

Murray City Municipal Council

Chambers

Murray City, Utah

The Municipal Council of Murray City, Utah, met on Tuesday, the 20th day of January, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., for a meeting held in the Murray City Council Chambers, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Roll Call consisted of the following:

Blair Camp,	Council Chair
Brett Hales,	Councilmember
Diane Turner,	Councilmember
Jim Brass,	Councilmember
Dave Nicponski,	Councilmember – Conducted

Others who attended:

Ted Eyre,	Mayor
Jennifer Kennedy,	City Recorder
Frank Nakamura,	City Attorney
Janet Lopez,	Council Administrator
Janet Towers,	Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Rondi Knowlton,	Mayor's Office
Craig Burnett,	Police Chief
Gil Rodriguez,	Fire Chief
Doug Hill,	Public Services Director
Justin Zollinger,	Finance Director
Tim Tingey,	Administrative and Development Services Director
Brenda Moore,	Controller
Bruce Turner,	Power Department
Mike Terry,	Human Resources Director
Kim Fong,	Library Director
Kim Poulsen,	Library
Rebecca Mieure,	Library
Scouts	
Citizens	

5. Opening Ceremonies

5.1 Pledge of Allegiance – Ben Lyddall

5.2 Approval of Minutes

5.2.1 January 6, 2015

Mr. Camp made a motion to approve the minutes
Mr. Hales seconded the motion

Voice vote taken, all “ayes.”

Mr. Nicponski asked the scouts in attendance to introduce themselves and state their troop number and the badge they are working on.

5.3 Special Recognition

5.3.1 Murray City Council Employee of the Month, Kim Poulsen, Murray City Library Page.

Staff presentation: Brett Hales, Councilmember
Kim Fong, Library Director

Mr. Hales introduced Ms. Poulsen saying she has been with Murray City for 21 years. He presented Ms. Poulsen with a certificate, a \$50 gift card and told her that her name would appear on the plaque located in the Council Chambers. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Poulsen for all she does for the City.

Ms. Fong said that Ms. Poulsen has been a reliable, dedicated library employee for over 21 years. She has the job of putting away all the materials brought back to the library which requires incredible attention to detail. It is an important part of the library because items can only be found if they are put back in the proper place. It is estimated that during Ms. Poulsen’s time at the library she has put away 5.5 million items. She goes about her work quietly and quickly and can always be relied on to get the job done. The Murray Library is fortunate to have an employee like Ms. Poulsen taking care of this vital library task.

Ms. Poulsen thanked everyone saying this means a lot to her. She loves what she does; it is a lot of fun. She said she is happy to be a part of Murray City. Ms. Poulsen introduced her family.

6. Citizen Comments (Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Council.)

Mr. Nicponski said he wanted to point out a couple of things before beginning the public comment. He said he knew that most people are here regarding the 4500 South road proposal. Mr. Nicponski said he wanted to make one thing clear; this is a state road that is being dealt with. It is not a city road and the city has no control over it. This is a state road proposal.

He told the citizens in attendance to fill out a public comment form with their comments and that is what will be forwarded to the Utah Department of Transportation (U.D.O.T.). He said that if anyone is here and has a desire to share their comments, they should feel free to do so.

Don Christensen – 553 East Julep Drive, Murray, Utah

Mr. Christensen said they have a beautiful little subdivision in which there are between 150 to 200 families. There are only three outlets for their subdivision. You cannot get out on the south because of the creek and there are no bridges. You cannot get out on the west because Creek Lane comes by. That leaves three outlets. He asked how many of those three outlets allow them to go west. Three? Two? One? Zero. He asked if that sounds a little odd to anybody here. With all those people and cars, there is not a single way to go west.

Mr. Christensen stated if U.D.O.T. is concerned about accidents, he would like to know how many happened on those three outlets. Can you imagine all of those cars trying to go east? What are you going to do? If you go south, you have to go clear down to the bridge, which is almost at 900 East; then come back on 4800 South to get up and go to the freeway. The other option is to use the turn lane to turn north and then what do you do? You can turn on 3900 South to try to get on the freeway. Can you imagine the congestion on the left hand turn up on 700 East with all of this additional traffic?

