

**Adopted Minutes
City Council Work Session
February 24, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Dale R. Barney.

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Dale R. Barney, and Councilmembers Matt D. Barber, Paul M. Christensen, Everett Kelepolo, Seth V. Sorensen, and Chris C. Wadsworth.

Staff Members Present: David A. Oyler, City Manager; S. Junior Baker, City Attorney; Richard J. Heap, Engineering/Public Works Director; Kent R. Clark, Finance Director/Recorder; John Bowcut, Information Services Director; Dee Rosenbaum, Public Safety Director; Dale Robinson, Parks and Recreation Director; Karen Bradford, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; and Connie Swain, Deputy Recorder.

Citizens Present: Doug Ford

Parks and Recreation

Golf Course

Mayor Barney opened the issue for city council discussion.

Councilmember Sorensen asked if the Recreation Department had plans to increase income at the golf course.

Councilmember Kelepolo asked for direction from the city council on specific ideas they would like the Recreation Committee to review.

Mr. Robinson said he is open to suggestions from the city council. He said there was a suggestion to relocate the golf course. Relocating the golf course would only be viable if land were donated and there may still be an issue concerning open space. Also, there are existing assets at the golf course such as the mature trees, valued at \$1,000 each. The bridge construction last year had a substantial impact on earnings at the golf course.

Councilmember Kelepolo asked if the golf course was profitable in the past.

Mr. Oyler said the golf course was profitable until the early 90's.

Mr. Robinson said in the early 90's the golf course had profits of \$20,000 to \$50,000. In 1996 they were in the black and in 1997 they broke even. In the fall of 2002 the golf course was having a good year until construction of the bridge began. It is a simple matter of supply and demand. There are many new courses in the area and there are fewer golfers. There have been recent changes to improve monitoring of the facility and to encourage local golfers to use the course. However, the golf course was built in the early 80's and the infrastructure will need to be repaired

or replaced over the next few years.

Councilmember Wadsworth said he recently read an article concerning a new nine hole course at Hobble Creek Golf Course to accommodate golfers with limited time.

Mr. Robinson said Hobble Creek is more of a destination resort used by vacationers and is not being subsidized.

Councilmember Barber said Hobble Creek is not comparable with Spanish Oaks.

Councilmember Wadsworth said the wind will always be an issue at Spanish Oaks.

Mr. Robinson said the wind takes its toll on profits.

Mr. Pierson said evergreen trees could be planted along all the fairways to defer the wind.

Mr. Oyler said there will always be wind issues on some of the holes regardless of trees.

Councilmember Christensen asked if a par three course had been considered by the Recreation Committee.

Councilmember Wadsworth asked for the feasibility of creating a par three course and developing property around the golf course.

Mr. Oyler said the golf course was originally funded by developing property around the golf course. Property currently developed around the golf course was sold to the property owners with the understanding they will be on the golf course. A professional evaluation of the possibility of creating a par three course would be needed.

Councilmember Kelepolo asked if the city council would like the Recreation Committee to find a professional who could provide a par three design and cost and present the information to the city council.

Mr. Baker said a recommendation from a professional is a good idea if the city council would like to pursue a par three course.

Councilmember Barber said changes could be made to improve the perception at the golf course. There are also marketing ideas that could be implemented.

Councilmember Christensen said there is a group of regular players booking the prime tee times every day.

Mr. Oyler said the challenge will be controlling the regular players.

Mr. Heap asked if many campers utilize the golf course.

Mr. Robinson said there are some campers using the golf course. Also, the Recreation Committee is considering night golfing.

Councilmember Kelepolo asked for a list of questions or concerns from each city councilmember as soon as possible.

Mr. Robinson said the Recreation Committee needs specific direction from the city council.

Councilmember Wadsworth suggested Mr. Robinson receive input from focus groups throughout the area.

Mr. Robinson said all courses in the area are being faced with the same issue of supply and demand. He said use of the golf course will possibly increase with the improvements currently being implemented.

Councilmember Christensen asked if the Recreation Committee has considered sponsoring tournaments.

Mr. Ford asked if anyone has studied why golfing is down and why we are losing players. He received a flyer in the mail concerning the Nebo Tournament held at the East Bay Golf Course.

Mayor Barney again suggested presenting the issues to the Recreation Committee for review and allowing them to make recommendations to the city council.

Councilmember Christensen said he would like to talk to the committee members.

Councilmember Kelepolo said he will review with the Recreation Committee the questions and concerns presented by the city council. They will gather and complete the research needed and present recommendations to the city council. The issues include long-term and short-term goals for efficiently operating the golf course, a golf course marketing plan, accelerated leagues, and snack shack operations.

Mr. Bowcut said ads could be run on the ESPN channel to encourage golfers to use the city course.

Snack Shacks

Mr. Robinson said the snack shack is a labor intensive operation. He said the Recreation Committee received an outside study. The snack shack has staffing issues and buying habits which are difficult to monitor.

Councilmember Wadsworth asked for the recommendations resulting from the analysis.

Mr. Robinson said the study recommended selling high profit and low labor items.

Councilmember Christensen said the snack shack supervisor needs to be more accountable for

staffing. When the snack shack is not busy, some workers need to be sent home.

Councilmember Kelepolo said it is difficult to send workers home early when they are relying on rides from others.

Councilmember Barber said the snack shack issue creates the same problem as the golf course issue. The city is providing a service and money is being lost. A decision needs to be made on what needs to be done. He said he does not know the answer.

Mr. Oyler suggested involving the Chamber of Commerce and suggested Councilmember Sorensen present to the Chamber of Commerce the possibility of including a marketing packet with the tournament registration forms.

Ms. Bradford said when you go to Glades Drive-in you go to get something to eat. When you go to the recreation facility, you are there for the recreation program.

Mr. Robinson said the snack shack becomes a service. The issue is the value of the service and is it worth the cost to continue providing the service.

Accelerated Leagues

Councilmember Barber asked for the city's philosophy concerning accelerated leagues.

Councilmember Kelepolo said accelerated leagues are allowed to lease the facility when fields are available. Providing fields for the city recreation program is the first priority.

Mr. Robinson said the ball park leasing fees were based on data gathered from all municipalities renting their facilities to accelerated leagues. The ball parks are an asset which can provide revenue. However, the city wants to protect the ball parks from over use.

Ms. Bradford said the availability of the ball fields is based on the registration numbers and teams from the previous year.

Councilmember Barber asked if there is a way to promote the use of the ball fields by accelerated leagues.

Mr. Oyler said the Recreation Committee needs to determine how to maximize use of the ball park facility without affecting the city recreation program. Also, when the ball park facility reaches maximum capacity a new four-plex will be needed in order to meet the growth.

Councilmember Kelepolo said when the issue of accelerated leagues was proposed five years ago, the cost of maintenance became an issue.

Mayor Bamey said residents pay for the maintenance of the ball parks.

Councilmember Kelepolo said the accelerated leagues should be charged enough to cover the cost

of maintenance.

Employee Passes

Mr. Oyler said currently all members of the city council and department heads receive a family golf pass and all benefitted employees can choose a pool pass or a golf pass.

Councilmember Wadsworth asked how city councilmembers feel about receiving the golf pass.

Councilmember Kelepolo said in reality the pass provides the employees with a fringe benefit.

Mr. Baker said the passes are a small benefit.

Councilmember Christensen said he would like committee members and volunteers to receive a day or night at the pool to show our appreciation for their service.

All of the city councilmembers agreed a one-day family pass for committee members and volunteers is a good idea.

Mr. Oyler asked for the parameters.

Councilmember Kelepolo said the one-day family pass should be for committee members only.

Ms. Maslyn said currently committee members receive a \$10 Christmas gift.

Fairgrounds

Councilmember Barber asked concerning the fairgrounds.

Councilmember Kelepolo said events such as the Fiesta Days Rodeo is a tradition and should be preserved. The grandstand is a landmark and is worth the investment.

Gun Club

Councilmember Sorensen said marketing of the gun club could increase the use and revenues.

Councilmember Christensen suggested camera crews film state or national shoots for the SFCN city channel.

Mr. Bowcut concurred and asked Mr. Ford to contact him with the state and national shoot schedule.

Mr. Ford said the turkey shoots and the Boy Scouts of America shoots would be great events to film.

Reservoir

Mr. Oyler said a concern is the reservoir icing over during the winter. URMMA recommended proper signage prohibiting individuals on the reservoir during the winter.

Councilmember Christensen asked if an ice-skating area could be created in the city for residents to use.

Mr. Oyler said attempts have been made to create ice-skating areas. However, there were problems with proper freezing. An ice-skating area was not feasible.

Mr. Baker said liability is also an issue when we create a place for ice-skating.

