



**AGENDA - BLUFFDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, June 13, 2005 – 5:00 p.m.**

Notice is hereby given that the Bluffdale City Council will hold a special work meeting Monday, June 13, 2005, at the Bluffdale City Hall 14175 South Redwood Road, Bluffdale, Utah scheduled to begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible.

AGENDA – WORK SESSION:

1. Roll Call.
2. Discussion of 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget (Brent Bluth).
3. Closed Meeting Pursuant to § 52-4-5 (if needed)
4. Adjournment.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2005



G. Brent Bluth, Administrative Services Director

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or other services or accommodation for this meeting should contact Bluffdale City Hall at least 24 hours in advance of this meeting at 254-2200.

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Present:

Members: Mayor Wayne Mortimer
Craig Briggs
Morris Clark
Laurie Maxfield (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)

Others: Brent Bluth, Administrative Services Director
Teddie Bell, City Recorder

Excused: Jesse Kelley
Martha Speed

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call.

Jesse Kelley and Martha Speed were not present. Since there was no quorum, the meeting was conducted as a study group.

Discussion of 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget (Brent Bluth).

Administrative Services Director, Brent Bluth, provided the Council Members with a complete financial report for the year through May. He hoped to discuss budget amendments for the current fiscal year and the final adoption of the budget for 2005-2006.

Mr. Bluth reported that for the 2005-2006 budget, he asked that the Mayor and Council address as clearly as possible the budget and public safety. He wanted to ensure that budget figures were large enough so that when the actuals come in, the City is not "dinged" in the audit. He noted that last year the garbage contract increased by \$3,100 for which the City had not allocated or budgeted for far enough in advance.

Mr. Bluth clarified that public safety involves Police and Fire Department issues. He emphasized clearly that the Fire Chief proposed three staffing levels for the Council to review. They were:

1. Three full-time fire fighters to work 24-7.
2. Two full-time fire fighters to work 24-7.
3. Maintain status quo.

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Mr. Bluth commented that the ALS contract with the Unified Fire Authority jumped from \$25,000 per year to \$186,000 per year. Craig Briggs asked for an explanation of services received from the UFA. Mr. Bluth responded that the City receives paramedic services for which \$25,000 is paid per year. The City received notification that that amount had jumped to \$186,000 per year. He e-mailed Chief Berry with his concerns. The Chief in turn provided a breakdown of the costs. Laurie Maxfield didn't understand how the UFA could justify such an enormous increase.

Mr. Bluth previously provided the Council Members with a spreadsheet put together by City Intern, Ryan Loose, outlining costs for the City to institute its own police department. He noted that some costs were not included in the spreadsheet.

In response to a question raised by Laurie Maxfield, Mr. Bluth stated that the current contract proposed by the UFA has not been ratified and adopted by all of the cities. As a result, Bluffdale is operating under the existing contract from 2003. The City must operate on a month-to-month basis until the new contract is ratified and accepted with the increase in price of \$186,000. Mr. Bluth asked that the Council provide staff with clear direction on which way to take the matter. He felt the materials provided gave a good framework of the costs.

Mayor Mortimer thought this should be the year to make the tough decision to set the City on the course for the future. He felt that enough money had been saved in the general fund to last five years. Morris Clark felt that one-third of the decision had already been made by the County who essentially indicated that they don't want Bluffdale as a contract city. The only question in his mind was whether to start fresh and establish a separate police department or partner with neighboring cities to create a cooperative situation.

Mr. Bluth commented that a number of the cities that contracted with the County for services had formed a task group that is trying to formulate a Unified Police Authority (UPA). He remarked that recently he attended a meeting of leaders from Herriman, Riverton, Cottonwood Heights, Taylorsville, and Holladay. An assignment was given to the County Sheriff's Department to actually come up with some information for the UPA. He believed they would ultimately end up with something similar to what the County Sheriff is already. The differences between the UPA and the UFA were the taxing authority and another layer of government. He compared the UPA set up to that of the UFA where the City would have 1 vote out of 7.

Mr. Bluth wanted the Council Members to be clear with regard to the liabilities of the Police Department. He stated that there are liabilities associated with both police and fire departments and all are accepted when such departments are opened up and operated. Liabilities range from one department to the next and are heavy. Various liabilities the City would become open to were discussed. The risks would be compensated for in

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insurance recognizing, however, that the liabilities would be real. He stated that particular attention would have to be paid to training and especially to anyone selected to lead the department.

In response to a question raised by Craig Briggs, Mr. Bluth stated that he had spoken with the City's insurance carrier who provided an insurance premium range for consideration. Council Member Briggs expressed concern that the City had previously been denied coverage by another insurance entity. Morris Clark clarified that URMA is not an actual insurance entity.

Laurie Maxfield remarked that the City has a Fire Department now that needs to be staffed 24 hours per day in-house. She suggested the possibility of increasing the quality of service for the Fire Department prior to initiating an entirely new department.