Not everybody needs to go west all the time, but all the people need to go west some of the time. If U.D.O.T. is concerned about accidents, it seems to Mr. Christensen that this will cause confusion and there will be more accidents, not less. He thinks U.D.O.T. needs to consider the people who live in this area. There should be at least one outlet that lets them go west.

Mr. Nicponski said on January 28, 2015 U.D.O.T. will be holding a Public Hearing on this issue over at Murray High School at 5:00 p.m. He encouraged those in attendance to make their comments available at that hearing. That is when the people in charge of that road will be availing themselves to the public's input.

Don Kent – 566 East Compton Court, Murray, Utah

Mr. Kent said he has an alternate for this problem. At the intersection of 500 East and 4500 South, Julep Drive comes up and is offset about 30 feet. If they move the stop line for the eastbound traffic west about 30 feet to align it with the east edge of Julep and gave them a left and right turn coordinated with the 500 East left turn signal, they would have a dedicated outage that would be much safer than any of this ducking and diving trying to get across 4500 South. It is all there, they would just have to put up one more semaphore,

cut back the median a little bit, and put some paint down.

Mr. Kent said he thinks this would be a very good alternate for the Council to maybe bring to U.D.O.T. formally. If you look at it, it makes a lot of sense. The problems are because there is a stoplight at Main Street and State Street and regulates if for the traffic to get in. They do not have anything between State Street and 700 East. If 500 East is on a long-term green the traffic gets so fast and so strung out, there is no way to get across until 500 East is triggered for a left turn. When it is in school mode, there is generally not too much of a problem. Without a school mode, the traffic has four blocks to get going and get strung out. You cannot get across very safe.

Larry Grobstein – 611 East Duck Creek Circle, Murray, Utah

Mr. Grobstein said this proposal will force people who live in this area to make a right turn and head east on 4500 South then make a U-turn at either 500 East or 700 East to head west. He said 700 East is a very accident prone intersection and there is a school crossing at 500 East. He feels that U.D.O.T. is asking for hundreds of extra U-turns per week.

He understands this is a state road and the city has no control over that. He was wondering about contacting the city's state representatives. He asked if they hold any sway over U.D.O.T.

Mr. Nicponski said that is a great idea and yes they do.

Mr. Grobstein asked those in attendance who are not in favor of this proposal to email their representatives and attend the meeting on January 28, 2015.

Dwight Nichols – 4575 South Creek Lane, Murray, Utah

Mr. Nichols stated U.D.O.T. was here at the beginning of the meeting. They spoke their piece and now they have escaped these comments because they do not want to hear them. He addressed the Mayor and said he feels that should be a concern to him at this meeting. Why are the representatives that proposed this not in this meeting?

Mayor Eyre stated he felt they left because they have another meeting set up next week at a larger location to accommodate everyone who would like to give input.

Mr. Nichols stated he is concerned for the Fire and Police Department's access to get into their neighborhood. If there is only one way out and there is an extreme emergency and you can't turn left to get to State Street to get to the hospital across the road; how many minutes are added for that vehicle to get around the block to get to the hospital? These things need to be thought of.

If there is a wreck on 4500 South and there are fire trucks coming from the east and west, you have just closed 4500 South off. No one is thinking of this and he doesn't think U.D.O.T. is thinking of it very clearly either. He said the citizens would like U.D.O.T. to address these issues. He knows when they were here they said how many wrecks there

were, but they did not say where those wrecks were.

Wes Eatchel – 4519 South 600 East, Murray, Utah

Mr. Eatchel thanked the Power Department for putting lights on 600 East and the Streets Department for paving their street. He said this is the best little City in the whole valley and we should keep it that way. About eight years ago, he proposed that the triangular area they are talking about should become part of Murray City. It was approved and it has been nothing but a pleasure to be part of Murray City.

