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Planning commission being kept busy with several proposed projects

By Myrna Trauntvein

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Most of the report from the city planning commission on the monthly update of proposals for a variety of projects was not to be released to the public but a few items could be discussed in the public forum of council meeting.

One item that was free for discussion was the need of the city to gather information on how many lots were still available for building inside city limits.

"We need to gather that information," said Glenn Greenhalgh, city planning commission chairman.

He said that the city council and city planning commission needed to look at the initial growth area where the city had already planned for annexation.

"We need to have some idea about transportation," he said.

It was time to plan for the future so that the city could be prepared.

He said that the development review committee the city had in place was highly valuable. A developer could talk to that committee and lay plans for the future of a project that would go more smoothly because of that step in planning.

"It is a good step that we have taken," said Greenhalgh. "It is a good practice because it saves time and is more efficient."

One project in early planning stages is a hotel that would allow conferences to be held there.

Gas and water would need to be added to the city utilities delivery system in order to allow construction.

"The city planning commission is busy right now," said Greenhalgh.

There were many projects that were requiring work on the part of the planning commission but most of them were still not open for public discussion.

Some topics should be taken into executive session and should not be on the open agenda.

Can a board add an executive session to an agenda after the meeting has started, even if the executive session wasn't included on the original meeting posting?

The short answer is yes. The chair must read out loud the statutory authority that allows the topic to be discussed in executive session, and the purpose for the session.

"At our last meeting we had the longest agenda we have had in 40 years," said Greenhalgh. "We had two public hearings."

One was the Brown Public Hearing, the other was the Tan-



ECLIPSE 2017 • Rebecca, Clay and Holly Marchant were caught viewing the total solar eclipse on Monday morning at Red Cliffs Elementary. Even though Utah was only able to see about 91% of the total coverage, it was still quite exciting. This was the first total solar eclipse to traverse the U.S. in 99 years, and the next one won't be until 2024. However, if you are still around in 2045, Nephi will be THE spot for maximum viewing. The inset shows the 90% eclipse that viewers saw in Nephi.

Davis is officially approved as prosecuting attorney for Nephi City

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

It is now official, Perry R. Davis will be the new prosecutor for Nephi.

At the Nephi City Council meeting on August 1, the council approved a proposal from Perry R. Davis, deputy Juab County Attorney, for prosecution services.

On Tuesday, the council voted to authorize the mayor, Mark Jones, to sign the agreement between the city and Davis.

"Tonight the official agreement between Mr. Davis and Nephi City is ready," said Seth Atkinson, city administrator.

He said that the provisions were very similar to the contract the city had with Jared Eldridge, former Juab County Attorney, to provide prosecution for the city which was done

in addition to Eldridge's job as the county attorney.

"One item of note is the section on compensation," said Atkinson. "The section states that the contracted amount be increased each year in proportion to the average salary increase for city employees."

The agreement is also backdated to July to account for work done on behalf of the city for the Nephi Justice Court in that month.

The city needed to hire a licensed attorney with prosecution experience and Davis has that. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 2000 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence and has been a practicing prosecutor for 17 years.

Atkinson said that the agreement also has an automatic renewal unless specifically terminated in writing 60 days before the renewal date.

"This is similar to the con-

tract the city has for indigent defense," said Atkinson.

Davis, according to terms of the agreement, will review and screen all cases submitted by the Nephi City Police Department for possible criminal charges; maintain all records necessary for prosecution; be available to discuss cases with defendants and their attorneys; ensure that officers have access to the advice of an attorney during traffic stops or criminal investigations on an as needed basis.

He will also review nuisance of zoning violation investigations for possible prosecution or enforcement that require court action; will prosecute in court nuisance or zoning violations that require court appearance; and will be responsible for all operating expenses including materials, supplies and payroll expenses for employees.

He will also submit a billing

invoice each month.

Council members Nathan Memmott, Larry Ostler and Kent Park voted in favor of authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement. Greg Rowley, council member, was excused from the meeting and Justin Seely, voted against the motion which was made by Memmott.

"I wanted to wait to see who will be appointed as county attorney to replace Jared Eldridge," said Seely.

Attorneys Davis, Tate Bennett and Ryan Peters have all applied for the position, have been interviewed and are waiting for the decision of the county commission.

"We have had considerable discussion about this," said Jones. "We need to appoint an attorney and we need to do it soon."

He said that the city was getting behind on the cases needing to be addressed.

JSD holds Truth in Taxation hearing; attracting and retaining quality teachers a high priority

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A Juab School District Truth-In-Taxation Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, August 16 and those in attendance learned that the total tax rate is actually decreasing.

Thirty members of the community and school district, including some educators, attended the public hearing. Four of them had questions and comments.

"The total tax rate for Juab School District is decreasing," said Darin Clark, Juab School District Business Administra-

tor.

He was asked, he said, "If the rate is decreasing, why are taxpayers being notified of a tax increase?"

The simplified answer is that, when the District collects more total tax revenue than it did in the previous year, it is defined a tax increase by law.

The revenues will be used for the attraction and retention of quality educators.

"In a recent study by the Utah School Board's Association, Juab School District ranked 28th out of the 36 districts responding in beginning teacher pay," said Clark. "Many Wasatch Front districts

have increased starting teacher salaries to \$40,00 or more."

Juab's starting pay is \$35,979.

"Juab School District competes with these districts for teachers and, with the teacher shortage, is at a serious disadvantage when it comes to attracting quality educators," Clark said. "Recently, the district has had teaching positions remain open for multiple months with none or just one or two applicants."

Total tax revenue collected by the District follows a simple formula: Total Tax Revenue = Total Assessed Property Value x Total Tax Levy.

"Yes, the total levy is decreasing," said Clark. "However, the total assessed property value in the district has risen, thus generating an increase in tax revenue."

He said that it should be noted that the Juab Charter School levy is not a district levy but is collected for local charter schools by law.

The prior year rates and proposed rates for this year are as follows.

The Basic School Levy in 2016 was .001675. In the com-

See **Hearing** on page 3



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