

Minutes of the Salem City Council Meeting held on August 18, 2010 in the Salem City Council Chambers.

Work Session: 6:00 p.m.

A representative from Hydro Point Data Systems came and did a presentation of the Weather Trac sprinkler system for the Smart Yard for Salem City residents. Right now the city parks use a Weather Trac system and it has been very beneficial in conserving water usage.

MEETING CONVENED AT: 7:00 p.m.

CONDUCTING: Mayor Jonathan F. Cope

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan F. Cope
Councilperson Lynn Durrant
Councilperson Todd R. Gordon
Councilperson Sid Jorgensen
Councilperson Sterling Rees

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeffrey Nielson, Finance/Recorder
Junior Baker, City Attorney
David Johnson, Building Dept.
Bruce Ward, Public Works/Engineer

Excused:

Councilperson Terry A. Ficklin

Chief Brad James, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Manchuck
Raychellene Talbot
Rachel Long
Caroline Young
Michele Morley
Charlotte McInteir
Isaac Johnson
Dave Anderson
Jean Hatch
Kurt Christensen
Jeff Higginson
Mikayla Barney
Libby Hancock
Joe Jackson

Lana Creer Harris
Nicole Loveless
Celsie Long
Susan Warren
Rebecca Black
Minuet Anderson
Jamie Johnson
Lisa Draper
Debi Lyman
Janie Christensen
Abby Higginson
Katelyn Higginson
Nichols Nelson

Cary Hanks
Jeff Long
Raylene Long
Veralynn Isaman
Diana Arilegat
Teri Anderson
Collin Anderson
Blake Ottesen
Brooke Christensen
Dan Higginson
Laura Ann Barney
Suzanna Higginson
Erman Stone

1. VOLUNTEER MOTIVATIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Mayor Cope asked if anyone would like to give a motivational or inspirational message. Councilperson Durrant stated she would like to offer a motivational message in the form of a prayer.

2. INVITATION TO SAY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cope invited those who would wish to participate, to stand and say the pledge of allegiance with him. He then led the pledge of allegiance for those who wanted to participate.

3. OPEN COMMENTS

Mayor Cope asked if anyone had anything for open discussion. Cary Hanks, from Spanish Fork/Salem Chamber, invited the council to come and support the Farmers Market in Spanish Fork on Saturdays. They are located at the Spanish Fork City Offices on Center Street. The market is on Saturday's from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. MCCALL THOMAS – EAGLE PROJECT, PHOTOGRAPH HEADSTONES

McCall Thomas explained and showed to the council what he has done for his Eagle Scout Project. McCall took a photo of all the headstones located in the city cemetery and had them placed on the city web page. The council thought it was a great project, and it is neat to see it on the web page. It was recommended that the city would keep up with the photos.

5. SMART YARD PROGRAM

Mayor Cope stated that this item was talked about in the work session where we heard from Chris, of Hydro Point Data Systems, who is the maker of the Weather Trac system. Bruce Ward explained about the pilot program; we can purchase 200 of them with the money from the bond for the Pressurized Irrigation, and the State Water Conservation will give a rebate for people to have a contractor, who has been trained to hook up the Weather Trac, install the system. The state also will do an audit of the residents' yard. Bruce then gave the council a handout explaining the system. He stated that we would ask those who sign up to make a three year commitment that would cost the resident \$4 a month. Bruce also showed the controller that would be used for residential. He explained that the city uses the WeatherTrac on all of our parks, and we have saved about 65% of water use by going to the system. The city does have the commercial controller and has been a great benefit. If we can get residents to hook up and use this system it could help delay the city from metering the pressurized irrigation system.

Councilperson Durrant asked about the three year commitment, and what happens at the end. Bruce stated that the person can get out, not have it on their city bill, or continue like they have been. The box will belong to the resident after the three years, if they don't use the service, the box will still work to control their sprinklers. If someone wants out within the first three years, then we would want the controller back, and see what else would need to be done.

Bruce Ward stated that it is working great for the city parks, and there is proof of savings. Also during the work session it was discussed of other savings where the company is using the systems in other areas in the country. He also stated that people who live above the Highline Canal could really benefit from this system, and see a savings in their water bills.

Councilperson Rees stated that on a personal note, this system would be great when you are out of town because it will watch your watering for you.

Bruce stated that we need the go ahead from the council to get the process going.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant to move forward with the Smart Yard program.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Sterling Rees.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

A question was asked when people could sign up. It was stated that we will start taking names and then when the controls are here we can start the program.

A question was asked which parks are using the controller. Bruce stated that all of the city parks and properties that have grass are on the system.

Councilperson Rees stated that this works great with watering and water is very valuable and we need to do the right thing to help conserve water usage. He was very impressed how the different zones of your yard will be set up individually and how it will monitor them.

