

Minutes of the Salem City Council Meeting held on January 16, 2008 in the Salem City Council Chambers.

WORK SESSION CONVENED AT: 6:00 p.m.

Councilpersons Lynn Durrant, Terry Ficklin and Todd Gordon were sworn into office by Jeffrey Nielson. Afterwards, a short reception was held so the public could meet the council.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CONVENED AT: 7:00 p.m.

CONDUCTING: Mayor J. Lane Henderson

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor J. Lane Henderson
Councilperson Lynn Durrant
Councilperson Brent V. Hanks
Councilperson Terry A. Ficklin
Councilperson Stanley W. Green
Councilperson Todd R. Gordon

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeffrey Nielson, City Recorder
Chief Brad James, Police Chief
David Johnson, Public Works
Junior Baker, City Attorney

Excused:

Bruce Ward, City Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT

Tyler Shepherd
Erman Stone
Mark Zoritsky
John Breeze
Craig Sacco
Randy Skinner
Jared Finkenthal

Victor Losser
Wes Jenkins
Ezra McMullin
Zac Ence
Spencer Strong
Reed Cornaby

Lana Harris
Alyson Jenkins
Tanner Breeze
Kyle Sacco
Tyler Skinner
Alex Chambers

1. VOLUNTEER MOTIVATIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Mayor Henderson asked if anyone would like to give a motivational or inspirational message. Reed Cornaby stated he would like to offer a motivational message in the form of a prayer.

2. INVITATION TO SAY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Henderson 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. CITY APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Henderson stated that we needed to appoint a new treasurer. Deanne Ainge, our prior treasurer, found employment elsewhere. Jane Topham was offered, and accepted, the treasurer position. Jane currently works for the city as Payroll/Accounts Payable Clerk. Her position was opened to the public and Heather Brindley was hired. Tonight we need to appoint Jane Topham as Salem City Treasurer, and Jeffrey Nielson as Salem City Finance Director/ Recorder.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant to appoint Jane Topham as City Treasurer and to reappoint Jeffrey Nielson as the Finance Director/Recorder.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Stanley Green.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

4. SWEAR IN CITY TREASURER

Jane Topham was sworn in as the newly appointed city treasurer by Jeffrey Nielson.

5. CLYDE BRADFORD – CARRIAGE RIDES

Mayor Henderson stated that Clyde Bradford could not be here tonight, but asked to be on the next city council agenda.

6. WES JENKINS – SUGGESTION FOR UTILITY BILLING

Wes Jenkins explained that last council meeting he came in to ask the council to wave a late fee on his utility bill that he had paid late, and felt that it was an honest mistake. He explained that the council denied him his request. He had done some research, and felt that he has a suggestion for the council to consider. In his research he determined that, with someone who is considered to be in the poverty level, that the \$25 late fee would be 25% of their weekly budget for food. He feels that we need to be more understanding when someone has been late with their utility bill, find somehow to be fair, and allow a late fee to be waived. He understands you can not do it every time, but feels the option should be there.

Wes had also done research on some of the near by cities and what they charge for a late fee. Spanish Fork is 5%, Provo is 1.5%, Payson is 2%, Springville is 1.5% and Salem City is 19%. He would like the council to considered lowering the percentage so that it is in line with other cities. He would also like to see the council be a little more lenient with the late fee; have the ability to allow someone a one time late fee. If someone has been current every month, then one time they are late because of a legitimate reason, then the council could wave that one time.

Councilperson Hanks asked how many days do you allow it to be late, and how many times do you allow a waiver to be given to one person. Wes stated that allow a time frame of about 5 days, and to only allow the one time waiver.

Councilperson Durrant mentioned to Wes that the council is looking into the late fee, and lowering the fee for next budget year.

Councilperson Gordon stated that one reason for the late fee to be higher is it helps to make sure people are paying their bills on time.

Mayor Henderson feels that the city does need to look at the late fee policy, and would like to have Councilperson Ficklin look into a policy and see what we can change. He appreciates Wes coming in and expressing his opinion, and would like to have him help Councilperson Ficklin with a new policy.

7. CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT MORE THAN \$3,500,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SALES TAX REVENUE AND REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2008 OF SALEM CITY, UTAH; AND RELATED MATTERS

Mayor Henderson stated that we are doing an addition to the city office, police department, and library. He turned the time over to Jonathan Ward, from Zions Bank, who is our Financial Advisor for the city on this project.

