

MINUTES
MANTI CITY PUBLIC HEARING
June 11th, 2014
6:15 P.M.

Mayor Korry Soper in chair and presiding. Roll call showed Councilmembers Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen, Ryan Phelps and Jason Vernon present. Mayor Soper welcomed all present and opened the hearing regarding the proposed FY 2015 budget.

Linda Nielsen of Manti asked several questions regarding the recent purchase of 150 acres south of Manti and suggested that the Council had not properly planned for the purchase and that it was not prudent to go into debt for the purchase without having any plan.

Benton Petersen of Manti spoke of the planned transfers in the budget from the utility enterprise funds and stated that the practice was illegal, dishonest and in violation of the laws of God and society. He said that leaders of Enron were sitting in prison for having done such things. Petersen went on to say that the Mayor and Council were not being good LDS people and that they were violating at least 6 of the 10 commandments. Peterson then advocated selling the water, sewer and electric systems to professional who know how to run them and purchase these services like the military does.

Scott Larsen of Manti said that he thought the Council was doing a pretty good job but that he thinks most of the city crew is not doing their job and should be replaced.

Kaye Crane of Manti asked about the status of the sewer improvement project and the culinary springs. She also wondered if the recent land purchased made by the city should be classified as “speculative” and suggested the practice may not be legal or ethical.

Alan Braithwaite stated that the city is not prepared for the difficult times ahead. He asked if the Council had read his warnings about future calamities and the preparations we should make. He suggested that the city needs to be better financially prepared and should not make the planned transfers from the utility enterprise funds to the general fund.

Voin Campbell of Manti said he appreciates the work the Council is doing. Campbell also said that whether the city transfers money from utility enterprise funds or raises taxes, one way or another, the residents are going to have to pay. Campbell also suggested that raising utility rates and transferring to the general fund is perhaps the most fair way to “charge” residents as everyone uses water, power and sewer services; whereas tax increases do not bring in revenue from tax exempt organizations of which we have many in our community. Campbell also commended the Council on the recent purchase of 150 acres in an effort to spur economic development.

Marlene Cox of Manti asked why there was not a public hearing prior to the purchase of the property. Kent Barton, City Administrator explained that we are required to hold a public hearing before selling property but not before purchasing.

After hearing all comments the Mayor asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Vaun Mickelsen made that motion, which was seconded by Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen, Ryan Phelps Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The hearing adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Korry L. Soper, Mayor

Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator