

AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 7, 2023
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

Bradley J. Frost	Mayor
Kevin Barnes	Council Member
Staci Carroll	Council Member
Ryan Hunter*	Council Member
Rob Shelton*	Council Member
Clark Taylor*	Council Member

Staff Present:

David Bunker*	City Administrator
Camden Bird	Assistant City Administrator
Stephanie Finau	Deputy Recorder
Cherylyn Egner	Legal Counsel
Aaron Brems	Fire Chief
Cameron Paul	Police Chief
George Schade	IT Director
Patrick O'Brien	Development Services Director
Susan Gobel-Canning	Public Works Director
Anna Montoya	Finance Director

Also present: Linda McCoy (AFCTC), Brook Anderson (AFCTC), Adam Ellison (Police Dept.), Josh Christensen (Police Dept.), John Schiess (Horrocks), Ernie John (AF Irrigation Co.), and Craig Christensen.

The American Fork City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at City Administration Conference Room, located at 51 E. Main Street, commencing at 4:02 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The purpose of city work sessions is to prepare the city council for upcoming agenda items on future city council meetings. The work session is not an action item meeting. No one attending the meeting should rely on any discussion or any perceived consensus as action or authorization. These come only from the city council Meeting.

1. Discussion on the water re-use project plan.

Susan Gobel-Canning, Public Works Director, reported that the state changed the regulations regarding the discharge from the TSSD plant, increasing the quality of the water before being discharged to the lake. She stated that it was an opportunity to collect that water and redistribute

it to customers for use in the irrigation system. She turned the time over to John Schiess to present to the council city's plan to the state to show how we will protect the water quality.

Mayor Frost interjected about bringing clarity to legislation that is in the works, that may prohibit any reuse. American Fork has a standing in which the city has received some grant money and invested it in city resources into this project. There might be language introduced that may be helpful to be grandfathered into the current legislation before they consider other things that will protect their water bodies. He felt that he didn't want to do something if it wasn't an option but felt strongly that it is still an option for the city.

Ernie John stated that the irrigation company has a lobbyist, Nathan Bracken, who also sits on the state Water Task Force. He reported that they are trying to get language introduced to HB 349. Right now, in the bill there is no language that allows for these grandfathered projects. He stated that Mr. Bracken is not sure if it can happen, but we also don't know what level of grandfathered projects they are looking at and what level the city is in the process.

Mr. Schiess shared what he's doing, why and what is beneficial for the city. He stated that from the beginning when the master plan was put together with the pressurized irrigation system, it always considered reuse water from the TSSD. The city was hoping to implement it for various reasons. The state has had rules and regulations for water reuse on the books for about 15 years, and not many in the state have followed through to do that. If the city continues with this plan, American Fork will be the first in the state to do this. Mr. Schiess reported that the state issued water rights systems and in north Utah County it is over allocated, meaning state engineers have issued water rights to more people than there is water to give. If everyone wanted to use all their water rights, we would run out of water quickly. He mentioned that the ground water is lowering, and we are mining our groundwater which is our source for drinking water.

Mr. Schiess stated that one of the reasons the city wants to use reuse water is because the sewer plant has a constant flow going to the water treatment plant due to drinking, showering, and using the toilets; it is stable. In drought years we have limited amount of water coming from the canyon which supplies water to our irrigation system, but there is always a supply coming from TSSD if we can meet the requirements.

Mr. Schiess stated that to reuse water, especially in residential areas, you must have a Type-1 Reuse that has certain rules and requirements: the lividity has to be low enough, it has to filter everything out, and it has to be disinfected. He added that TSSD will be treating the water to a higher standard of treatment and removing nitrogen and phosphorus from the water before it goes into the Utah Lake. That treatment plan is expensive, but if the city can treat it to the reuse level, it is not as expensive to take that water and use it on residential lawns. There is a financial benefit to all the users and for all the people that send water to the TSSD if we can use some this water for reuse. Not only does it provide another source of water, but it will also save money on treatment cost.

Mayor Frost asked if TSSD will treat a portion of the water to one standard and the rest to the higher standard if they are unable to capture it all. Mr. Schiess responded they would and that the discharge limits were based on a yearly total.