Mr. Eatchel said there are two solutions to this problem. One has been presented by his neighbor already. The other solution is to talk to the State of Utah about putting a semaphore on 600 East. In the past, he was told that could not be done. However, that would solve the problem. He told the Council he hopes they will consider that. He does not think there should be haggling over it anymore; the Council knows where they are coming from. They want to protect the three streets between 700 East and the creek that have to make the left hand turn.

Seth Anderson – 4536 South Julep Drive, Murray, Utah

Mr. Anderson said he is happy to see so many residents from the neighborhood here. He works for a consulting/engineering firm that does similar projects to this one that is affecting their neighborhood. He is excited to see people turning out and wanting to be involved in the process.

Input is what helps these projects and those who are responsible for them to try to get as close to the best solution as possible. The Department of Transportation has their mandate, they are responsible for 4500 South, but this will also impact the City. It can be something of a negotiation process and he thinks there have been some good alternatives proposed tonight. He encouraged everyone to attend the public meeting on January 28, 2015 as that is where they will be able to get more information. That is where U.D.O.T. is prepared to interact with them as a community and answer their questions.

Mr. Anderson said if the neighborhood can identify what their priorities would be, that will help them as well to get a clear signal so that it is not a lot of static and noise. He encouraged the neighborhood and community to continue to have dialogue and stay engaged in the process so they can keep it moving forward in a good direction.

Wayne Jepsen – 640 East Duck Creek Circle, Murray, Utah

Mr. Jepsen said one of the things that interests everyone in the Salt Lake Valley is the amount of pollution that occurs during this time of year. Any increase driving means an increase in pollution. This proposal means nothing more than increased pollution. It is a solution to a problem that does not exist.

Mr. Jepsen stated earlier this year, as he recalls, there was an ambulance heading east on 4500 South towards State Street carrying an injured passenger. As it neared State Street, it ran into the afternoon parking lot that happens at that intersection. The driver, sensing that it had to get out of that parking lot on its way to the hospital, decided to jump the

median that was there. It got two wheels of the ambulance across the median and then high-centered. A second ambulance had to be brought in to take the passenger to the hospital. Safety?

Mr. Jepsen thanked the Council for their time.

Jim Bell – 4605 South 600 East, Murray, Utah

Mr. Bell said this does impact Murray. It is a state project but 600 East is not designed for a lot of traffic. This is going to impact the City's budget.

Mr. Nicponski thanked everyone for coming out and sharing their concerns. He said the City will pass these concerns onto U.D.O.T. and some of them would be at the January 28, 2015 Public Hearing with U.D.O.T.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1 None scheduled.

8. Public Hearings

8.1 None scheduled.

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 None scheduled.

10. New Business

10.1 Consider a presentation of Mayor Ted Eyre's "State of the City" address for the year 2015.

Good Evening, Murray City Council Members, residents, visitors and City staff. I am grateful for the opportunity to address you tonight and provide my thoughts on the State of our City. 2014 was one of the most rewarding and memorable years of my life. This occasion, affords me the time for reflection on all the experiences I have learned from and enjoyed.

When you are a resident of a city such as ours, you come to appreciate many of the services you see each day, and acknowledge those that may be less obvious. In Murray we have wonderful parks, improving streets, clean water, consistent power and evidence of public safety that assures us that our homes and families are protected. Sometimes, because we are so accustomed to these services, there is an assumption that they will always be available and accessible. However, this year, while serving as Mayor, I have learned what it takes to keep our lives comfortable and the unseen effort that is required by so many. I would like to

share with you some 'little known facts of great importance' that will help us to better appreciate this city where we live, work and raise our families.

As a well-established and nearly built-out city, we may not always notice a lot of new development, but it is truly surprising to learn of all that is happening in various locations around our town. Thanks to the efforts of so many, we are now in a great position for redevelopment in several areas. Our Downtown, between 4800 South and 5300 South, is poised for big changes. Planning has been done this year by a major developer in creating a concept for several exciting projects, and we are on the cusp of having great activity in the center of the City. I applaud the foresight of our City Council, Department Heads and Senior Staff in taking the steps to secure some of the property that have made these options available to us and will result in a rejuvenated Downtown area. We have already seen evidence of this with the completion of the Home2Suites on State and Vine. This can act as a catalyst for big changes that are coming to this area. There are also 60 new downtown-living units, in the Center Court project, that will be available for residents in the next few weeks.

