

# Minutes of The Special Price City Council Meeting

## City Hall: Price, Utah

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May 5, 1998, 3:30 p.m.

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**Present:**

**Councilmembers:** Roy A. Nikas, Betty P. Wheeler, Joe L. Piccolo, Steve Bringhurst, Stephen L. Denison

Vernon W. Jones (Adminis. Ass't.), Joanne Lessar (City Recorder), Pat Larsen (Finance Director), Gary Sonntag (PW Dir/City Engineer)

**Excused:** Mayor Lou Colosimo

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1. MAYOR PROTEMPORE - **Councilmember** Joe L. Piccolo

**MOTION.** In the absence of Mayor Lou Colosimo, Councilmember Denison moved that Councilmember Joe L. Piccolo be appointed Mayor Protempore. Motion seconded by Councilmember Bringhurst and carried.

2. BUDGET FOR FY1998/99 - Personnel

Pat Larsen presented an update on the budget and reported that it was out of balance by \$759,400. State Retirement rates increased .23% for regular employees and .33% for Public Safety. She did not deduct this amount from the 401K program. The cost for the requested wage adjustments is \$48,000. The 2% merit increase plus the 1.1% cost of living adjustment amounts to \$76,000. The cost for new positions totals \$154,000, which include a Human Resource Director, two new Shop positions, two additional maintenance positions, two additional Laborers in the Park, and one additional Volunteer Fireman. The Council reviewed the changes and requests in the departments involving additional personnel, increased wages, and retirements. The Council discussed moving the Fire Chief to mid range and give the Volunteer Fireman a cost of living increase. One temporary Laborer in the Maintenance Dept. was deleted, as well as two temporary Laborers in the Parks. The Shop Assistant position was also deleted. Before a decision is made on the additional Fireman, it was recommended to get a copy of the fire ratings for the City, which would indicate what effect an additional fireman would have on that rating. The Council discussed deleting all requests for wage increases and approving the requests for reclassifications, however, a decision was not reached.

Councilmember Bringhurst reported that the Cemetery Department is requesting that they be allowed to work four 10 hour shifts six days a week. Most of their overtime is for Saturdays when the community rents the pavilions or there is a burial. This procedure would help overtime. It was recommended that a plan be written on this concept.

Councilmember Nikas was excused from the meeting.

Pat reported that requests to lease/purchase equipment for this next year amount to \$128,400. The City already has in place \$52,000 worth of leases. That amounts to approximately \$200,000 a year in lease payments. Pat reported that with the changes she has made up to this point, she is still \$300,000 out of balance. The Council discussed placing a tax on the Library and increasing property taxes. A .001% property tax increase would mean an additional \$55/year for a \$100,000 home. A .005% increase would mean \$82.50/year on a \$100,000 home. Rates cannot be increased over .007%. A tax for the library could be set for .0015. It was also recommended to look at electric rates. It is unknown what will happen once deregulation takes effect. A committee consisting of Councilmembers Nikas and Piccolo, Vern Jones, Bob Potts, and Pat Larsen, was appointed to look into electric rates.

The changes that are proposed to balance the budget are as follows:

- - Raise taxes for \$300,000, which includes .001% for the Library and .005% for the General Fund.
- - Delete Main Street lights in the amount of \$83,000.
- - Use Fund Balance out of Capital Improvement Project Fund in the amount of \$43,000.
- - Electric Revenue raised by \$30,000.
- - Sales tax raised by \$20,000.
- - \$25,000 mistake.
- - Street Projects in the amount of \$16,000 moved to Class "C" Fund.

With the above changes and the cuts in personnel, there is still \$300,000 needed to balance the budget.

Other adjustments made:

- - Delete the street pavement management program in the amount of \$1,000.
- - Reduce the BTAC roof replacement to \$5,000 for repairs.
- - Delete the painting of the Public Safety building for \$6,000.
- - Delete the picnic tables in the amount of \$2,000.
- - Reduce the bleachers to \$1,000.
- - Delete the trees in the amount of \$3,000.
- - Delete the five new Radix Readers.

Councilmember Denison was excused from the meeting.

Pat stated that at this point, \$521,000 has been cut from the budget.

As there was not enough members to continue the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.