Councilmember Barber asked what hours the city parks are open.

Mr. Robinson said the parks are open from dawn to dusk.

Senior Center

Mr. Oyler said the Senior Center is at capacity and the parking lot is over capacity.

Mr. Clark said the city is a member of Mountainland Association of Governments and required to allow all seniors to join regardless of their place of residence. Mountainland could be cancelled and senior membership could be restricted to Spanish Fork City seniors only. We would no longer receive the contribution from Mountainland.

Mayor Barney said more would be lost than the Mountainland contribution.

Mr. Oyler said providing services, such as the Senior Center, is a quality of life issue.

Mayor Barney said the city subsidizes many of the programs. However, it provides a valued service and improves the quality of life.

Recreation Software

Mr. Oyler said funds have been expended to create a software package for the Recreation Department. The software allows for on-line registration. The Recreation Committee will be presenting the software during the Recreation Conference in St. George next month. It is likely other cities will be interested in obtaining the software program. The city has approached Caselle, Inc. concerning the possibility of purchasing and marketing the program to their clientele. John Bowcut wrote the program.

Mr. Baker said a contract will be needed if Caselle, Inc. is interested in the software.

Mr. Clark said currently the city has a contract with Caselle, Inc. for maintenance of the city utility software.

Mr. Oyler asked for direction from the city council.

Councilmember Wadsworth asked for time to allow members of the city council to consider the idea.

Mission Statement

Mayor Barney said we currently have “Pride and Progress” as our mission statement.

Councilmember Kelepolo said he has reviewed Councilmember Wadsworth’s proposed mission statement. He said we need to make sure we do not bind the city staff with the city council’s mission statement.

Councilmember Christensen said the important issue is to provide residents with the best service at the best price.

Councilmember Barber said we give up nothing by having a mission statement in writing.

Councilmember Wadsworth said a mission statement serves as a roadmap and a commitment.

Mayor Barney said the characteristics mentioned in the proposed mission statement are being used. He also said actions are more important than words.

Councilmember Kelepolo said it is difficult when addressing issues in connection with friends. Usually, the law dictates the actions taken by the city council.

Councilmember Christensen said when he was elected he took an oath to represent the citizens of our community.

Councilmember Kelepolo said part of the school’s mission statement is “we will provide a safe working environment.” However, when a child gets in a fight at school the parents will bring up the mission statement.

Councilmember Barber said the mission statement is more for the citizens. However, should the city councilmembers decide on the contents of the mission statement.

Councilmember Kelepolo said the city council should have a mission statement separate from the city staff’s mission statement.

Mayor Barney asked if each city councilmember should prepare a mission statement.

Councilmember Wadsworth said the mission statement he prepared is a working document and input from all of the councilmembers is needed.

All of the city councilmembers agreed there should be a mission statement. Suggestions will be given and the mission statement will be reviewed during the conclusion of another city council meeting.

Ms. Maslyn suggested simplifying the mission statement. Everyone concurred.

Other Business

Councilmember Barber asked for information concerning the active military utility bill discount.

Mr. Clark said Councilmember Barber has an issue concerning the current policy related to the active military utility abatement.

Councilmember Barber said there are two situations regarding individuals who returned home from active duty, did not notify the city office, and continued receiving discounts on their utility bill.

Mr. Baker said the active military utility abatement program allows a \$100.00 discount per month of active duty.

Mr. Clark said some individuals returned after active military service and did not notify the city, regardless of the instructions they received from the National Guard. These people needed to pay back the city for the months of receiving a discount during the time they were not on active duty. The individuals were sent letters and the credit was reapplied to the city bill. All but one individual has made arrangements to pay back the funds. This one individual does not want to return the money. Currently, the National Guard has agreed to contact the individual and require the funds be returned to the city. Direction is needed from the city council.

Councilmember Wadsworth said the program was specifically for those on active duty only.

Councilmember Kelepolo said maybe there was an honest mistake, however, the individual should return the funds not deserved.

Mayor Bamey asked if the city is going to continue the utility abatement program.

All city councilmembers agreed the program is worthwhile and should be continued.

Mr. Clark reviewed the individuals benefitting from the active duty military abatement program.

Adjournment

Councilmember Barber made a **motion** to adjourn. Councilmember Kelepolo **seconded**, the motion **passed** with a unanimous vote, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Connie Swain, Deputy Recorder

Approved: April 6, 2004