As you know, two additional hotels opened their doors this year as well. The Marriot Residence Inn has 135 guest rooms and the Holiday Inn on Commerce Drive has 114. Much of this is the result of the nationally acclaimed medical facility, the Intermountain Medical Center that has had such a positive impact on our economic development and will influence the future of Murray for decades to come.

The Fireclay Transit Oriented Development continues to transition as a valuable, vibrant new area with apartments and townhomes in high demand. Because of our central location in the valley, and with easy access to alternate transportation, this innovative concept combines to attract new residents and allows many of those who grew up in Murray the opportunity to remain here and establish their individual roots in a city they love.

I now have even a greater appreciation for a wonderful Fashion Place Mall that is never satisfied with its current success, but is always growing and improving. The new Dillard's store, with over 200,000 square feet, is anticipated to open by late summer. The Container Store opened last fall as the first in Utah and has caused quite a stir of excitement. Another anchor store will be announced soon to replace the current Dillard's site along with the addition of other small retail outlets. Directly to the north of the mall is the new University of Utah Mid-Valley Medical Center incorporating the Moran Eye Clinic and the University Dermatology Center. They anticipate more than 70,000 patients a year will use this new facility.

It has been encouraging to see many new businesses continue to come into our City at a steadily increasing pace. In 2014, we had over 500 new business

licenses issued. Our Community Development Division is kept very busy processing and approving these requests.

We are committed to build a new City Hall. Work is currently being done by an architectural firm to evaluate two sites for consideration. One is in our Downtown area on the west side of State Street and the other is on our current City Hall site. This study will also help to determine the amount of square footage needed and the most strategic location for each department. The plans include bringing our Justice Court into the City Hall complex along with our Building, Planning and Business Licensing Divisions. We are fortunate our city leaders and finance director have insured that funding for this building has been saved over the course of the last decade. Our desire is to have this new building become a landmark for the City and provide a sense of pride for our residents.

As much as we concentrated on economic development, we have tried to put an equal emphasis on the preservation of our wonderful neighborhoods. We have a great relationship with NeighborWorks who expanded their services in Murray last year. They purchased and rehabilitated four homes for resale and have begun work on five additional homes. These refurbished properties have a positive effect on the entire neighborhood, as adjacent homes become encouraged to improve their surroundings as well. Their scope for improving our housing stock now includes low-income home improvement loans, and grants for specific green and healthy projects.

Our GIS Division specializes in creating maps of all kinds. They made a "Murray City Tour Map" that is available on our website and shares many ideas of interesting, close places to visit. They also mapped more than 7,000 water service laterals to help improve our water distribution system.

Soon, our City employees will be learning to operate a completely new software system. This is a major undertaking and will take several years to get all the facets of it operational, but we are excited for the ways it will help us improve the ability to serve our residents.

I have been so impressed with the way our staff has managed the increased demands for new services that have been offered, such as passport processing here at City Hall. In the first year of taking on this project, over 1,400 passports were issued generating over \$45,000 without an increase in personnel. The opportunity for electronic payment of utilities continues to expand with almost 100,000 transactions handled this way, while at the same time this department managed over 30,000 phone calls dealing with utility questions.

Our Human Resource Department has the fewest employees, but accomplish so much. In addition to posting 33 new jobs and processing and responding to 470 applicants for employment, they cooperated with the Fire Department and created the Metro Fire Testing Consortium with seven other cities, helped with

changes to several City policies, administered employee benefits and survived two inspections/audits.

Our entire City is so fortunate to have a department that keeps our City on sound financial footings. Under the leadership of our finance director, we were able to retire two bonds early, saving the City over \$630,000 in interest payments. The ability to accomplish this came from careful planning and has resulted in the City receiving a AAA Bond rating. Only six entities in the entire State enjoy this high of a bond rating. They include the State of Utah, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Davis and Weber Counties, and the city of Murray.

