

Minutes of a joint meeting of the Logan Municipal Council and the Cache County Council convened on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Logan Justice Building Public Meeting Room, 290 North 100 West, Logan, Utah, County Council Chair John Hansen, conducting.

City Council members present: Stephen C. Thompson, Jay A. Monson, Tami W. Pyfer, Herm Olsen, and Laraine Swenson. City administration present: Mayor Randy Watts, City Attorney Kymber Housley, Recorder Lois Price, City Finance Director Richard Anderson, Police Chief Russ Roper, Parks and Recreation Director Russ Akina, Library Director Ronald Jenkins, Public Works Director Mark Nielsen, Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator Jim Geier.

Cache County Council members present: Chair John Hansen, Darrel Gibbons, Cory Yeates, Craig Petersen, Gordon Zilles, Kathy Robison and Brian Chambers. County administration present: County Executive Lynn Lemon, County Clerk Jill Zollinger, Sharon Hoth, and Pat Parker.

Others present: Peter Brunson, Jennie Christensen of KVNU Radio, Emilie Wheeler of The Herald Journal and approximately 15 citizens.

### **2008 RECREATION, ARTS, PARKS & ZOO (RAPZ) TAX CHANGE – WILLOW PARK ZOO.**

County Executive Lynn Lemon explained the intent of a recently passed county ordinance. Since the County was no longer involved with the Willow Park Advisory Committee or Willow Park Zoo, the County Council wanted an application for RAPZ tax funds submitted in behalf of the zoo by the city. In the past, the zoo had received ten (10%) of the RAPZ sales tax monies with no application. He said the County had not meant to be punitive by passing the ordinance which stated that the zoo would receive “up to 10%” of RAPZ tax upon submitting an application for funding.

Tami Pyfer asked if there was assurance the zoo would continue to receive funding in the future.

Craig Petersen said there were no guarantees, and the County wanted to have greater say in the use of the RAPZ money.

Steve Thompson asked if the enabling state legislation mandated 10% to zoos. No one was certain of the answer.

Tami Pyfer suggested changing the ordinance wording to allocate 10% of the tax money to the zoo based on a proposal.

Darrel Gibbons reviewed minutes of a County Council meeting held November 13, 2007. He said if the County’s intent was not to give the zoo less than 10%, the words “up to 10%” should be removed from the county ordinance.

Craig Petersen said the regulation would then be “without substance.” “We need to hold their feet to the fire,” he said.

Darrel Gibbons countered that the city would be held responsible by being required to submit a proposal for funding.

Craig Petersen said the County had learned last spring that the City was holding \$250,000 in RAPZ funding for parking improvements in front of the zoo. The County was not sure they wanted the money allocated for that use. He said zoo improvements were favored over parking.

Tami Pyfer suggested putting County representatives on either the Willow Park Advisory Board or the Zoo Committee.

Darrel Gibbons said he did not think members of the Council wanted to be on the board. He said the County’s interest would be best served if there was a “solid application for RAPZ tax.”

Lynn Lemon said if the zoo submitted an application “for good purposes,” he did not foresee there would be a problem with funding.

Laraine Swenson wanted to make sure funding the zoo at “not less than 10%” was in the ordinance to provide security for the city.

John Hansen wondered if we were trying to solve a problem we did not have.

Tami Pyfer didn’t like the fact that the county had moved ahead to adopt the ordinance.

Mayor Watts pointed out that improved parking would benefit both the city and the county. Craig Petersen said it was the magnitude of the money set aside for the parking lot that was the major concern.

After further discussion, the County Council agreed to amend their ordinance to allocate RAPZ tax for Willow Park Zoo at 10% based on an acceptable proposal.

## **COUNTY ROAD TAX.**

Lynn Lemon distributed copies of the state code explaining how the sales tax for roads should be enacted. He said law stipulated that the county executive would establish a council of governments. Projects lists would be submitted to this group by cities in the county. The council of governments would, in turn, submit their priority list to the county council for approval. Mr. Lemon said he would discuss organizing the council of governments at the next Mayor’s Association meeting. He said the sales tax for roads would begin to be collected county-wide on July 1, 2008.

Craig Petersen said four counties in the state had passed this tax.

Tami Pyfer asked if the county’s intent was to follow Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) recommendations.

Lynn Lemon said some mayors were not part of the CMPO and their concerns needed to be addressed. He said CMPO recommendations would be given “a lot” of weight. Laraine Swenson hoped CMPO would be given the major voice. She said it made sense to involve representatives of all cities on the CMPO board, since that group had tools for evaluating and ranking projects.

Mr. Lemon estimated the county could realize about \$4 million annually from this tax.

### **VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING.**

Dr. Ed Redd, Bear River Health Department, gave a Power Point presentation on the status of emissions testing in the county. He attempted to answer questions that had been asked about the subject. He said emissions testing was just one piece of the Cache Valley air quality problem. Dr. Redd said the Environmental Protection Agency had suggested that the county wait to implement emissions testing because of new technology and until there was greater understanding of the chemistry of air problems in Cache Valley.