Mr. Bluth explained that there were a couple of models that could be studied. The first was a traditional type of police department organization. The second was a public safety type of structure. For a city the size of Bluffdale, there would be a Director of Public Safety and an Assistant Chief. The Director would act as the Police Chief and Fire Chief. That type of structure provides flexibility in the structure of the department. The primary benefit would be the reduction of basic administrative staff costs.

Craig Briggs recalled the direction given to the Fire Chief to begin utilizing volunteers as the primary force and using professionals as backup. While that never materialized, he believed that a good Public Safety Director could utilize community resources for fire protection in the manner the Council intended. He didn't believe there would be a significant difference between projected cost increases and recent increased costs of services seen lately. He believed that in evaluating the costs to do both, they would lean more toward utilizing a Public Safety Director. Morris Clark believed that cross training would be the key to making the department work and alleviate a lot of tension between police and fire. He acknowledged that Bluffdale is a small city and cannot take on aspects of a big city at this time. He thought the Council should go back to the basic question of whether they have adequate coverage now. He believed that combining services was a more practical way for the City to provide services.

Craig Briggs felt the Council was given a lot of "food for thought" at the retreat. The issue of police protection was addressed and the Council determined not to budget for it this particular budget year. He thought hiring a Public Safety Director was a much better option than funding two separate departments. He was concerned that the County felt they could come back and "rape and pillage" the City. He expressed disappointment with the position they had taken.

Brent Bluth stated that the Fire Chief had divided the administration work. Staff had none of the personnel records that should exist in the Human Resources Department.

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Craig Briggs thought that was an intentional effort. Mr. Bluth believed that it was due to the outgrowth of a “volunteer” department and moving into a “career ladder” department.

Cost issues were discussed. Mr. Bluth commented that the additional cost for Option #1 proposed by the Chief would be \$156,910 for personnel. Option #2 would cost \$83,900 additional in personnel costs. Craig Briggs asked Laurie Maxfield if she believed full-time fire coverage was more important than police coverage. Council Member Maxfield responded that the City already has its Fire Department established and she wanted to see it manned 24 hours a day in-house. She questioned whether the level of service should be increased in the Fire Department prior to initiating another department. Craig Briggs suggested that the Council prioritize the Fire Department against police protection.

Cost issues were discussed. Brent Bluth reported that if another sheriff were added to the current contract of \$325,000, it would cost an additional \$112,000. The cost proposed for a separate department be less but include five individuals and capital costs.

Mayor Mortimer stated that he gets a lot of pressure with regard to police coverage. He noted that Herriman has five officers and writes fewer tickets than Bluffdale’s officer. Brent Bluth indicated that he met with the sheriff recently and found that there were 33 cases last week; one of which was answered by a Bluffdale officer. All others were answered by outside officers. Craig Briggs commented that residents know when there are officers on the street. He didn’t want to operate like Herriman since he believed they were in “crisis management mode”.

The Mayor estimated that it would cost the City \$184,000 additional to have five officers on the street and two 24/7 firefighters. Craig Briggs questioned how much a volunteer force could offset the proposed increases. The Mayor estimated it could potentially save the City \$84,000.

The Mayor pointed out that fire coverage was costing the City more than police coverage. Craig Briggs stated that the City would need to come up with \$184,000 and still able to increase staffing of the Engineering and Planning Departments. Mr. Bluth responded that they could. Laurie Maxfield felt that one of the Council’s commitments to the community was to provide public safety. Morris Clark suggested they move in the direction already determined by the Council. He didn’t want to put any more money into the Fire Department until they fundamentally have a Department that will comply with what they have been asked to do. He felt they simply hadn’t done that. His preference was to focus on getting the Police Department where it needs to be since a lot of energy had been expended to get the Fire Department where it was supposed to be.

Craig Briggs thought the Council should determine the expected rate of acceleration if the “bleeding” continues with the County Sheriff. They had experienced hefty increases and he believed such increases would continue at a pace well beyond what he felt the

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Council could justify. Brent Bluth acknowledged that police departments are hard to manage. He felt, however, that for a slight increase in costs, they could obtain five times the coverage. The Mayor noted that the City's bill with the County Sheriff had gone from under \$100,000 to \$326,000 in less than four years. That was one of the reasons Morris Clark wanted out. He didn't want the burden of the machine they are trying to support. Mr. Bluth acknowledged that there would be additional costs along the line. He felt if the Council was willing to invest in public safety, those were the costs they would bear.

Mayor Mortimer stated that if the Council decides to move forward, they would have six months to implement the change. Laurie Maxfield noted that during the six-month implementation period, the City would have to continue to pay the County. Brent Bluth recommended leasing vehicles at \$40,000 per year for five vehicles. He believed that amount was relatively inexpensive.

