

SOUTH JORDAN CITY  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

December 1, 2015

**Present:** Mayor David Alvord, Councilman Steve Barnes, Councilman Chuck Newton, Councilman Chris Rogers, Councilman Mark Seethaler, Councilman Don Shelton, CM Gary Whatcott, City Attorney Ryan Loose, It Director John Day, Administrative Services Director Dustin Lewis, Development Services Director Brad Klavano, City Council Elect Patrick Harris, City Council Elect Brad Marlor, City Council Elect Tamara Zander, City Council Secretary MaryAnn Dean

**Others:** Attachment A

**STUDY SESSION – 4:00 PM**  
**Oak Conference Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Mayor Alvord welcomed everyone present. He excused Councilman Seethaler who will be arriving late.

A. Invocation: *Councilman Mark Seethaler*

**Councilman Newton offered the invocation in Councilman Seethaler's absence.**

B. Discussion Item: Recreation Center Proposal. *(By Rob Cottle, Babcock Design)*

CM Whatcott introduced Rob Cottle, Babcock Design. CM Whatcott said this summer, several of them did a tour of swimming pools. That tour generated discussions of what could be done at their recreation center. Mr. Babcock will discuss conceptual ideas of what could be done, and the costs associated with that project.

Mr. Cottle noted that he designed the original recreation center. The original building was intentionally designed as a recreation pool only.

Councilman Seethaler arrived at this time.

Tom Anderson, Water Design Incorporated, was recognized. Burt Merrill, who was the contractor on the original building, was also introduced.

Mr. Cottle reviewed some conceptual ideas about how the city might add onto the pool and gymnasium. He said everything is conceptual at this point. Both options presume that the existing skate park would be altered or relocated. One concept plan showed a 25 meter by 25 yard competition pool. The other showed a 50 meter by 25 yard competition pool. The 25 meter pool, they could put 1000 people in that building for events. He noted that the concept plan shows locker rooms for competitive swimmers in the pool area. It was noted that the 25 meter pool could accommodate water polo.

Councilman Newton recognized Mr. Westra, who is affiliated with the swim team. Mr. Westra said one deficiency with the 25 meter pool is that they will never attract a large event that a 1000 people would attend because there are no warm up and cool down lanes. He showed pictures of the Kearns Oquirrh Park facility, which is a 50 meter pool. He noted that the Kearns pool was built as an outdoor pool, but they put a cover over it. He said it functions well. It is the best facility for swim meets. He said the Kearns Oquirrh Park facility wishes they had a 53 meter pool, with a bulk head in the middle. Mr. Westra discussed other pools in the area, including their sizes and what those facilities are used for.

Councilman Rogers asked about diving. Mr. Westra said insurance costs go up with diving. Mr. Cottle said diving is resurging. Approximately 50 percent of the County facilities have diving.

Brad Sorensen, Jordan School District, said the Marv Jensen facility is not adequate for the Bingham High swim team. Mayor Alvord said they are trying to work out an Interlocal agreement with the School District to serve this need.

Mr. Cottle reviewed the probable costs for the projects. For the 25y by 25m pool, the hard construction costs are \$9,611,580, with the total cost with soft costs estimated at \$12,495,054. For the 25y by 50m pool, the construction costs are \$13,984,040, with the total cost with soft costs estimated at \$18,179,252.

Mr. Cottle said they are presuming that the proposal is for a high quality facility. The Oquirrh Park facility is great, but has a sprung structure. In approximately 20 years, the sprung structure will need to be replaced. The sprung structure would be \$150-\$200 a sq. ft. rather than \$300-400 a sq. ft. Regardless, the locker rooms would need to be built.

Finance Director Naidu estimated the bond payment to be \$750,000 a year for 20 years. It was noted that the cost on the gym expansion is included in the proposed costs. \$1.5 million is for the gym expansion. The rest is for the pool space.

Councilman Newton asked about additional indoor soccer space, and possibly racquetball. It was noted that racquetball is a specialized space. It is better to do a dedicated facility for tennis, racquetball, etc. It can be done at the recreation center, but it is not cost effective.

C. Discussion Item: Updates and Discussion Regarding Trans-Jordan Landfill. (By Dwayne Woolley)

Dwayne Woolley, Trans Jordan Landfill, updated the City Council on the landfill. He said they meet all EPA standards. They have an active gas collection system and generate enough electricity for 4000 homes. They are a good facility and a good neighbor. He noted that what works in one state is not always successful in another state. He discussed recycling. Sometimes, recycling created additional environmental issues. Then sometimes, they have to ship the material to recycle and it is not as cost effective. He said right now, they are projecting 15 years of current capacity at their current rate. If people recycle more, it does lengthen that timeframe.

