

**WOODS CROSS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 22, 2008**

The minutes of the Woods Cross City Council Meeting held July 22, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the Woods Cross City Hall located at 1555 South 800 West, Woods Cross, Utah.

CONDUCTING:

Mayor Kent Parry

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kent Parry
Tamra Dayley
Rick Earnshaw
Jill Evans
David C. Hill

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Jon Hadlow

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary Uresk, City Administrator
Alan Low, City Recorder
Paul Howard, Chief of Police
Scott Anderson, Public Works Director

VISITORS:

Alex Beseris	Marti Hoge	Melinda Williams
John Heagis	Sabino De Luna	Jean De Luna
LeGrande Blackley	Pat Blackley	Don Schrader
Lois Schrader		

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and stated this is a specially scheduled meeting that notice of time, place and agenda was sent to local newspapers and provided to each of the City Council members prior to the meeting.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT THAT WAS PREPARED TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF A PROPOSED NEW CULINARY WATER WELL IN WOODS CROSS CITY

The Mayor advised those present that the purpose of this specially held City Council Meeting was to review and receive public input on the environmental potential impacts of a proposed new culinary water well to be drilled in Woods Cross City. He turned the time to the City Engineers, Mr. Alex Beseris and Ms. Marti Hoge.

Mr. Beseris took the floor and through a Power Point presentation presented to the City Council and the public present the Woods Cross City well site environmental assessment analysis. His review went over the following points, an introduction to the project, the purpose and need of the

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project, alternative sites for the well site, affected environment in the area, environmental impacts of the proposed projects, and finally, mitigations.

He advised those present that the site selected which would be best for the City to drill is in the northeast corner of the Mills Park. He said after reviewing the resources in the project area, it is noted that no significant impacts on any of the resource areas are likely to occur as a result to any of the four build alternatives. However, mitigation measures during the construction will be required for air quality, soil quality and noise. He concluded by saying that a draft document will be prepared and ready for public inspection and following the public comment period it will then be submitted to the State of Utah.

The Mayor then opened the public hearing to accept public comment or questions on the proposed project.

The floor was given to Mr. Sabino De Luna who in turn, along with his wife Jean, expressed concerns that the affect of drilling another well into the aquifer that their well is currently serviced from will have adverse affects on their water well.

The Mayor and the Council expressed concern to the De Lunas and said they want to do all in their power to hold harmless any affect the drilling of the new water well would have on the citizens with wells in that area.

The Mayor said the City Council would want to work with these citizens to alleviate any problems they might have, but the City was in need of an additional water supply for the growth it has experienced.

He then reviewed the following four items as outlined by the City Engineer concerning water rights and the use of the water aquifer:

1. "People don't own the water, the State of Utah owns it. People own a right to the water". Also, as Steve Slack from the State Division of Water Rights stated, "People don't have a right to pressure, just to water".
2. "The State and Courts don't get involved in pressure issues, so long as people can still get their water with reasonable effort. The principle of "Unreasonable Interference" is what the courts use in this matter. It is unreasonable for someone to put a pump in their well to get the water they have always had in spite of other influences.
3. "Others have rights to the water regardless of pressure or depth to obtain the water. If the state were to get involved with the pressure issue, a large user such as a City would have to give up their rights to a smaller user who might complain about the pressure drop. The state takes great efforts to make sure that an area is not "over allocated". Meaning, they don't give the right to anyone who asks, you have to purchase the right from someone who has a bona fide right from a State Adjudication. That way there should always be water within the aquifer.

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4. "There are multiple causes for pressure drop. They include: drought, geologic changes, seasonal changes, and other wells in the vicinity. To blame a city for the loss of pressure in a well is unfair to the City since it could be another user, or another cause."

After reviewing with the public these four principles of water rights he again assured the public present that the City Council was sensitive to their concerns and the City would do all that is possible to mitigate any problem that those having water wells in the area would be affected.

There were no other comments for the public hearing and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

The City Council suggested to the staff the commercial water users in the area, which none were in attendance, should be notified of the plans for the City to go forward with the drilling of a new water well.

DISCUSSION ON THE RESULT OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The Mayor reviewed with the City Council the recently held focus group meetings with the Staff of the City. He noted he and a member of the City Council had met on separate occasions with the Public Works employees and the Police Department employees and the City Administrator employees to discuss employee concerns and suggestions.

The Mayor then reviewed, with the help of the City Administrator, the items of focus that came out of those three meetings that were held.

After the review of the items from the meetings, it was suggested by the City Council to the Staff that a matrix be made up from the items that were suggested by the City employees along with an assignment with who would follow up with the items and that a progress report be given from time to time on how the items are be handled.

The City Staff responded by saying they would follow up and see that this is done.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 P.M. the Council concluded the special City Council Meeting with a motion by Council Member Earnshaw to adjourn. Council Member Dayley seconded the motion and all voted for the motion through a roll call vote.

Kent Parry, Mayor

Alan T. Low, City Recorder