

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, January 6, 2008 6:00 p.m.
Public Safety Building
3925 W Cedar Hills Drive, Cedar Hills, Utah

Present: Mike McGee, Mayor
Council Members: Eric Richardson, Jim Perry, Ken Kirk, Charelle Bowman, Marisa Wright
(6:17 p.m.)
Konrad Hildebrandt, City Manager
Kim Holindrake, City Recorder
Cathy Larsen, Deputy Recorder
Brad Kearn, Building and Zoning Official
Eric Johnson, City Counsel
Others: Representative Craig Frank, Cliff Chandler, Shawn Richins

This work session of the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills, having been properly noticed, was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mayor McGee.

- Representative Craig Frank Invited to Discuss Upcoming Legislative Activities
Representative Frank stated that the Legislature, by Constitutional Amendment, has changed its start date from the 3rd Monday in January to the 4th Monday in January by popular vote. This way it will not conflict with Civil Rights Day, as well as for convenience to those farmers that continue to harvest their crops in the dead of winter. That pushes the session back into March another week. There are some critical issues in the State, the greatest of them being the budget. Revenues are way down. The projection for the State's Fiscal Year 2009 budget is down nearly \$700,000,000 - \$800,000,000. This is a substantial amount out of a budget of \$11,500,000,000. The Sub-Appropriation Committee meeting has been and is being held to figure out how to fix the budget. Budget cuts will be necessary. The Legislature has already met in special session back in September and cut out about \$354,000,000. They will continue to cut another \$450,000,000 - \$500,000,000 out of that to bring it into balance. There is a balanced budget requirement in the State Constitution. The trick now is to see where to make the cuts. Each of the eight or nine Sub-Appropriation Committees is responsible for making budget recommendations. A lot of the State departments have asked them not to cut specific programs or line items, but to just give them a blanket budget amount to take care of it in-house. He prefers to make specific recommendations. The State's analyst and advisor is the Research Town Council Office. They give the State recommendations and are pretty keyed-in on what needs to be done. In the past little latitude was allowed because some of the departments know their budgets better than the State. So there has been about a 4% cut across the board. The remaining cuts need to be about 15%. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and the Tax Commission have a tri-lateral committee that meets monthly to determine what the budget projections are each month, quarterly, and annually. Their feeling is that the cuts necessary are closer to 12.5 %. The State's current rainy-day funds are about \$425,000,000 between two fund accounts. The concern here is unless there is a real need and crisis in the State, they would prefer to try and balance the budget in other ways. Unemployment in the State is around 3.7 % with the national average at around 7%. The shortfall is in the Education Fund and Sales Tax Revenues. The most stable tax in Utah is the property tax. Governor Huntsman and UDOT have cut the road budget by \$3,000,000,000, which included SR-92. Representative Bill and

Representative Frank have been working feverishly to keep the SR-92 funding intact. It is Utah County's turn for road funding. A big portion of the State's newly elected House and Senate leadership are from Davis and Weber counties. They want North Legacy Highway built. SR-92 has to be reconstructed at least from 4800 West to the freeway. They have been able to tap into that Utah County fund to bring the highway basically up to the hospital on State Road. He has in his mind a critical triangle of I-15, 4800 West, and SR-92 to be done.

Representative Frank stated that he has pushed forward his thoughts to a number of people that he felt had influence regarding the City securing the land south of the high school for a recreation facility. There is one problem. According to Greg Buckston, Director of Capitol Facilities for the Governor, Governor Huntsman has no intention of letting that piece of land go. Even though the State completely owns the land, Representative Frank has suggested that the State sell off a portion of that land for an alternative purpose. He does feel that it is the responsibility of the private sector to provide these facilities. He is concerned with the potential for business compromise or economic compromise for some of the local private business owners who are putting up competing clubs and competing-types of services. There are some private facilities going up in the surrounding cities that would compete with a recreation center. He feels it is important that government doesn't compete with the private sector. He is more on board for finding a place for a competition size pool than a recreation center, especially by creating some sort of buy-in from the school district and a couple of the other municipalities. He suggested that the conversation with the Council regarding a recreation center be continued at a later date.

Representative Frank stated that he will support an ethics reform and supports a better ethics package.

Mayor McGee stated that it is Utah County's turn to receive funding for roads. It is important to include the mouth of the Canyon, but if the deal hinged on that, he would rather see that portion put off to get the section from 4800 West to I-15 done. Viewing the traffic on SR-92 as it is now, it is only a matter of time until fatalities occur. The City has done a survey regarding the recreation center and 70% of the population said they want the recreation center.

C. Richardson stated that he doesn't know what the urgency is for the State to keep the land south of the high school. There have been things in the past that have been valued uses of that land, such as a high school and the building of a soccer park for Highland City.

C. Perry stated that he feels if everyone is pitching in to make sacrifices together, the SR-92 problem can be solved. He was personally behind an accident along SR-92 in which a woman had neck and head trauma. He agrees with not having government in the private sector; but Cedar Hills has been around for 30 years, and there is no pool, public or private. The only option for a pool is to go to American Fork City, Pleasant Grove City, or Orem City. The Council's proposal was privy to the people: He would like to see the outcome of the decisions survey. If the residents support it; let them have it. He wonders why a soccer field in Highland takes more priority than a recreation center or a tri-city recreation center. He doesn't go to a public pool, but he completely supports it because 70% of the City's residents want it. He feels it is a good expenditure of public funds. He pointed out that the City has spent a significant amount of time on this land issue.

C. Bowman stated that she feels the private sector is irrelevant in regards to getting the land south of the high school. The City has \$3,000,000 for a recreation center. For ten years, the City has done the survey regarding the recreation center, and 70% of the population wants it. She also feels it is a good expenditure of public funds.

C. Kirk stated that a recreation center is not an economical priority. He petitioned Representative Frank to support an ethics package.

C. Wright stated that SR-92 is obviously a priority, but Canyon Road is a disaster. It needs sidewalks, curb, and gutter.

- Noticed agenda items for this Regular Council Meeting
- Motion to go into Executive Session, Pursuant to Utah State Code 52-4-205 (6:43 p.m.)

MOTION: C. Kirk - To go into Executive Session (Pursuant to Utah State Code 52-4-205) to discuss litigation. Seconded by C. Richardson.

Yes - C. Bowman
C. Kirk
C. Perry
C. Richardson
C. Wright Motion passes.

- Motion to Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Work Session

MOTION: C. Richardson – To adjourn the Executive Session. Seconded by C. Perry.

Yes - C. Bowman
C. Kirk
C. Perry
C. Richardson
C. Wright Motion passes.

This work session was adjourned by Mayor McGee at 7:00 p.m.

/s/ Kim E. Holindrake
Kim E. Holindrake, City Recorder