Mr. Schiess explained that with a reuse program, you must have the water rights to use the program, and American Fork does have the water rights needed. Analysis has been done on how much the city has, and based on the water lines can enter into an agreement with the surrounding communities to access our water rights which we can trade or swap with them to the use the re-use system. He mentioned that he was developing a reuse project plan, and there was a whole list of things in the distribution system that the city's pressurized irrigation system needs to meet the range of requirements for reuse. He stated that for that to happen, the city would have to get exceptions to the rule to use the water in the system or discussions that once reuse water is put into the system then it is no longer regulated. He added that is the argument that to make it possible to use it for reuse after that process.

**Council Member Shelton joined meeting at 4:12 pm.*

**David Bunker arrived 4:14 pm.*

David Bunker explained that there are some things the city could do such as placing signage or placards, but they would not tear up the roads to re-do all the pipes. Some of the requirements say "may" and some say "shall", and they have some latitude to give the city some deference there. Mr. Bunker had the feeling that the state would work with the city on this and figure out how to get it done.

Council Member Shelton asked if there is a chance that the state might change on the reuse requirements.

**Council Member Taylor arrived at 4:20 pm*

Mr. Schiess replied that there is a big push to send more water to the Great Salt Lake and there are laws being proposed right now that will limit the reuse program for tributaries to the Great Salt Lake. But they're hoping to get some language back in the bill that will allow for cities like in American Fork. He mentioned the need for sources of water and the sources of water that are available, and how the state is encouraging everyone to use those resources that we've got. The state needs to make it more available for people to do it, because there isn't a secondary irrigation system in the state that will meet the reuse requirements.

Mr. Schiess stated that when the water is getting treated at the plant, they must go through quite an extensive process. They must filter and disinfect it, and the water that comes out of the treatment plant is better quality than the water that is pulled out of the river and put in the system.

Council Member Carroll asked how the water that gets treated at TSSD gets back into the system. Mr. Schiess explained it goes through a series of pumps that would pump it into the system for distribution.

Mr. Bunker commented that some new lines would have to be constructed to take the reuse water and push it back into the system. Typically, the big lines in a gravity system are at the top end of the system and downsize toward the bottom as the demand is not there. However, a reuse system would need to be the opposite as the big lines are needed to push the water up into the system.

Mr. Schiess mentioned that one of the other benefits to a potential reuse project for American Fork is the city gets their supplies out of American Fork River and it covers a lot of the city's needs. But if reuse water replaces some of that, then the good quality water from the American Fork Canyon could be put into a settling basin and soak into the aquafer. Better quality water needs to get replenished in the aquafer so drinking water is sustainable.

Mr. Bunker commented that they want to get the city's plan submitted to the state in advance of any bill being adopted, which is why it is being presented to council today. The council needed to understand the direction they were headed to get the council approval and have a place in line. If there is legislation that comes down in the future, the city can see the plan was in before the state decided to send water to the Great Salt Lake.

A discussion ensued amongst the council, Mr. Schiess, and Mr. John about the Aquafer and how it will benefit the city.

2. Presentation on Communities that Care.

Adam Ellison, a police department employee that helps oversee the Communities that Care program for the police department, introduced Brooke Anderson as the CTC Director, who will educate the council on the program and how the grant money is being used.

Brooke Anderson presented the program. She explained the CTC is a coalition where individuals come together within the community to bring prevention to the youth. She commented that as a director she helps bring the community together, get volunteers to come in and help funnel programs that helps the youth.

Mr. Ellison stated that in the state of Utah, there are about 60 of these programs throughout the state. Ms. Anderson stated that she is housed in different places within each city and helps in each one.

Ms. Anderson spoke of risk in protective factors and how it is examined in the following areas.

- Community
- Family unit – parenting classes
- School
- Individual/Peer

She discussed SHARP Data is given every few years and it starts in 6th grade. It is a survey given to kids in school that asks questions from substance abuse, mental health and about their family unit. American Fork factors are high in family community but low in commitment to school. She mentioned to the two biggest substance use is vaping and huffing. The biggest struggle is individuals around them are having suicidal thoughts. During covid, suicide went down but hotline calls were at an all-time high.

Discussion ensued in detail about the SHARP data outcome.

Ms. Anderson discussed the CTC Grant information.

- AFCTC received over \$300,000 (3 years) in grants for American Fork youth.
- \$55,000 in funding for the CTC Coordinator position
- \$9,000 in supportive funding from the county

Mr. Ellison commented that there are two main grants. The Tobacco Vape grant, which is a \$100,000 a year, and the other grant from the county. Of that, \$13,000 goes to the salary of the coordinator and a few thousand for supportive costs and in return from the city they want a \$10,000 match that we put back in the program yearly.