Craig Briggs asked about the impact fee study. His understanding was that impact fees could be used to provide police protection. Mr. Bluth clarified that impact fee proceeds could be used only for certain capital costs. They could not be used for operational capital costs but could be used for capital facility system improvements.

Craig Briggs stated that he was in favor of pursuing police protection with a Public Safety Director. He expressed concern that volunteers had not been utilized as Chief Wanlass was instructed. He acknowledged that police protection was a necessity and was unsure that two full-time firefighters were a necessity given the expertise in the City already. It was his belief that there were qualified personnel in the City who were eager and willing to serve the community as volunteers at its current or higher level. He was unsure whether they would ever be where they want to be with the current organization. Laurie Maxfield stated that if legislative orders are being sent down and not obeyed, the matter should be addressed. She didn't want citizens to suffer as a result of that.

Morris Clark thought it had been determined that the Council's focus should be on police protection. He felt at this point they had no choice and the best way to make the transition was to go to the Director of Public Safety, which was more in line with the size of the City. Until there is a fundamental shift in the direction of the Fire Department, he was unwilling to commit to two or three 24/7 firefighters. He thought that was fundamentally in the opposite direction of where the Council had specified that they wanted to go.

Laurie Maxfield stated that she recently met with South Jordan's Fire Chief to discuss their program. She was impressed with it and thought it might be something the City could implement. She agreed that the City should take a step toward a Public Safety Director and still felt strongly that 24-hour in-house coverage was needed.

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Craig Briggs clarified his previous comments and stated that he was not convinced that the City can provide the same level of service that can be provided with two 24/7 shifts. He commented, however, that he was willing to be convinced one way or the other. He expressed concern with the direction the Fire Department was currently going, Brent Bluth agreed to increase the Public Safety Department budget by \$184,000 to account for two 24/7 firefighters and a Director of Public Safety. Morris Clark wanted to see the increase but didn't want to commit to two 24/7 professional firefighters. He believed the increase was warranted but suggested the Council focus on utilizing volunteers to the extent possible. Laurie Maxfield stressed the importance of faster response times.

Brent Bluth stressed the importance of the individual hired to serve as the Public Safety Director. He believed that nearly all problems could be solved if the right individual is selected. Laurie Maxfield wondered if it would be better to hire someone outside of the community. Craig Briggs responded that the City can't discriminate and should look carefully at qualifications.

Mr. Bluth reported that the City's total budget was estimated to be \$2.9 million. A 3.5% cost of living increase for employees was budgeted for. The cost of hiring a Planner and Engineer was also included in the budget. There were funds available for a full-time person for each position. He noted that each position was advertised as a contract position. He stated that staff had not had a good response on either contract position.

Laurie Maxfield expressed concern with inspections with all of the new development coming in. Mr. Bluth felt the situation would be fine this year, but suggested the Council budget for it next year. Craig Briggs asked Mr. Bluth how confident he was that it would not be a problem this year in terms of inspections. He responded that due to the number of lots and based on the time it takes to pull a permit, the City would not be hit until next spring or summer. He suspected there would be a lot of fury during that time next year. Craig Briggs disagreed that contract employees were the best way for the City to go. He suggested they be in-house employees. The Mayor agreed.

Mr. Bluth reported that a new vehicle for the Water Department was budgeted for. Building Official, Reid Gerritsen, was asked to inspect a fully-equipped vehicle available through auction. The vehicle was equipped with four utility beds, a compressor, and a hoist crane and described as a 1991 Dodge with 61,000 miles. Mr. Gerritsen would inspect it to determine its condition. Mr. Bluth expected to be able to acquire the vehicle for around \$25,000.

Mr. Bluth clarified that additional water rights in the Water Department had not been accounted for. If that was something the Council desired, he agreed to add it into the budget. The Water Department budget showed a balance of \$909 for the current proposed budget. Craig Briggs asked about the Council's sentiments with regard to


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purchasing additional water shares. The Mayor stated that such a purchase would have to come out of the capital budget.

Laurie Maxfield reported that she took a recent field trip with City Engineer, Shane Jones, to view the locations of three proposed reservoirs. Craig Briggs felt that if a secondary water system were planned, the City would have to own enough water to run it. Mr. Bluth remarked that developers would provide their own water and facilities. The Mayor's understanding was that there would be three reservoirs. One would be in Rosecrest, one in South Farm, and one in the center of Bluffdale near the water treatment plant. Water issues were discussed. Brent Bluth reported that he would be meeting with Gilson the following day. They were asked to tie the existing water right to the parcels they actually cover. Mr. Bluth suggested that at some point the City reduce its dependency on Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. He recommended the City have a source that it can draw upon in order to be at least partially independent. He explained that developers would be required to provide culinary water right now to provide for the time when the source is available. With the amount to be provided by Gilson, the amount attributable to impact fees could be determined. Craig Briggs suggested \$100,000 be set aside for future water purchase.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Teddie K. Bell
City Recorder:

Approved: June 28, 2005