happening on the back of a tax increase and commented this year had the highest inflation rates they had seen so far, and it had killed him to give out \$1.5 Million for salaries let alone the Complex.

Public Works Director Oliver stated this was what the Reserve Fund was for, and the point of public taxes was to pay for public safety. Councilmember Wilson asked if they had money in their reserve account for something like this. City Manager Andrews replied there was money in the reserve account with a lot of money in it, and they just needed to decide what they wanted to do with that

money.

Mayor Dandoy asked if they were thinking of completely shutting down the Complex and locking the door, or if they wanted to retain as much as they could of the Complex. Councilmember Joe Paul thought there were a lot of discussions that needed to happen with the School District. City Manager Matt Andrews replied he would be fine with doing a tentative budget and including the Complex but with no capital, just so they could have an open and honest conversation with the School District to see if they could come to some sort of an agreement. He commented he would sell the Complex to the School District for \$1 just to get it off of their books, and that the School District was going to own it one way or another.

Mayor Dandoy said they needed to decide whether or not to lock the doors or find something in between. Councilmember Wilson said if there was money in the reserve account to fix it, that was what she would like to see happen. Councilmember Jackson agreed, and believed that a fully operational Complex was important for the City. Mayor Dandoy clarified that the other position was to entirely shut it down and yield control to the School District because they already owned it. Councilmember Wilson clarified it would not be for the current year because school season started in October. Mayor Dandoy commented the School District was all about school, not recreational programs. Public Works Director Oliver stated the School District played good host to the City on the weekend, but they would not be able to give up any use of the facility during the week because of all of the athletic programs. Councilmember Sophie Paul stated she did not agree with taking money out of the reserve and she opined they close the Complex completely and lock the doors.

Mayor Dandoy said it seemed the majority was in favor of shutting the doors and transitioning out of the Complex. He said Council would have to set a date for when that would be implemented, and it would have to be part of the budget because it was changing the expenses and revenues and the budget would have to reflect that dramatic change. City Manager Matt Andrews stated there were a couple different ways they could handle this because the budget was a breathing document, and they could make adjustments as necessary.

Councilmember Joe Paul said he had been at the fire station the previous weekend and reported they had received three calls and still had one asset left at the station, but no personnel left so if they had received another call they would have had to rely on Riverdale. He discussed that firefighters and police officers were not allowed to take time off for vacation and the City spent a lot of money on those people and needed to continue to work with them. He stated they needed to look at ways to fund another firefighter and a minimum of two or three more police officers. Mayor Dandoy commented that was the conversation they were having, and said it came down to what the Council was willing to give up in order to afford these extra officers. He said if the decision was made to shut down the Complex, \$500,000 of the \$700,000 would go for salaries and they could relocate the three full-time employees to other departments in the City if they were qualified, and let go of all of the part-time employees. There was discussion about the variables about the change in expenses and expenditures.

Parks and Recreation Director Flint stated if they needed to rent out pool time for swim lessons, it would be \$150 an hour, which would amount to around \$17,000 per year. He said the other option would be to open the Aquatic Center a month early, which would amount to \$20,000 in utility costs.

Councilmember Jackson asked if they could transfer the Complex to Roy High if they closed the doors. Mayor Dandoy replied that the problem was the building had become a liability, and the school had not budgeted for the extra personnel that they would need to manage it. He said it would not be open to the public and would be absorbed into the School District. Councilmember Jackson

commented the Athletic Director had just texted her and told her than he wanted it, and she said she would call the Superintendent that night.

Mayor Dandoy said if the decision was going to be made to close the door, that needed to be presented to the School District because they were the most likely recipients of it, and reminded the Council that giving the Complex to the School District would shut down public access. He said they had not talked about the people who had lifetime memberships to the Complex, and pointed out the City would have to compensate them in some way. Councilmember Sophie Paul said she had had memberships before for a business which had closed, and said it did not automatically mean she was entitled to a refund. Mayor Dandoy replied it might put them in a legal issue and thought they should look into it, and cautioned people were going to be bitter.

Councilmember Jackson said there were avenues they could look into to shift funds towards the infrastructure, and said there were funds available through other programs which could help with recreational programs.

Mayor Dandoy stated they needed to make a decision because a budget needed to be voted on in a week. He clarified that three of the Council members wanted to shut the doors of the Complex, and said if that was the case, they needed to work out the details regarding staff and programs and they needed to officially make it a part of the budget.

City Manager Andrews commented that 1,300 people out of the 40,000 residents in Roy used the Complex. Public Works Director Oliver said there were other communities that used the Complex and there were thousands of Roy residents who used it quite often.

Mayor Dandoy explained how the process would work, and said there would be a public meeting regarding the approval of the budget the following Tuesday and if people had concerns, they needed to attend the meeting and talk with Councilmembers before the vote was taken. He said he did not know what the public opinion was about this, but he knew if any sort of tax increase was presented at the Truth in Taxation meeting, then people would be lined up at the pulpit to express their concerns. He wanted their definitive plan to be a part of the budget that would be voted on the following week and that most people would approve a tax increase only if it went to public safety.

Management Services Director Fowles added that whatever decision they made, they would not immediately have the funds to spend, and it would take time to figure out the costs. She anticipated there could be unforeseen costs which would come up throughout the process of the closure.

City Manager Matt Andrews said the County was currently working on figures for fire costs. Fire Chief Craig Golden discussed response times and responsibilities in the County and what they would need to add to staff to fulfill better response times. Mayor Dandoy clarified Chief Golden was only speaking about paramedic services. Chief Golden stated they would receive \$450,000 from the County to supplement this.

Mayor Dandoy referred to the book on fire suppression and gave some figures. He read from the report, and said a majority of the fires that the Roy Fire Department had responded to were outside of Roy and they did not get paid for these responses because they provided their services as part of their interlocal agreement at the Roy City residents' expense. Mayor Dandoy said he wanted Council to keep in mind that the public safety they were providing was not just for Roy. City Manager Andrews said the reliance they had on other cities was going down because they were understaffed, and reliance on Roy was going up. Mayor Dandoy stated he had gone over the

numbers and had found Roy provided services out of the City more than they did within the City. He felt this was just something they had to deal with as the “big dog” in the area. There was discussion about disbanding the interlocal agreement. Fire Chief Craig Golden said the district would cost the taxpayers around \$1 Million per station and they would lose access to equipment and buildings if they got rid of the agreement.

Mayor Dandoy stated the single biggest expense in the City was public safety, and a big piece of that expense was providing public safety to everyone else. Councilmember Joe Paul said if they went to district, they would not receive the same level of service. There was discussion about response times and staffing. Mayor Dandoy said this was a discussion about raising property taxes because that would be the only way to fund this.

Mayor Dandoy summarized they were talking about closing the Complex, and said they would need time to flush out the technicalities due to the impact of the closure, and asked if they wanted to wait it out or close the doors. He elaborated it was all about having the right timing.

Councilmember Joe Paul thought they should have been implementing gradual increases instead of implementing one large tax increase all at once. Mayor Dandoy got consensus from the Council that they wanted to put the closure of the Complex into the budget, and they would work out the best timing for that. He asked if they were willing to do a Truth in Taxation at a lower amount based on the numbers Management Services Director Fowles had given them.

Councilmember Wilson thought it was too early to address that question, and said they still needed to discuss the Economic Developer position and that it should be eliminated. She thought the Truth in Taxation should come up, but not before they analyzed more data. Mayor Dandoy said if they wanted to do a Truth in Taxation, Management Services Director Fowles needed to put it in the budget and they needed to vote on it the following week. Management Services Director Fowles said she just needed the number that they wanted to top out at and added they could always go lower. There was discussion about what percentage increase they wanted to set the cap at, and it was decided to set the cap at a 15% increase and close the Complex.