This year I have instituted a Public Safety meeting where I am able to meet with our police and fire chiefs and discuss incidents that have occurred in our City within the previous week, along with other items of common concern. This has helped me to learn a good deal more about these departments and what dedicated employees we have serving our community. Murray is so fortunate to have our own Police and Fire Departments. Earlier in the year, a change was made in the leadership of our Police Department, which I believe resulted in noticeable improvements in communication. They handled several high-profile cases last year with professionalism and resolve. The use of body cameras is headlining the news currently, but we have been using them along with dashboard cameras for quite some time. These tools helped in several cases last year. Another program our Police Department provides is the D.A.R.E. Program for all fifth-grade students in Murray schools. I have learned firsthand the value of this program as children learn about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse along with respect and appreciation for our police officers. Their graduation ceremonies are attended by many supportive family members along with our Police and School District leadership.

I have learned that in an emergency, there is no one I would rather rely on than the Murray City Fire Department. Their intensive training schedule resulted in over 9,600 hours of training conducted last year. They are prepared to handle many emergency situations including medical, hazardous materials, earthquakes, bombs, and, of course, fires. New state-of-the-art defibrillators were put into operation this year for cardiac emergencies.

Our City Attorney's Office is unmatched in its depth of talent and its ability to defend and protect the City's interests. Not only do they represent the City in all legal issues, their advice and guidance is required in many meetings that involve the City. The Criminal Division handled more than 13,000 criminal cases which was an increase over the last two years and only 50 appeals went to the District Court. It was a banner year for small claims cases in the Court during 2014, going from about 600 in previous years to over 1200 in 2014. This put an increasing burden on the staff, but they have worked hard to keep the filing time and deposition time as minimal as possible. Online fines and payments are now made through the State, which has provided a \$16,000 savings.

Prior to being elected Mayor, I had the opportunity to participate on the Parks and Recreation Board. It was a great introduction to many of the programs and facilities our residents enjoy and appreciate. What I have learned in my new role is the depth of the work undertaken by our Public Services Department.

This Department takes care of most of the physical infrastructure in our City along with important programs including fleet maintenance, streets, water, waste water, trash collection, parks, recreation and cultural activities, cemetery, the Heritage Center, and the golf course. These varied divisions are managed by a wide group of exceptional employees.

It was not surprising to learn that pavilion rentals continue to be popular with over 1,050 requests being submitted in 2014. The park staff keeps them in excellent condition, even as we look to replace aging ones in Murray Park. Murray City recreation programs are in great demand, for example, we have over 1,000 adults who participate in the volleyball program here. The Park Center continues to be a popular facility for those wishing to work out or take classes. The staff is a creative group of well-trained individuals that offer new and fun activities, like the Movin' and Groovin' program, which had over 200 attendees. Swim lessons are the top recreation program in the City. In all the programs we offer, we had over 14,000 participants in 2014.

We are fortunate to have a very proactive Water Department who helped residents be motivated to change out their outdated plumbing fixtures through a rebate program. Almost 250 fixtures were updated this way. It coordinated well with the "Fix A Leak Week" as the Water Department partnered with Lowe's on offering discounts to repair plumbing leaks. Their efforts resulted in the department receiving national recognition from the A.W.W.A. and E.P.A. for this program.

Keeping up with necessary road repair is a constant effort. This year projects were completed on 5900 South, Avalon Drive, Capri and 1300 East, to name just a few. Street projects often include improvements for waste and storm water as well. We continue to focus on crack sealing, slurry sealing and overlays that preserve the life of the roads. Many projects need to be coordinated with U.D.O.T. and other groups. We are currently working with residents on improving opportunities for bike routes throughout the City.

Engineering is an integral part of the Community Development team in coordinating infrastructure on projects in the City. These groups work with developers to create projects that meet codes. Some of the projects that have been managed in 2014 include new homes at the Cottages on Vine, Oxford Creek, Union Place along with Epic Gymnastics and Recovery Ways, both of which have built new facilities in the City.