The question was asked if it would be available for business. It would be available for businesses.

6. APPROVE CEMETERY PARK IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT NELSON

Attorney Junior Baker stated that the city owns property by the cemetery. A few weeks ago we had the National Guard come in and do some work on it. We would like to have use of the property for recreational purposes, and then eventually use it for cemetery. We have had a local business owner, Robert Nelson Construction, come to the city wanting to screen the top soil at the property and sell it. In turn the contract states that 5" of top soil

would need to be left to cover the property and that the rough grading for the area would be completed.

Councilperson Rees asked if the five inches would be enough. It was stated that it would be enough topsoil. Councilperson Rees stated that we want to make sure we have enough topsoil to do our park.

Bruce Ward stated that the work that the national guard was doing got us started, but feel that Robert Nelson would be able to a lot more work and have the project closer to being finished. He would leave the top soil in a stock pile for us. The screening would be done on site, and would be limited to the hours of operations. We also hope to have the project close to completion in a couple of years. We have a gravel parking lot, but hopefully we will be able to use it.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Todd Gordon to approve the contract with Robert Nelson to allow him to screen the topsoil at the cemetery park area.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

Erman Stone, who takes care of the cemetery, asked that the trucks not use the cemetery entrance that they go through the subdivision. It was stated that they plan on not going through the cemetery.

7. AWARD BID FOR WEED ABATEMENT

Bruce Ward stated that we got three bids to do the weed abatement for property owners who are becoming a nuisance. The three bids are: Steven Adams (up to .25 acre \$60, between .26 to .40 acre \$70 and .41 to .60 acre \$85), Jim Burns (up to .25 acre \$73, between .26 to .40 acre \$83 and .41 to .60 acre \$97), and Tom Little (up to .25 acre \$60, between .26 to .40 acre \$70 and .41 to .60 acre \$85).

Officer Blake Ottesen, who has been working on the weed abatement, stated that Steve Adams and Tom Little also have the bids for Spanish Fork City and know what to expect. We have \$2,500 in the budget for weed abatement this year.

It was recommended using both Steve Adams and Tom Little since their bids were the same, and it would be good to have two companies that can do it.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Sterling Rees to approve Steve Adams and Tom Little bids for the weed abatement in the city.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Todd Gordon.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

8. SUZANNA HIGGINSON – MISS SALEM PAGEANT ASSOCIATION WITH MISS UTAH

Suzanna Higginson read her information to the council. The Miss America Organization is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance.

Participating in the Miss America system not only helps you pay for college and prepare for a career, it also provides an opportunity to gain additional life experience, working on issues of importance to society, enhancing your personal and professional skills and developing your performance-related and other talents.

With that said, this is why we are here tonight. We want to educate you on why it is so important to re-align ourselves with the Miss America Organization. We feel you didn't have proper knowledge, proper notification or proper representation on the importance of this program.

I am here as a spokesperson for the community, for past queens of Miss Salem, the current Miss Salem and any future Miss Salem. You have been told the franchise fee is \$1,700.00. The franchise fee is \$575.00. That is what the city would be responsible for, but covered by donations given to the Miss Salem program. \$400.00 for the Mini Miss to attend. This is covered by the parents, the Queen & the Little Miss Salem Days money. \$200.00 for the Children's Miracle Network. This is a responsibility of Miss Salem not the City. \$100.00 Hotel fee, \$100.00 production fee, \$275.00 CD fee. All which should be covered by the current Miss Salem. She can get donations or do fundraisers.

If money is the reason to drop the program did you know we give the Spanish Fork Junior Miss Pageant \$500.00 every year when Spanish Fork gives nothing, Payson gives nothing, Provo gives nothing, Springville gives nothing but little Salem gives \$500.00 and it doesn't even directly benefit our community. Something I want each of you to know that does benefit our community is the service the girls are required by the Miss America Organization to give to be eligible to attend Miss Utah. Each Miss Salem is required to give 200 hours of service. Let me share with you just a few of my favorite past Miss Salem platforms and the service they have rendered to benefit our community. Miss Salem brought recycling to Salem. The cement pad & painted back drop we enjoyed last Saturday night at the Salem Days pageant, and a self-propelled float. A past Miss Salem designed our City flag. Our Salem library, all the music and instruments donated by Miss Salem. We can't forget our Salem newsletter that keeps us posted on important notices and events every month. Miss Salem brought computers into our schools and we have education for our youth which is priceless. The list goes on and on.

The program has been around for many years. Without the Miss America Organization, we would have nothing to keep the girls accountable for this service and that alone would be a huge disservice to this community. We give so much money to the boys programs,

baseball, football, basketball, and wrestling. There are more programs for boys than there are for girls. We need to keep things equal, to have equality for both boys & girls. This is a perfect opportunity to develop well rounded young women.