Dr Redd outlined what was being done: (1) Continuing to monitor air quality; (2) Public notification of Red Air Days; (3) High school education awareness campaigns; (4) Raise awareness that personal protection was necessary when air quality is poor; (5) Partner with Utah Department of Air Quality in research and design of emissions program for Cache Valley that will be effective and sustainable over time; (6) Implement training of emissions technicians.

Dr. Redd said that as far as emissions were concerned, new cars were “incredibly clean.” Pre-1995 cars were the problem and were expensive to test. He said the important thing to know was that the Bear River Health Dept and Air Quality Task Force were going to pursue an emissions testing program.

Grant Koefed of Bear River Health Department hoped to see EPA final designations by 2009.

Craig Petersen did not disagree with the severity of our air quality problem and the need to do something about it but said we should maintain a perspective. He said Cache Valley had received bad publicity on air quality from the Governor’s office when Salt Lake Valley was worse than Cache Valley.

Chairman Hansen thanked Dr Redd for the information.

### **COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY SYSTEM.**

Jay Monson had requested that implementation of a countywide library system be on this agenda. He knew it had been discussed before but said it did not make sense not to have a system of libraries available to everyone in Cache County. He said the city and county cooperated in other exemplary ways and should do so with library service.

John Hansen said Hyrum, North Logan, and others have libraries. He wondered what the county could do “at this late date.”

Jay Monson said the population of the county without library service was increasing.

John Hansen said the south end of the valley was “fairly content” to contract with Hyrum for library service.

Herm Olsen, former Logan Library Board member, said the state library system had adopted new standards requiring qualification as a Class I library for state and federal funding. Some of the smaller libraries would not be able to qualify. He suggested exploring cooperative agreements for this type of funding.

Jay Monson said that a countywide library system was “the right thing to do.”

Craig Petersen said Logan’s proposal for a freestanding library might make a countywide system less likely, but he supported exploring the issue one more time before Logan’s plans were solidified.

Mayor Watts said Logan had “tested the waters” by responding to Providence City’s request last year. He said Logan was moving ahead to put a library general obligation bond on the June or November 2008 ballot. He was willing to revisit the issue of countywide library service but wondered about timing. He said if the bond was approved, Logan’s intention to move ahead with its library building would be declared.

Tami Pyfer said there was a misperception among county residents that Logan residents received free library service. She pointed out that Logan’s library funding came from a dedicated library tax on property.

Steve Thompson mentioned that Logan could, at any time, consider a contract with any city in the county for library service.

Lynn Lemon said the county could only enact a dedicated tax in the areas of the county where people did not have a library.

Steve Thompson said the bottom line of any discussion on countywide library service over the years had always been the cost.

Jay Monson stated that countywide systems worked other places – why not Cache County?

Darrel Gibbons said cities that had invested in their own libraries and did not want to give up ownership.

John Hansen reiterated that it was “too late” for the south end of the valley. He said we “missed the boat” ten years ago.

Craig Petersen said the committee that met in 2007 included elected officials. He was willing to try one more time.

Tami Pyfer did not think other cities were ready for a true countywide system in which the county would own all the libraries.

Lynn Lemon agreed that cities did not want to give up control of their libraries. He said some cities would be willing to share resources but not become part of a countywide system.

It was pointed out that interlibrary loan with Logan Library was available.

Jay Monson asked about the possibility of Cache County cooperating with Logan, then allowing other cities to join if they would like, at a cost to be determined.

Mayor Watts said if the city council wanted to be part of re-opening discussion, "So be it." He said if Logan's library bond failed, the city would renovate and improve the building we have.

Chairman Hansen closed the discussion by commenting that there appeared to be an interest in forming a study committee and at least looking at ways of cooperating. Craig Petersen said some of these ways, such as collective purchasing, had been explored by the most recent committee, and there had been no benefit shown.

Laraine Swenson commented that successful reciprocity was based on equality.

A core study committee was formed comprised of Jay Monson, Tami Pyfer, Kathy Robison and Craig Petersen. Jay Monson agreed to act as chair. It was pointed out that all members of the study committee were from Logan. It was agreed to include elected officials from outlying communities.

#### **DOG LAWS AT FAIRGROUNDS.**

Kathy Robison said a question had been raised about the dog "leash law" at the Cache County Fairgrounds. Some citizens wanted dogs to be allowed off leash at the fairgrounds when there were no public gatherings.

Parks and Recreation Director Russ Akina said current Logan laws did not allow dogs off leash on any public property. There were public places, such as the trail system, where dogs were allowed on leash.

The Logan Council talked about changing the ordinance to allow dogs off leash under certain conditions at the Cache County Fairgrounds and possibly Rendezvous Park.

Mayor Watts said the change could have negative impacts relating to horses at the fairgrounds.

Tami Pyfer said if the County wanted to try it, Logan should accommodate the request. She said the ordinance amendment would be considered by the Logan Council at their February 19, 2008 meeting.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Lois Price, City Recorder