Golfing at Murray Parkway is hard to beat, and with the warmer weather we have had for the past two years, it has become nearly a year-round activity. The staff has made great strides in improving the greens and trees on the course, however, the irrigation system needs to be replaced and funding is being set aside to accomplish that.

I am more convinced than ever that we have top notch arts and history opportunities here. Arts events are readily available, with something going on almost constantly. The Storytelling Festival is the newest art opportunity with 10 schools, the Heritage Center and professionals participating in this program. If you want to learn a great deal more about our amazing history, you can take a cemetery or museum tour. They are available for individuals, schools or other organizations.

For those who are 55 or older, there are many fun activities and new friends to be found at the Heritage Center. They have over 75 volunteers who donated over 6,500 hours of service in 2014. I was invited to be there this year as they received their National Senior Center Accreditation. They offer great meals and a chance to learn everything from pickleball to poetry.

The Murray Library is a great place to go if you want to learn anything. Over 400,000 visitors in 2014 can attest to that. The Library provided 654 programs to 24,000 participants – just imagine all the learning and fun that took place. Over 600,000 items were checked out, and hopefully over 600,000 items were returned, and 29,000 of them were eBooks. They are adapting to provide all types of media, including hosting a YouTube channel that had 170,000 views in 2014.

By having the opportunity to attend various meetings and conventions offered by several power company organizations, I have learned a good deal more than I ever knew about our power grid and all that it takes to keep the lights on. Murray Power is the only municipal power company in Salt Lake County. It is a complicated business to purchase and generate power at a reasonable rate for resell to our residents. We have excellent staff who understand this delicate balance and manage it well. The Power Department is also very busy with all the new businesses that need their service. They also work to maintain our existing infrastructure to keep it running at optimal levels. You will often see City arborists trimming trees around the City to keep lines clear. They coordinate Arbor Day each year and we have received the Tree City, USA distinction for 37 years in a row, longer than any other city in Utah.

For the first time, a magazine was published highlighting our City. Many of the departments contributed articles and pictures. It not only showcased our accomplishments and what the City has to offer, but presented a glimpse of our past. There were 25,000 copies printed and a copy was delivered to our residents, City hotels and City facilities.

So far in this report of the City, I have only referred to all the positive and wonderful aspects of this great community. However, it would only be fair and honest to include an area of disappointment and unfulfilled year-end goals that were not achieved on my part. When I came into office, one of my major objectives was to find a Murray solution to UTOPIA. This objective has consumed a considerable amount of time and effort by so many. I would like to acknowledge the courage and trust of our City Council, the brilliant problem solving ability of our Finance Director Justin Zollinger, and the collaborative effort by our Department Heads and Senior Staff that make up the Murray UTOPIA Committee. They have all contributed so much to this effort, and yet the objective, that was my responsibility to direct, was not fully achieved in 2014. Implementation of our Phase One, which we ultimately hope to become known as Murray Fiber, will be rolled out later this week. We are not discouraged, just delayed. The time devoted to study the proposal from a foreign company for takeover of UTOPIA was unexpected and time consuming, yet the right decision was made and the proposal was rejected. I have become much more educated and aware of the complexities of this issue and the entities involved. I know of no other program that has the long-term financial impact on our City than UTOPIA has. Because of that, it must be dealt with continuous, even renewed commitment, and with leadership that is both responsible and accountable. Our Murray plan is well thought out and it will ultimately lead us to honor our past. When the founding fathers of this great City set out to make us independent and self-reliant, they knew it would not be the easy course, but the right course. We should commit to do no less. With realistic optimism, I believe that in subsequent State of the City addresses the UTOPIA/Murray Fiber question will be in the positive column.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the citizens of Murray. For their willingness to volunteer, their desire to serve each other and our community, and their commitment to keeping our City great. This, combined with the dedication and character of our 372 full-time, 5 part-time, and 473 seasonal employees, truly make Murray, A City Without Equal.

Thank you very much.

11. Mayor

11.1 Report

No report was given.

11.2 Questions for the Mayor

12. Adjournment

Jennifer Kennedy, City Recorder