

PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 21, 1998

PRESENT

R. Dale Roper	Mayor
Wesley Bloomfield	Council Member
Gayle Bunker	Council Member
Bruce Curtis	Council Member
Glen Swalberg	Council Member

ABSENT

Robert Dekker	Council Member
Dorothy Jeffery	City Recorder

ALSO PRESENT

Deb Greathouse	City Librarian
Richard Waddingham	City Attorney
Greg Schafer	City Employee
Karen Johnson	City Employee
Derin Phelps	Millard County Chronicle/Progress
Don Dafoe	Former Delta City Mayor
LaVar Cox	Candidate for County Commission
Becky Prestwich	City Resident
Todd Holt	City Resident
Jane Beckwith	Library Board
Janet Frederick	Library Board
Gerri Ogden	Millard County Bookmobile
David Hahn	City Resident

Mayor Roper called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Roper stated that notice of the meeting time, place, and agenda was posted at the principal office of the governing body, located at 76 North 200 West, and was mailed to the Millard County Chronicle/Progress, KNAK Radio, and to each member of the governing body, postage prepaid, at least two days prior to the meeting.

Mayor Roper stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to provide information and receive public comment regarding the proposed expansion of the Delta City Library and the bonding proposed for such expansion.

Mayor Roper noted that use of the library has increased over the past ten years to the point that there is not sufficient space to provide services to the library patrons. Delta City Librarian Deb Greathouse worked with the State Library Board to calculate the amount of space necessary

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to bring the Delta City Library up to standard for the number of patrons using the library. The calculations resulted in a library size of 7,099 square feet. The existing library is 2,100 square feet and, with the proposed library expansion, the size would increase to 7,000 square feet.

Library circulation has increased from 26,762 books in 1989 to 46,744 books in 1998. In 1989, there were 15,347 patrons using the library; today, that number has increased to 27,624 patrons. The Delta City Council and Mayor, as well as the Library Board, feel that the proposed increase in library size is a rather conservative increase and is much needed, considering the increase in circulation and patronage.

Mayor Roper commended Delta City Librarian Deb Greathouse for her efforts in obtaining other sources of funding for the library expansion project. Delta City has received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$206,000; an application and presentation to the Community Impact Board has resulted in a low interest (3-4½ %) loan in the amount of \$143,990, with a matching grant in the amount of \$143,990. In addition, Millard County has pledged \$35,000 for use of the Bookmobile space, and Delta City has, to date, spent \$22,000 in obtaining plans and drawings which are ready to be sent out for bids.

Mayor Roper stated that the total cost of the Library expansion is estimated to be \$550,000. This amount would result in an increased tax charge of \$9.24 per year for the average home owner in Delta City. However, the bond on the Delta City Building was retired in May, 1998, which results in a tax decrease of \$19.09 per year for the average home owner. The net effect would be a tax decrease of approximately \$10.00 per year.

Mayor Roper opened the public hearing to comments from the floor

Council Member Glen Swalberg expressed his support for the library expansion and his feeling that it is an ideal time for expanding the library and the cost to Delta City residents is extremely low, given the benefit to be received.

Former Mayor Don Dafoe explained that the beginning of this project was approximately three years ago and was done through the recommendation of the Library Board and the Delta City Librarian. He noted that the library is utilized beyond its capacity on many days by school children gathering information for school reports and projects. In addition, many books are checked out for recreational reading. Mr. Dafoe noted that, when the current Delta City building was constructed, the initial bids received were considerably more than the funding available for the building. This necessitated reducing some areas of the building and, although the Mayor and Council at the time wanted to maintain as much space as possible for the library, that was one area which required size reduction. Inasmuch as Delta City had never really had a library, it was difficult to determine what amount of space would be needed in the future.

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The current Delta City Library has been functional and has worked well. It has, however, reached the point where more space is needed for the usage the library is drawing and for the amount of books which Delta City is trying to place on the shelves. Mr. Dafoe noted that the size of the library expansion had been discussed at length by the Mayor and City Council during the last three years and several different proposed addition plans were considered and he feels that the plan which was ultimately selected is very functional and should last for a number of years into the future. Mr. Dafoe requested that it be shown in the record that he is 100% in favor of the proposed Delta City Library expansion project.

Mayor Roper requested that Librarian Deb Greathouse list some of the programs offered by the library. She noted services such as the story hour for pre-school children during the winter, a summer story hour for six to eight weeks, literacy program materials, book groups, internet service, books on tape, video classics, art show from Utah Arts Council twice each year, the Utah Humanities Council provides speakers for book groups and community groups, and we provide an inter-library loan program.

Becky Prestwich asked if any of the grant or loan money would be expended on materials. Mayor Roper explained that the grant and loan money would be spent only on the building and permanent fixtures. Library materials are purchased from funds allocated annually from the Delta City General Fund. Librarian Deb Greathouse added that the CDBG grant funds can be used for bookshelves because they are bolted to the floor and become a part of the building.

Former Mayor Don Dafoe asked what the construction plans are if the bond election is approved and what the contingency plans were in the event the bond election is not approved. Mayor Roper answered that, if the bond election is approved, construction will probably begin in Spring, 1999 inasmuch as the funds from CIB would not be available until December. In the event the bond election is not approved, CIB will be approached at the November, 1998 meeting to determine what they will allow as far as grant funds for the construction. Contingency plans will be made at that time.

City Attorney Richard Waddingham expressed his opinion that there can never be an over-expansion of locations offering educational materials and a chance to better oneself. He is aware that a great number of people avail themselves of the library materials and it is a valuable asset especially for young people looking for educational materials.

Gerri Ogden, of the Bookmobile, expressed support of the library expansion and is excited about the prospect of having more space for Bookmobile operations. Mrs. Ogden feels that the library expansion will make more materials available for patrons to use, rather than being stored in boxes because of lack of shelf space.

Millard County Commission Candidate LaVar Cox expressed his support of the project.

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Council Member Wesley Bloomfield stated that he feels the library expansion would be very beneficial to the community and would be a good investment. He feels that, given the amount of money obtained as grants, this project will provide a very good service at a minimal cost.

Council Member Gayle Bunker felt that the library expansion is a good bargain for citizens of Delta, but expressed fear that people will not avail themselves of the opportunity to vote for the library expansion bond, thus giving advantage to those in opposition to the project.

Council Member Bruce Curtis expressed his support of the project and mentioned that the citizens of Delta will have the opportunity of having a very nice facility for less than \$10 per year.

Council Member Glen Swalberg reiterated Council Member Bunker's comments that we need to make certain that people understand what they are voting on, that the project is well thought out, well designed, will meet needs of the community for several years in the future and will be a real benefit at a very small price.

Mayor Roper again stated his support of the project, expressing his view that, even if the library is used only for entertainment, something is learned any time a book is read. In essence, every person who checks out a book, video, or book on tape, is learning something. He encouraged everyone in attendance to contact one or two people and ask those people to contact one or two other people and encourage everyone to vote on November 3rd.

There being no further comments, Mayor Roper declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


R. DALE ROPER, Mayor


DOROTHY JEFFERY, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 11-23-98