We had 21 girls in the Little Miss Salem Days pageant. 21 girls who look up to our Miss Salem Royalty and support Miss Salem and I'm willing to bet 21 little girls who will grow up to be Miss Salem contestants and future Miss Salem's.

We are a talented community. I have watched our Miss Salem Royalty support this community. They made a boat and raced in the boat regatta, judged the baby contest, rode a steer in the little buckaroo rodeo, MC'd the Little Miss Salem Days Pageant; the list goes on & on.

I feel like it's time to recognize what these girls have put into this community and to put a small amount back into these young women. We have the money, we have a great community, and we have wonderful people volunteering their time for a great organization. What we need is your support.

Suzanna stated that the city contributes to the Junior Miss program, which is part of the South Utah County, and how it does not get any benefit from the Junior Miss, and how the girls are from other cities besides Salem. Usually only a couple of girls from Salem participate in it. She stated that Salem is the only city that participates, that Spanish Fork does not contribute to it. She feels that the money spent towards the Junior Miss could be spent for the Miss Salem pageant.

Councilperson Jorgensen asked that if the city does not participate in the Miss Utah organization then the girls that become Miss Salem would not be able to continue on into the Miss Utah pageant. He stated that when the city decided to get out of the Miss Utah Organization, he did not understand that, and feels that the girls should have an opportunity to move onto the Miss Utah.

Councilperson Gordon stated that he was not at the council meeting when the city decided to not be a part of the Miss Utah Organization.

Mayor Cope stated that when the city received the invoice to participate in the Miss Utah Organization that it was a concern.

Miss Spanish Fork Director stated that she also receives the same invoice, and that the city does not have to pay for the whole amount, that the only thing the city would need to pay is for the local licensing fee. She stated that the Miss Utah Organization is a great program, and the community service that the girls give is a great benefit to the city. She stated that Spanish Fork City pays for the licensing, the crown, the hotel fee, and the Miss Utah video. Spanish Fork is a great support to the program, and she feels that Salem City needs to give the girls an opportunity to the Miss Utah Pageant. She has property in Salem and would like to someday build here, but if the city is not in support of the Miss Utah Program, then she would have to think twice about building in Salem. She also

stated that she would be willing to pay out of her own pocket the money needed for licensing fees for Salem to participate in the Miss Utah.

It was also stated that the proceeds from the Little Miss Salem Pageant, that is done during Salem Days goes towards the portion of the invoice from Miss Utah.

Councilperson Durrant stated that there is a lot of support here for the Miss Salem, and a lot of people who are concerned about the outcome of it. She asked how many people are here to talk about the General Plan for Salem City, and the future of the planning. No one was here for the general plan.

Mayor Cope stated that the funding is a big issue for the pageant.

Suzanna Higginson stated that Sevier County dropped out of the Miss Utah Organization, and ever since they have not had the girls needed to do a pageant, that it has gone downhill since then. She stated that she too would have written a check to support the funding for the local licensing fee. She stated that all the girls gain a lot from participating in the pageant.

Miss Salem, Celsie Long, stated that when they were asked back at the council meeting when the city decided to withdrawal, if they were okay with it, they did not have an opportunity to respond. She really wants to participate in the Miss Utah pageant. The contract that she signed for the Miss Salem, states that she would be able to move onto the Miss Utah pageant, and she feels the city needs to follow through with the agreement.

Councilperson Rees asked how the city can get more girls to participate in the pageant. Suzanna stated that we need to get back into the Miss Utah, and then really promote the pageant.

Jean Hatch, who helps produce the Miss Utah Pageant, stated that she is not sure how each of the communities breaks out the amount for the Miss Utah, and what the city pays and what they require the girls to pay. She has been involved in it since 1972 and has seen how it benefits people and not just the girls involved. She feels the girls need an opportunity to move onto the Miss Utah Pageant.

Suzanna Higginson stated that we have had 21 little girls participate in the Little Miss Salem Pageant this year for Salem Days. She feels it is a small investment to the girls.

Jean Hatch said that not everyone is a pageant person, and she understands that. She feels that the \$1,700 is a small amount to pay for the event.

Kurt Christensen stated that he has donated a lot of money for the Miss Salem program, and feels that the city needs to be more supporting to them. The pageant deserves a little bit of money and needs to support the program.

Dan Higginson stated that the boys have sport programs that the city participates in, and helps them to move on to college programs, but there is nothing for the girls, and feels the pageant is a great program for the girls.

Alison Chuntz, the current Miss Salem Director, stated that when we received the invoice we were very concerned about how the city was going to pay for it. It was determined that the money spent for the Miss Utah would be better spent to help out the girls with the scholarship. She stated that she is not a pageant person, but she loved working with the girls. We tried to do what we thought was best and would benefit the girls more. We had seven girls sign up for the pageant, but two had to drop out for personal reasons. The scholarship money this year for Miss Salem will be \$2,500, \$1,500 for 1st runner up, and then \$500 for the three 2nd attendants. She had a great committee that really worked hard to make the pageant work. She feels that she does not have the time to help with the girls to move onto the Miss Utah pageant, and that if the city decided to go that way, she would need to resign.

Jeff Nielson stated that back in March when the city needed someone for the Miss Salem Director, that no one wanted that position, and so we put it out in the news letter. Alison stepped up and stated she would do it. If she would not have, then the pageant may not have happened this year. He stated that when the invoice came, that he and Alison discussed it and felt that it would be better to have the money go to the scholarships, so it was presented to the council who then made the decision in May to withdraw from the Miss Utah Organization. He stated that Alison did a great job to keep the pageant going and working with the girls.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Sterling Rees to continue with the Miss Utah Organization.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Sidney Jorgensen.

VOTE: (3 – Aye, 1 – Nay) Councilperson Sterling Rees; Aye, Councilperson Lynn Durrant; Nay, Councilperson Sidney Jorgensen; Aye, Councilperson Todd Gordon; Aye.

9. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Dave Anderson, who the city has hired to be the consultant for the General Plan, presented to the council the general plan. He stated that public hearing for the Planning and Zoning happened and he has taken their recommendations and made some changes. He stated that the public hearing for the city council meeting will be held on September 8th.

Dave went over his presentation. He stated that the changes from the map are from the recommendations he has heard. He stated he has heard a lot that Salem does not want to change. He showed the interstate interchange and what would be proposed for that area, and it could really benefit the city with commercial and feels it is a key area.

He stated that the general plan is the blue print for the zoning in the city. The zoning defines what people are able to do with their property. The zoning laws will need to be drafted and go along with the maps. He stated that there are a lot of options, especially along SR 198. He stated that the current plan has the maps going with property lines and boundaries; he stated that the new map gives a general area, and that a zoning map would be more detailed. Also with the zones that are in the general plan, the city will need to create zones for it and maps. He would recommend that the next step would be to do a zoning map.

The council feels that Dave has done a great job with the General Plan.

10. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2010

MOTION BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant to approve the minutes of August 4, 2010 as written.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Todd Gordon.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

11. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT

MOTION BY: Councilperson Sidney Jorgensen to approve the bills for payment.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Sterling Rees.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

12. PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Cope excused Police Chief Brad James.

Attorney Baker reported that during Salem Days, the police department made a major drug bust.

Councilperson Gordon reported that the fire chief, Clyde McKean, is going to resign the first of October. Beginning the first part of September resumes will be turned into the Mayor for consideration for the new chief.

COUNCIL REPORTS

13. MAYOR JONATHAN F. COPE

Mayor Cope reported that the auditors will be here at the end of the month, and will be spending about a week with the city office staff.

14. COUNCILPERSON LYNN DURRANT

Jeff Nielson reported that in the budget this year we talked about the possibility of getting a new power service truck. The power department currently has the bucket truck and it works well, but not for all situations. The power department would like to look at getting a new mini bucket truck. He stated that Clark Crook, the Power Superintendent, is here to talk about it.

Clark Crook stated he has gone out and gotten information on a mini bucket truck. Altec is a company that builds and services them locally. Right now the power department has a 1997 service truck, with over 100,000 miles on it. Last time we got it inspected it cost some money to get it to pass. If we were to get a small truck with an aerial on it, it would really help when we have to go into people's yards, and it is always good to have two when working on the over head power lines. Right now our big bucket truck is in for recall and getting fixed. We have been able to use some of the other entities mini bucket trucks. The other night we had a call out that took about six hours to fix. If we would have had another bucket truck, it could have cut that time in half. We also got some money from an incident that happened back in 07, that we thought we would never get, and that money can help go for the payment on the truck, along with doing a lease for it.

Councilperson Durrant also wanted to thank Matt Marziale and the Recreation office for the work they have done for Salem Days.

15. COUNCILPERSON TERRY A. FICKLIN

16. COUNCILPERSON STERLING REES

Councilperson Rees stated that he feels the council really needs to help sell the smart yard product. He feels it is a great product.

17. COUNCILPERSON SID JORGENSEN

Councilperson Jorgensen thanked the city staff for the work they did for Salem Days.

18. COUNCILPERSON TODD R. GORDON

19. DAVE JOHNSON, BUILDING DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC WORKS

20. BRUCE WARD, CITY ENGINEER/ PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

21. ATTORNEY S. JUNIOR BAKER.

ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION BY: Councilperson Sidney Jorgensen to adjourn city council meeting.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant.

VOTE: All Affirmative (4-0).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:45

Jeffrey Nielson, City Recorder