

CITY OF DELTA, UTAH
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

PRESENT

Gayle Bunker	Mayor
Kiley Chase	Council Member
Glen Swalberg	Council Member
Betty Jo Western	Council Member

ABSENT

Robert Banks	Council Member
Bruce Curtis	Council Member

ALSO PRESENT

Kaela Jackson	City Attorney
Gregory Jay Schafer	City Recorder
Georgeann Dillard, Pastor	Delta Foursquare Church
David Noah	Millard School District
Nan Nielson	Community First
Greg Chappel	Millard School District
Margaret Pruitt	Central Utah Counseling Center
Christin Fox	Great Basin Dairy Group/Utah Dairy Farms
Pam Goodrich	Central Utah Public Health
Kristen Chase	Community First
J'lene George, Ph.D.	Consultant, Community First
Jackie Nielson	Community First
Roma Thomas	City Resident
Craig Nielson	City Resident
Kyle Barnson	City Resident
Sue Poulsen	City Resident

Mayor Bunker called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. He stated that notice of the public hearing time, place and agenda had been posted at the City Building and provided to the Millard County Chronicle/Progress and to each member of the City Council at least two days prior to the meeting. City Recorder Gregory Schafer acted as secretary.

Mayor Bunker stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment regarding the proposed use of Delta City funds in support of Community First and the programs provided by Community First. Delta City is required by law to hold a public hearing prior to expending funds for programs such as Community First.

Mayor Bunker opened the public hearing to comment from the floor.

Georgeann Dillard, Pastor of Foursquare Church, stated that she would like to see Delta City appropriate funds to help sustain the community center sponsored by Community First because of the effect the community center has on youth. She felt the programs offered by Community First are beneficial to the community and affect the over-all health of the community.

Nan Nielson, a worker at the Community Center, noted that a new program is being introduced this year where the youth are required to bring homework to the Community Center and all of the youth work on their homework assignments prior to any other activity. If students do not have homework, they are reading or working with a tutor. It is hoped this will assist youth in being ready to advance from middle school to high school work. The program is working very well.

Margaret Pruitt, Prevention Coordinator at Central Utah Counseling Center, advised Council Members that she has been working with Community First Coalition for several years and has been very impressed with the effort the coalition has made in learning the steps of prevention. They have evaluated what the risks and protections are in the community in choosing the programs to support; they have used good data and good research in finding the programs that will best assist youth in our area. Their staff is faithful and diligent in providing services to youth which will be most beneficial. It would be greatly appreciated if additional support can be obtained from Delta City for the work being done. The programs are not only helping the youth, but their families and, by extension, the community as a whole.

Dr. J'lene George, a consultant for Community First providing research and evaluation, noted that she has worked hands-on at the Community Center and is knowledgeable about what happens there and knows that the youth served by the Community Center tend to be very high risk as a result of situations at home and in the community. Many of the children face the risks associated with poverty, troubled home situations, minority status and other situations. Workers at the Community Center work very hard to be culturally sensitive and to provide supervised activities and opportunities for the youth. It costs money to operate the Community Center but funding the operation can save money in the long run in terms of reduced crime and substance abuse as a result of youth being involved in Community Center activities rather than becoming involved in crime and substance abuse. Prevention is much more effective than rehabilitation.

Pam Goodrich, Central Utah Public Health, recently received a list of science-based programs for tobacco prevention. The programs on this list are not provided through the school district but are provided to at-risk youth by the Community Center. Mrs. Goodrich felt it significant that the Community Center provides these programs for youth in our area.

Greg Chappel, Millard School District, expressed the support of the school district for programs provided by Community First. He has been working with the people at Community First for the past several years and has seen the impact they are having on at-risk children in the community. While the school district attempts to provide activities during school hours, many of the children have no place to go following school. The Community Center provides a supervised place for the children

to go and receive help with homework, as well as having great role models and some structure during those hours immediately following school. Mr. Chappel again expressed the support of Millard School District for the Community First programs.

David Noah, Millard School District, noted that he has worked with several of the people involved in the Community First programs. He expressed support of the programs provided by Community First and noted that many of the children served by Community First need assistance with homework and they have been able to find that assistance at the Community Center. Mr. Noah indicated that he has received requests from the Community Center to find tutors for children being served at the center.

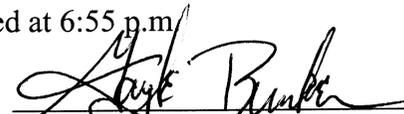
Christin Fox, Great Basin Dairy Group / Utah Dairy Farms, noted that her group had donated funds to support the Community Center and Ms. Fox also had experience as a volunteer at the center. She expressed support for the programs provided by Community First and felt they provide very effective programs for the youth.

Council Member Glen Swalberg asked whether parents are willing to continue assisting their children after completion of programs provided by the Community Center. Jackie Nielson reported that there has been some success in teaching families skills to interact with one another and continue assisting children as well as strengthening entire families. Mrs. Nielson expressed the goal of Community First that we become a community where diversity is appreciated.

Council Member Betty Jo Western noted that she had been asked if Delta City supports Community First, does that mean the City will also support other organizations in the same manner. Council Member Western responded to the person asking that any request for funding would be handled on an individual basis.

Mayor Bunker stated that he recognized the importance of Community First and the Community Center and indicated that the only question to be addressed is whether City funds should be used to support the programs inasmuch as a small portion of the populace served are actually Delta City residents. Mayor Bunker felt the Council was in agreement that the program should be supported but it will need to be discussed to determine whether funds can be allocated for support of Community First.

Mayor Bunker declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



GAYLE BUNKER, Mayor



GREGORY JAY SCHAFFER, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 09-20-07