He said they are the cheapest landfill in the US that meets EPA standards. He noted a new plant in South Davis County that has a digester that grabs gas and produces electricity. He said it works, but it is expensive. The cost for that plant is \$75 a ton, versus the \$14 a ton that TransJordan currently charges.

CM Whatcott said with the growth of the city, they will be encroaching on the landfill. He said they will need to treat it a certain way. They need to create a buffer zone.

Mr. Woolley said on a few occasions, people have called about smell, but it is usually coming from another source. The landfill generally has no smell. He said they are not going to expand the landfill. When the city has to use another landfill, the costs will triple. He said they need a place to build a transfer station, which would be enclosed. They discussed Sandy City's plan for a project. They have not broken ground yet, and a plant like the one proposed has not been successful yet. He said new concepts are coming. In 15 years, he does not feel they will bury the garbage like they do today.

They discussed options that they will be able to use the landfill for, such as a golf course, an equestrian area, soccer fields, or a model airplane airport. It was noted that South Jordan does not have rights to the land automatically. The County master plan showed the property as a regional park. The landfill is 198.6 acres.

Public Works Director Rasmussen asked Mr. Woolley to address why the city does not have the option for a green waste program. Mr. Woolley said they have a surplus of the green waste compost available. They don't have the market to compost and sell more. The city would not save any money with the green waste program. It would likely end up in the landfill, but the residents would be charged more. He said West Jordan and Salt Lake County have a separate green waste system.

Mr. Woolley discussed recycling again. He said currently, there is no market for recycling. They cannot sell what they are gathering. Three major facilities have closed in the last two months because there is not a market. He noted that he does not see a huge change in tipping fees, but there will be some inflation increase. He said the thing he needs from the city is educating the public that burying in the landfill today is not a bad thing.

Councilman Newton said he was told that the life of the landfill had dropped to 12 years, but now it is up to 15-20 years. Mr. Woolley said a few years ago, the projections were based on growth. He said the tonnage rate has been stagnant for 10 years.

The City Council took a brief dinner break.

D. Staff Item: School Bus for Ineligible Students at Copper Mountain Middle School.  
(By Strategic Services Director, Don Tingey)

Mayor Alvord reviewed the background information on this issue. There was concern about some of the students walking across the Mountain View Corridor. The district determined that

they could use the existing busses, at no additional cost, to transport those kids. There is no longer room on the busses for those students, and they have had additional requests to ride the bus.

Strategic Services Director Don Tingey reviewed a report on this issue (Attachment B). He said staff has considered various options which are outlined in the report.

Councilman Newton asked why did the school district cut hazardous bussing? What happens for the students for the next school year?

Susan Pulsipher, School Board, said if students don't live outside the bus boundary (1.5 miles from the school), the School District has to pay 100 percent of the costs for transportation. It becomes very costly. It was noted that at the time of the split, the school district was paying for bussing services. Now, they do not, because the money was cut.

Councilman Newton expressed a desire for the hazardous bussing money to be added back in. Ms. Pulsipher said the State never gave them money for hazardous bussing. Councilman Newton suggested they make it a joint priority in the next legislative session. He said he is concerned about the precedence that the city doing a temporary shuttle bus would set. He said this is the school district's responsibility. He said the equalization will expire and the school district will have more funds without having to do a truth in taxation hearing. Will that solve the problem? Ms. Pulsipher said the amount of funds that they will get will not increase. She said they have not suggested a property tax increase. Additional money would go to the building of more schools.

Mayor Alvord asked if this situation is unique in that there is a dangerous street that the kids would have to cross? Ms. Pulsipher said every city comes to her with multiple requests including issues with crossing U-111, Redwood Road, etc. There is more than one issue in every city.

Mayor Alvord asked if any other city is paying for a shuttle bus with city funds? Ms. Pulsipher said no, it is a new idea. It was noted that this shuttle bus would meet at one location and drive the kids to the school. They would not drop kids from house to house.

Councilman Newton said he raised the concern with hazardous bussing because they are having problems hiring crossing guards.

Mayor Alvord said they need to figure out a long term solution. He feels that they have already set an expectation for this year. He recommended they fund the shuttle for the rest of the school year, but beginning next year, it will no longer be funded.

Ms. Pulsipher said she believes that the busses in this area are now full because the weather has gotten bad.

