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All city employees/volunteers who work with youth required to pass background check

By Myrna Trauntvein
TN Correspondent

Nephi will now require all those who work with youth in any capacity to pass a background check.

"Tonight, we will be considering adopting the Youth Service Protection Plan city-wide," said Seth Atkinson, city administrator. "All those who work with youth will need to have the background checks and Abuse Training for Youth Workers."

The purpose of the policy, he said, is to ensure Nephi City remains in full compliance with Utah State Code 80-8.

"Should there be a fee included in the policy?" Shari Cowan, council member asked.

That did not need to be included in the policy, said Atkinson. That would be more of an administrative decision. In addition, the fee was likely in the \$20 range.

The policy establishes mandatory screening and training requirements for all individuals (Youth Workers) who provide regular care, supervision, guidance, or control of children in Nephi City programs. That includes recreation programs and even swimming pool workers, he said.

A youth worker is defined as any employee or volunteer aged 18 or older who has regular and repeated interaction with children (individuals under age 18) as part of a Nephi City program.

A registered sex offender check, which consists of a search of both the Utah Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry and the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW), will be made.

The city will use an approved compliance provider, he said.

"Nephi City will use a reputable software platform for: conducting national and state sex offender registry checks; providing state-mandated sexual abuse identification and reporting training; and tracking and storing compliance records," said Atkinson.

For the initial hire, all prospective employees aged 18 or older who will work with youth must successfully complete a background check and the mandated abuse training at the time of hire.

"As a condition of employment, no employee may begin their first shift or interact with youth until their background check has been cleared and their training certificate is recorded in the software system," said Atkinson.

There are also requirements for volunteers. There is a mandatory clearance requiring all volunteers to complete the Registered Sex offender check and abuse training before they are allowed to interact with children in any program.

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READY FOR SPRING • The fields west of Nephi are ready for spring planting. Above, the water from the mountains is currently still flowing into Utah Lake and then into the Great Salt Lake. In less than a month water will be flowing to water the corn, alfalfa and other crops.

Commissioners approve site plan for data center

By Myrna Trauntvein
TN Correspondent

A data center is being planned for a site north of Mona Reservoir on the boys' home road, just across the railroad tracks.

Jon Jensen, Chief Development Officer for DCPC (Data Center Power Company), Clint Ashmead, Project Executive, met with county commissioners to discuss approval for their site plan.

Colby Park, county planning director, said that the county planning commission had held a public hearing but few comments were received.

Conditions had been set. Park said that the company

would provide a 6-foot right of way on the 500 North Road, would engineer and improve the road, would address the railroad crossing with an acceleration and deceleration on Old Highway 91.

"It may take some time to work with the railroad company," said Park.

"We should have them bond for the road work," said Lynn Ingram, county road superintendent. "The county does have road standards."

Mike Sperry, Juab Title & Abstract Company vice president, asked if the railroad policy was that the county needed to give up two crossings to improve one.

Marty Palmer, commissioner, said he hated to give up anything. Most crossings were

necessary for farm access.

"We need to get a plan," said Ingram. "Colby and I need to work on that. This will count as one because we would move it from private to public use."

"DCPC is a Data Center Power Collaboration," said Jensen. "We received a conditional use permit about a year ago for a large two-building (approximately 1 million square feet) data center."

There may be other ways to access the property but they would be the long way around, said Ingram.

He said the plan now needed additional adjacent parcels (the Kay property and Young Living property) included because the final design made the facility more linear/rectangular which caused buildings

to cross property lines.

Palmer said he had concerns about the amount of water that the plant would need. He asked if they had water rights.

"We will lease water from the Lavender Farm," said Jensen. "The agricultural use will be converted into M&I use."

Jensen said their design uses a closed-loop system with only about 300 acre-feet/year of consumptive water use, mostly for a few very hot days, with water stored in tanks and drawn during limited hours, and that they are leasing existing water from Young Living Farms.

"We have also been working

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Golf course expansion will not be funded through grant

By Myrna Trauntvein
TN Correspondent

This week the city received the news that the Back 9 Construction (for the golf course) grant application for the Land and Water Conservation Grant was not funded.

"There were many projects submitted to the grant and funds were limited," said Seth Atkinson, city administrator. "The grant was the main reason that the golf course project was on hold. Now that the city has been notified that our project was not on the state list, it is recommended that the city move forward with the project based on the project funding sources that have been recommended to the city council."

He said that, earlier this year, a review committee met to discuss bids received by the city for the construction of the back 9 of the golf course.

"The bid documents specified that the lowest responsive and highest evaluation criteria bid of a bidder or group of bidders would be the recommended bidder," said Atkinson.

The criteria for evaluating a bidder included: the bidder's overall experience, qualifications, and references, he said. It encompassed all relevant experience factors, which included consideration of golf course construction experience.

Also considered was the bidders approach and creativity. Bidders were evaluated on golf-specific details such as distances and par levels for proposed golf holes and

demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of golf course-specific project requirements.

"In addition, also considered was the bidder's technical understanding of site and integration," he said. "This included an evaluation of bidders' understanding of golf-related construction elements including bunker construction, green and tee box construction, cart paths, and fairway and rough construction that extend beyond standard grading and paving work as included in the scope of the project as a design build."

The cost proposal and value were also considerations, he said.

"This assessment included the reasonability of prices quoted and evaluation of whether change orders were

likely to be necessary," said Atkinson. "Having a solid bid price is critical since the city will be seeking the majority of the funding for the project through a bond issuance."

Also of importance was the schedule and project management of the bidder.

"We considered the time schedule and availability for a bidder to begin the project as well as an approximate time frame for project completion," he said.

The city received six bids of varying prices and qualifications.

The bid tabulation for the bidders was for Contractor Lump Sum Bids.

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