Jonathon Ward stated that this is the first step in the bond process. The parameters are setting the limits for the bonding. He stated that many times cities have set their parameters to low, and later found out they needed more money, and had to start the bonding process over. He also stated that we don't want to set the parameters too high. He stated that his job as the financial advisor is to come up with the best funding for the city. He stated that the parameters for this bond have been set for \$3,500,000 and a 12% interest. He stated that the interest is set high, and feels that we should be able to get the funding for about 4.3%. He stated that when the funding process begins, especially going after private funding, that the higher interest rate for the parameters helps with the funding. When the bids are received for the funding, we will come back to the council for approval. He stated that the parameters are not binding, but it is the first step of the process. He stated that this will be a Sales/Use Tax Bond, and payment of the bonds will come from Public Safety Impact Fees and Sales/Use Tax.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Terry Ficklin to Approve Resolution 11608 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Not More Than \$3,500,000 Aggregate Principal Amount of Sales Tax Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2008 Of Salem City, Utah; and Related Matters.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Stanley Green.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

Reed Cornaby asked if there will be a public hearing on the issues of the bonds. Mayor Henderson stated that there will be on February 20th. Reed stated that, with the economy struggling, it is a scary time to be going into debt. He feels that the city should not go into anymore debt. He also feels that the city has been spending a lot of money with new trucks, guns, fire equipment, etc. Mayor Henderson stated that he and the council are also worried about the economy, and we are looking out for the city. Councilperson Todd Gordon stated that we have looked into other alternatives for funding on the city office building, but have fallen through.

8. NEW COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Henderson read the new city council assignments:

Your service to the community will be measured by not only caring *about* but rather caring *for* your assignments.

Mayor Henderson:

Public Safety, Finances/Budget, New City Improvements, Development Review Committee, Chair Mayor & Council Advisory Board, Chair Public Safety Committee, Chair Economic Development Board, City Employees, City Website, Salem Days, and Salem Wetlands coordinator

Councilperson Lynn Durrant:

Electrical, UMPA Representative, Miss Salem Pageant, Library Board Representative, Recreation, Mayor Pro Tem, Co-Chair Mayor Council Advisory Board, Emergency Preparedness Committee, and Co-Chair Utility Board

Councilperson Terry A. Ficklin:

Solid Waste, Solid Waste Board, Chair Utility Board, Sound Technician, and City Office

Councilperson Stanley W. Green:

Sewer, Chair Salem/Elk Ridge Sewer Board, Motor Pool, Water, P.I. Representative, and South Utah Valley Municipal Water Assoc. Representative

Councilperson Brent V. Hanks:

Roads/Sidewalks, Co-Chair Economic Development Board, Parks, City Shops, Community Center, and Chair Pond Town Christmas

Councilperson Todd Gordon:

Cemetery, Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July, Senior Citizen Programs, Eagle Projects, Youth Council, Chamber of Commerce Representative, Luminaries Program, Solid Waste Tech Board, South Utah Valley Municipal Water Association Alternate, Co-Chair Recreation and City Float

9. NEW PLANNING & ZONING MEMBERS

Mayor Henderson stated that he has asked Jon Cope to be on the Planning & Zoning committee.

MOTION BY: Councilperson Brent Hanks to approve Jon Cope to be on the Planning & Zoning Committee.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Stanley Green.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

10. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2008

MOTION BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2008 as written.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Brent Hanks.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

11. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT

MOTION BY: Councilperson Brent Hanks to Approve the Bills for Payment.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Lynn Durrant.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

12. OPEN DISCUSSION

Don Cole stated that there is a flood map zone for the city and explained where the flood zone is located. He stated that the map and study are very old, and a lot of changes have happened since, and feels that it would be very beneficial for a new study to be done. He has talked with Bruce Ward, Salem City Engineer, about it. He stated that it is a big process to get approval to update it. Attorney Baker stated that this is a process that the city needs to start. He feels that there are grants available to help pay for the process.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief James stated that Officer Matt Bell is in training with the new K-9. He stated that when he is finished with the training, he will do a demonstration to the city council.

Captain Erman Stone stated that they have three new members for the ambulance.

Mayor Henderson stated that Councilperson Todd Gordon, was the former Fire Chief, and has done a great job with the fire department. He would like him to continue to be on

the fire department, and to help him work with the public safety as one of his assignments.

COUNCIL REPORTS

14. MAYOR J. LANE HENDERSON

Mayor Henderson stated that the ice skate rink is up and going. There was some discussion about having a fire pit there for people to get warm. Councilperson Gordon, former fire chief, mentioned that the open fire would be illegal, and suggested looking into other ways to provide heat.

15. COUNCILPERSON LYNN DURRANT

Councilperson Durrant mentioned that the power outage the other day was caused by a goose hitting the power lines by the sewer plant.

There has been a request for Ballroom Dancing classes. There is someone who is willing to get it started, but needs a place to hold the classes. Feel that if we have the city recreation department sponsors it, that it would be a city function and could be held at the civic center.

16. COUNCILPERSON TERRY A. FICKLIN

17. COUNCILPERSON STANLEY W. GREEN

18. COUNCILPERSON BRENT V. HANKS

19. COUNCILPERSON TODD GORDON

20. DAVE JOHNSON, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Dave Johnson stated that the city office addition plans are available. We have had a lot of contractors pick up the plans so they can bid on the project. He stated that the bids will be opened on the 30th of January, and then awarded on the 20th of February.

21. BRUCE WARD, CITY ENGINEER

22. ATTORNEY S. JUNIOR BAKER.

ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION BY: Councilperson Terry Ficklin to Adjourn City Council Meeting.

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Stanley Green.

VOTE: All Affirmative (5-0).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:30 p.m.

Jeffrey Nielson, City Recorder