CM Whatcott asked where do they draw the line? They will have more requests for similar services. Ms. Pulsipher said it is critical to state that this is a shuttle, not a hazardous bus. She

said a permanent solution is needed. Councilman Newton reiterated the need to request funding from the Legislature.

Mayor Alvord said the former Police Chief said crossing guards on that road are not a good idea. There would be a need for 4 crossing guards and it is unsafe given the speed of that roadway. There is also a concern that they would not be able to find people willing to be crossing guards in that location.

Councilman Barnes asked why are they taking on a responsibility that is not the cities? It was noted that the safe walking route shows this going across the corridor, and that is where the city has that responsibility. Ms. Pulsipher said at some point, there will be a middle school east of the Mountain View Corridor and there will likely be kids on the west side needing to cross the road. There needs to be a long term solution. CM Whatcott said they have Early Light Academy (ELA) students crossing the Mountain View Corridor now, and they are not providing anything for them.

Council Elect Zander said there is a point where they draw a line where it is not the government's responsibility, but it is the parent's responsibility.

Councilman Newton said they can't provide for the Jordan School District and not provide for ELA. He said this would not have been a problem if the city had their own school district. This is what they are paid to do.

Ms. Pulsipher said the discussion started when a citizen came forward with a concern. She said the Jordan School District is doing their job; they are now just trying to find a solution to help people. It is not unusual for someone to have their bus permit removed. In that situation, the parents either allow the kids to walk or they make carpool arrangements.

Mayor Alvord said who says it is not their job? They are asking kids to cross a quasi freeway that has a huge track record of people running red lights.

Councilman Rogers said maybe they could help facilitate a meeting with police and organize the parents to resolve this issue and set up carpools. They could consider helping the rest of the year, but beyond that, it is the parent's job.

Councilman Seethaler said the question is who is responsible for getting the kids to and from school? There is a safe walking route established by the community council and the local jurisdiction. In some cases, there are crossing guards at signalized intersections, but it is not required. There is a cost for 4 crossing guards, and the issue that no one will want to do that job.

It was noted that the school's community council presents the safe walking route and makes recommendations to the police department. Bussing is about distance. It is not based on safety.

Councilman Rogers asked if they can mobilize and lobby the legislature? Councilman Seethaler said to pay for this shuttle opens the door for other requests.

Councilman Newton said he is okay funding the shuttle for the rest of the year to give parents time to figure out their transportation situation. Mayor Alvord said he is comfortable with that as well. He said the responsibility for safety lies with the family. There will be overpasses or tunnels eventually. It was noted that the costs presented are pro-rated.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilman Rogers made a motion to adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**This is a true and correct copy of the December 1, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, which were approved on December 15, 2015.**

*Anna M. West*  
**South Jordan City Recorder**





# JSD Busing to Copper Mountain Middle School

## Current Practice (YTD 2015)

- ▶ **Brief Historical Background**
  - ▶ Safe Walking Routes developed and approved by collaboratively by JSD & SJC
  - ▶ Spring 2015 discussion regarding safety concern crossing Mountain View Corridor
    - ▶ Hazardous busing eliminated in 2009/10 due to budget cuts
      - Previously funded 100% by JSD
    - ▶ Ineligible students
      - Not eligible for state reimbursement
  - ▶ **JSD: Available seats “permitted” on existing routes**
    - ▶ Initially: 4 eligible routes
      - 2 South Jordan & 2 Herriman
    - ▶ August: Additional eligible students when school started
      - 5 bus routes (3 in SJC | 2 in Herriman)
      - 65 available seats “permitted” for SJC
      - 10 additional requests waiting...
      - *promise to inform mayor when full*

## Update: November 2015

- ▶ **Copper Mountain Middle School Student Growth**
  - ▶ All 5 busses now full with eligible student riders PLUS 106 permit approved students
  - ▶ No “available seats” remaining on SJ busses
- ▶ **Options to consider:**
  - ▶ *Temporary Shuttle Bus \**
    - ▶ SJC pay for “permitted” ineligible students (65)
    - ▶ Temporary Shuttle Bus - Estimated Cost:
      - \$20,000 (est.) January through end of school year - \$200 per day
      - (\$1.17 / mile plus cost of driver’s time)
  - ▶ *Require parents to ensure students get to school*
    - ▶ Requirement based on State of Utah Policy
    - ▶ Revoke Permits
      - Required before an additional bus added
    - ▶ NEW: extension of 11800 S at MVC to CMMS
    - ▶ Current practice at Early Light (students crossing MVC daily)
  - ▶ *Political Considerations*
    - ▶ Other SJ schools (elementary & middle school) waiting/watching with interest and their own requests...





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