Ms. Anderson mentioned that they brought in \$364,000 in grant funding. She mentioned that some of the money goes toward vape prevention program where vape sensors have been installed in junior highs and high schools. She spoke of other programs that they've been able to do because of the grant money.

- *Guiding Good Choices* is a class for parents to teach about bonding and how to have family meetings. It is 6-week course, once a week. Pleasant Grove is doing it and offering free childcare and dinner.
- *Positive Actions* is a youth course once a week for a few months that focuses on mental health education (elementary thru high school aged).
- *Anti-Vape Marketing Campaign* raises awareness about the impact of vaping, tobacco and drugs geared toward the youth.
- *Family Week* which will be yearly. Gave tickets to kids for Forkfest, gift cards, goodie bags, tickets to local events and encouraged family bonding.
- *Wellness Rooms* is a space/room in schools to empower students to take control. A place where kids can relax get away. All the schools in the city are on board. Ms. Anderson is hoping to accomplish that. She also showed data of how that room worked in Polaris and how successful it is there.

**Council Member Hunter arrived at 5:06 pm*

Ms. Anderson discussed different ways she had gotten the word out on the Wellness Room program she previously mentioned. She is offering incentives by giving away gift cards and is getting training from the county so that they can come in and train on that program and what can be offered with it.

Council Member Carroll asked if the CTC program is still bringing in multiple groups of people (as in community leaders) to run surveys and come up with resolutions. Ms. Anderson replied that it is still happening and how she is trying to get everything up and going since there have been other directors prior to her that have left.

Mr. Ellison commented that they do have monthly board meetings at the police department that the council is welcomed to join in on. He also stated that when they write the grants for the Vape Tobacco, it needs to be completed through a process that looks at the SHARP data and pulls out the factors the city will focus on.

3. Report by Peterson Consultants on the 2023 legislative session

Mayor Frost asked Craig Peterson to give a broad overview on the legislative session on things pertaining to American Fork.

Mr. Peterson went over the bills that he has been watching. He noted the deadline for proposing a bill has passed and they can now see the names of all the bills coming up.

- Utah Lake Authority amendments. He was unaware of any new bills that have come forward, but he would check the list to see if there was anything new.
- Bill of Exactions. This would require developers to provide water with their developers.
- Water Reuse. Mr. Peterson said he was looking at bills dealing with constraints on influent reuse. He noted Rep. Snider has proposed a bill that would ban all water reuse, regardless of how positive the reuse would be.
- Twenty-five-foot roadway. He and Mr. Bunker are tracking a bill that would allow developers have a 25' wide roadway. They hoped various safety associations would take a stand on that.
- Appropriation bill for the environmental impact study. There is a list of over 80 which had a list of one-time state funding. American Fork was No. 16 on the list, which if awarded would be \$3 million. Mr. Peterson felt positive of the outcome for American Fork in relation to the flyover. A discussion took place regarding the flyover including studies, environmental impact, funding, and how it qualifies under the federal guidelines.
- A group named LUDMA is looking for more freedom to build but sees little traction in the legislature. A discussion ensued about the housing prices and affordability.

Mr. Bunker went over some of the bills that is still a big issue for the state legislature.

- Homelessness. A bill that increases the city's portion of contribution towards homeless shelters if the city does not have a shelter; the cities are taxed 1.8% of the city population.

- There are 36 bills that would impact city budgets to the tune of \$55 million dollars in ongoing expenses every year, including unfunded and partially funded mandates, revenue loss or revenue shifts away from cities.
- SB175 would eliminate the state portions of sales tax on food but not the local sales.
- HB301 would decrease the gas tax but increases the registration fees (EV cars)
- SB174 LUDMA and Developer Coalition is where they want to streamline process for their approval. They want a 2-step process.
- HB364 clarifies the moderate-income housing plan bill. There would be consequences to cities who don't comply with the modern incoming housing plan by going after the Class B&C road funds which is used to maintain roads.
- HB291 would modify short term rentals which would void out the city ordinance.
- HB43 changes public notice requirements.
- HB73 is government attorney fees.
- HB104 is a public safety retirement proposal, sorting the reemployment entry and reducing years from 25 to 22.

Council Member Shelton was excused at 5:54 pm

Mr. Peterson thanked the city and hoped for some wins in legislations.

4. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.