Mayor Dandoy said they still needed to discuss whether they wanted to spend \$160,000 for a Community Director and COLA. He discussed the COLA figures. Councilmember Wilson said she thought they needed to take care of what they had before they considered any more additions to the Public Safety staff, so they did not run off to other cities that had more competitive wages.

Mayor Dandoy stated they would need to spend \$500,000 on vehicles. Police Chief Gwynn said the old vehicles were worth money. City Manager Andrews said they could not account for gap profits and they needed to put a figure in the budget. Mayor Dandoy asked what the administrative vehicles which had been proposed in the budget were for, and City Manager Andrews replied they would be for Chief Gwynn and the two captains. Mayor Dandoy said the challenge was that the way the accounting system worked, they could not budget for a sellable vehicle to be revenue-generating. Management Services Director Fowles explained she could budget for the sale of the vehicles, but did not want to put it in the budget in case they did not sell the vehicles for any reason. She said she would rather wait until they sold the vehicles and then record the revenue.

Mayor Dandoy said it was Council’s responsibility to determine how they were going to generate revenue. He said they had just had a \$1.8 Million raise in salaries, and they needed to find a way to compensate that. He pointed out if they wanted to eliminate the Community Director position then they could eliminate the need for a vehicle for that position. Mayor Dandoy said Police Chief Gwynn had been very clear about his need for more officers, and that with crime increasing he

agreed they needed more support on the force. Councilmember Joe Paul said Mayor Dandoy had just told them that if they added more officers then those officers would be taking care of other cities, and asked if the new officers would be taking care of Roy or other cities. Mayor Dandoy clarified that his data was based on firefighting not police, and that they got reimbursed for paramedic service but not for firefighting or police services. He said that was an internal policy issue that they had to figure out. Councilmember Joe Paul asked if it was a budget issue or a policy issue, and Mayor Dandoy replied it was both a policy and a budget issue.

Councilmember Wilson did not doubt that more personnel was needed but she thought they needed more information with regards to sales tax before they made that decision, and explained she preferred to take care of the officers they currently had. Police Chief Gwynn said prevention was important, but response time was what they were looking to improve. He said officers are spending three times more time on a call than they were ten years ago because of increased requirements about collecting data. There was discussion about the costs of vehicles and the rotation they needed to keep vehicles valuable.

Mayor Dandoy asked about the position of Community Director. Councilmembers Wilson and Jackson did not want to fill the position. Councilmember Sophie Paul asked what percentage that position would be to assist City Manager Andrews in his current duties, and City Manager Andrews said that the position of Economic Development Director would take over the facilitation of strategic plans and taking over talking to developers. He said he had been doing quite a bit of that work, but it was up to Council to decide where they wanted to go with it. There was discussion about the role of an Economic Development Director. Councilmember Sophie Paul voted to keep the Economic Development Director position in the budget.

Mayor Dandoy stated the Truth in Taxation piece needed to be decided now which was why these decisions had to be made within the week. Councilmember Wilson thought they needed to know more about sales tax revenue before they made any decisions.

Mayor Dandoy said Management Services Director Fowles would run some numbers and present them at the August 16th meeting. He said if the decision was made to close down the Complex, they would need to do everything they could to protect those employees. Management Services Director Fowles said these budgets had been prepared in February and there had been a lot of inflation since February, which needed to be taken into consideration. She said there were a lot of things that had been approved from the previous year but not yet completed, so they would add a page to the budget to indicate that those projects had been previously approved. There was discussion about what would happen at the meeting on the following Tuesday.

Mayor Dandoy said he did not know what was about to happen, and it bothered him because even the experts had mixed emotions. He said recessions had impacts on sales tax revenues and they needed to plan and hope for the best.

C. Adjournment

Robert Dandoy
Mayor

Attest:

Brittany Fowers
City Recorder

dc: