

Minutes of the West Bountiful City Council meeting held on **Tuesday, December 16, 2015** at West Bountiful City Hall, 550 N 800 West, Davis County, Utah.

Those in attendance:

MEMBERS: Mayor Kenneth Romney, Council members James Ahlstrom, James Bruhn, Kelly Enquist, Debbie McKean, Mark Preece

STAFF: Duane Huffman (City Administrator), Steve Doxey (City Attorney), Todd Hixson (Police Chief), Paul Holden (Golf Director), Steve Maughan (Public Works Director), Cathy Brightwell (City Recorder/ Secretary)

VISITORS: Jennifer Nielson, Lane Beattie

Mayor Romney called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mark Preece gave an Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by James Bruhn.

1. Accept Agenda

MOTION: *James Bruhn moved to approve the agenda as written. Debbie McKean seconded the Motion which PASSED by unanimous vote of all members present.*

2. Public Comment

Jennifer Nielsen, 669 N 810 West, is the PTA President for West Bountiful Elementary School. She said she is here to talk about getting a new school in West Bountiful. The existing school is in very bad shape and she described several safety issues, including pieces of the ceiling falling. Something is needed; if not a full build, a re-build. She explained that several years ago a group, including Chad Turner and Jone Sun, worked hard to put information together for the School District to show the need for a new school. At that time they were told West Bountiful was second in line as far as schools in need. Over the last two years more demand has come forward from other schools so there is now concern that our school will slip off the list.

Ms. Nielsen said they are hoping to start an online petition. They would like to get on the school district bond in the fall election. Ms. Nielsen and the PTA are trying to build public support. She asked if the City could help get the word out. There was discussion about an article for the February newsletter and putting information on the city website and social media.

Representatives from the PTA would like to come back in January to give more details. She will check to see if January 6 works and let the City know.

3. Presentation by Lane Beattie, CEO of the Salt Lake City Area Chamber of Commerce, regarding the Utah Transportation Coalition.

Lane Beattie has been CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber for 11.5 yrs. He thanked the City for asking him to come speak. He said he speaks with a lot of people across the country and said it is

always nice to be home. He is proud to be a West Bountiful resident and his three married children are also residents. He added that he is extremely appreciative of the service he and his family have received from the police department over the years.

With regard to the state's transportation needs, Mr. Beattie said Utah's population is expected to double by 2050. He spoke about the success of the I-15 re-build through Salt Lake, the TRAX system, and transportation projects in Utah County. Support for these projects, and the taxes used for funding, has come from the business community. The business community recognized that investments in transportation are critical. Results were great; every project on the initial list is done including Legacy highway and the Utah County I-15 project, and without any federal funding. Major companies relocate here because of our work force and good public transportation.

But, we are falling behind especially in the area of local roads so the Transportation Coalition, which is a group of business people and communities, is working to gather support to get better funding for local needs. One idea is to index motor fuel tax to inflation, but the Coalition is not set on any particular approach.

The Coalition's campaign is to find a sustainable funding source which will require a broad discussion regarding taxes. There is a problem with legislative earmarked funds; it is time to look at the tax structure of the state.

Mayor Romney asked if the main focus is now more B&C road funds. Mr. Beattie responded that there is no main focus.

Council member Ahlstrom asked what the City's obligations are under the proposed agreement for \$250. He said it looks like the City will get a lot of services for very little cost. Mr. Beattie responded that there is no obligation of the City; these funds collectively will get information to all municipalities to help citizens understand what they're being asked to support. It will provide money for advertising, and other forms of information to educate the public.

Council member Enquist thanked Mr. Beattie for his nice comments about West Bountiful at the ULCT conference.

4. Consider approval of Resolution 353-14, An Agreement for Professional Services between West Bountiful City and Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Romney talked about how transportation improvements benefit West Bountiful, but he is not sure the legislature will take on the problem and deal with it. He believes they do need to look at the tax structure. Council member Ahlstrom commented that the Chamber needs a little funding for public relations. He added that we will not control how they use it and we may or may not like it, but we don't have to use the materials they provide. It seems to be a good way to stay informed for little cost.

MOTION: *James Ahlstrom moved to approve Resolution 353-14, An Agreement for Professional Services between West Bountiful City and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. Debbie McKean seconded the Motion which PASSED.*

The vote was recorded as follows:

James Ahlstrom – Aye
James Bruhn – Aye
Kelly Enquist – Aye
Debbie McKean – Aye
Mark Preece – Aye

5. Discussion on tentative plans for restroom and fencing serving Prospector Trail/Lakeside Golf Course.

Restrooms -

Mayor Romney explained that we are working on preliminary designs for a restroom to be shared by the golf course and Prospector trail, and will come up with budgets based on proposed designs to determine feasibility. Funding could come from RAP tax, or we could also use park impact fees. The preliminary design includes fixtures on each side with a small storage area in the middle, and access from the trail that will need to meet ADA requirements.

Duane Huffman put up a map to show where the restroom is proposed to go. Council member McKean expressed concern that it will draw people, especially kids, onto the course which could result in problems on the course and vandalism. There was discussion about whether the golf course is able to adequately police the area to find people golfing without paying. Mr. Huffman suggested that one option is to move the restroom closer to the trail so we would not be inviting the public as deep into course. Paul Holden pointed out that they have Marshalls who watch the course for people who are not supposed to be there, and added that the proposed location was selected because there are no balls coming into the area.

There was additional discussion about limiting the restroom for golf course use versus sharing with the trail. Where is the greater need? Many people using the trail would benefit from the facilities; it would be a great amenity. Council member Enquist commented that the restroom will cost a lot of money and the outdated play equipment at the Park needs to be considered. He asked which one is a greater priority to our citizens. Council member McKean asked about the need for water fountains and asked Mr. Holden his thoughts. Paul explained that water is available at each hole; he continued that not having restrooms is a big issue for women and has caused us to lose several women's tournaments. He added that he would prefer it to be limited to the golf course, but if the only way to get a restroom is to share it with the trail, he would gladly share it.

Mayor Romney noted that as long as we have money for Park equipment, we have the ability to do both. Mr. Huffman discussed funding sources and made corrections to the spread sheet explaining that projected RAP revenues are \$500k instead of \$650k. If the restroom is limited to golf course use, funding would have to come from RAP. If it is also used for the trail, park impact fees can be used.

Council member McKean said she believes there is a need for both, but does not want them to share a facility. Mayor Romney responded that one option would be to build it as a unisex facility with 2 stalls on the golf course side and one on the trail side.

Council member Bruhn believes the restrooms are needed and should serve both the trail and the golf course.

Chief Hixson expressed a public safety concern about having isolated facilities on the trail with no good access. He noted that if it is on the golf course, the staff can lock it up when they close

to reduce vandalism. A secure gate should be used to keep people from gaining entry from the trail after hours.

Mayor Romney commented that it would be good to have the building standing out by itself so it can be easily seen rather than in a area of vegetation where people can hide in bushes, etc.

Staff was directed to look at designs that address the above concerns and come back with a proposal.

Fencing on Prospector trail –

Mr. Huffman shared where we are with a proposal to place fencing next to the trail to protect people from misdirected golf balls. He said they are considering a 1” mesh chain link material similar to Rose Park. Staff is considering 8 ft., 10 ft., or 12’ tall options, as well as options for the total length. 1100 ft of 8’ fencing is estimated to cost approximately \$44k, although it probably makes sense to go 1500 ft.

Duane said it is important to get the fencing up in the spring and asked for permission to move forward with planning. He explained that funding can come from either RAP tax or park impact fees. Council agreed to move forward on this project.

6. Discussion on the creation and appointment of council members to administrative committees.

Council member McKean voiced concern that we have gone a year without departmental committees and feels the Council has lost touch with what is going on. Mayor Romney explained that many of our committees, such as Arts Council and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee, had not been set up correctly but that has now been fixed. Other committees that focused on specific departments or areas such as the parks committee, golf committee and the public safety committee were also not set up correctly. There was discussion about whether these committees made recommendations or decisions and the role of the council liaison. It was felt by some that proposals were taken to Council implying decisions had already been made causing council members to feel they were left out of the process. There was also concern about compliance with open meeting laws.

Mayor Romney stated that these committees may have served a purpose when there was a lower level of confidence and trust with the staff, but now we have hired professional people that we have confidence will do the job. He suggested that regular work sessions could be held to talk about things like parks, golf and police. Having everyone involved in these discussions would eliminate anyone from feeling left out of decisions.

Mayor Romney asked each member to share their thoughts.

Council member McKean likes the idea of having a work session every other meeting so they can be involved in what is going on. She would also like to include field trips as necessary, using the golf course restroom location as an example.

Council member Ahlstrom is ok with additional committees as long the Council establishes them. He added that no one intended people to feel left out of the process, but they did. He also appreciates the good staff weekly meeting notes that keeps them informed as to what’s going on.

Council member Preece expressed his confidence in the good people that have been hired and suggested they be left to do their jobs.

Council member Bruhn said he enjoyed the departmental meetings because it was an opportunity to get down to the nitty-gritty and discuss things that may not have otherwise come out. He acknowledged that he can go to Duane or Chief to get some of the same information now, and he also appreciates the weekly management team minutes.

Council member Enquist stated he likes the old Parks committee. He said committee discussions were intended to be communicated to city council so they would understand the issues as recommendations were made to them, but apparently that was not done.

Mayor Romney will look at options. He believes there were good intentions and many good things came from the committees, but he understands that some level of need existed due to previous administrations where things were perceived to be hidden.

Chief Hixson commented that these committees take a lot of staff time to ensure that open meeting requirements are met.

7. Finance Report

Duane Huffman explained that due to changes in staff, this is the first report of FY15 and includes data through October. He discussed several items on the Report. General fund revenues are \$550k above the same time last year due to increases in received taxes, permits, and licenses, etc. General fund expenses are \$200k lower compared to last year. He also highlighted the water fund, noting lower water revenues due to a reduction in rates and a wet spring/summer, and hiring a new employee with his associated expenses.

He discussed potential budget amendments needed to correct mistakes in the original budget in the RAP tax fund.

Mr. Huffman explained that the City ended last year with more money than expected. He said that the City is in its best financial condition since the 2008 recession and maybe longer. He recommended that for revenue stability, the goal should be to build up reserves in the Golf Fund. A recession or bad weather could easily cause problems at any time so it is important to have a reserve.

Mayor Romney commented that we can look at paying back the water fund and fixing other funds in next year's budget

8. Police Report

Chief Hixson talked about new personnel and how hard his officers are working. He said they are all doing a great job.

The 2014 Beer Tax report was accepted by the state; this grant funds our part time alcohol enforcement program. The annual Justice Agency Grant for \$7500 was received and used for equipment including 5 VHF radios to serve as a backup system in the vehicles; a new computer for Lt. Hamilton; 5 more body cameras; 3 new command boards to be used for large scale incidents when a formal command center is not available; and reflective coats for officers.

He answered questions about body cameras and associated issues. He said we have had them for a long time and it has not been issue for us. Every complaint we have received, the video has

exonerated the officer. He explained there are always policy and legal issues to consider with the cameras.

Council member McKean asked for a report on how many times our officers help other communities. Chief Hixson explained that we are working with FATPOT to track outside assists by agency but it is taking some time. He gave examples of good actions by our officers, and talked about increasing our presence in schools.

9. Public Works Report

Steve Maughan reported that the 500 South waterline 18" transmission pipe is finally complete and functioning as part of I-15 reconstruction, and we are at full storage capacity again.

The 400 North line is being replaced from the east side of the freeway to 660 West. Two water meters had to be relocated. Sixteen foot bore pits have been dug, but boring won't take place until January 6. We had old cast lines so it will be nice to have a new line; it's a good long term fix.

The Birnam Woods drainage ditch is complete. Some finish grading, seeding and repairs to the trail will be done as soon as weather permits. It has been a big improvement already; the ground is drying up.

We are working to improve shoulders on some streets and fill holes with a new cold patch material. It seems to be a great product.

We helped facilitate moving good topsoil donated from a resident to the golf course to shape in some new mounds between holes 1 and 9.

Steve talked about how great his crew has been through all the hard work and water leaks; kudos to them. He said he couldn't be happier with Jake; he is a hard worker and is doing a great job.

10. Administrative Report

Duane Huffman reported a call he received from County Commissioner Petroff giving us official notice that the County will cancel the justice court service they provide to us effective December 2016. He explained it had nothing to do with West Bountiful but was the result of other issues. We are talking with other cities, like Centerville, to see if they could take our cases. The change would not take place until after December 2016.

Duane talked about having work sessions in January. On January 6 he would like to discuss the personnel policy manual and would like comments from Council prior to the meeting. Other issues for the work session include a Wage study, a Park discussion, and the scope and funding of the coming year's capital projects. There was a suggestion that a retreat may be another way to cover these issues.

Mr. Huffman also commented that Holly donated bikes and helmets for Christmas that were distributed to local children via the Elf tree.

He also reminded Council that it needs to be careful about support for issues like the earlier presentation by the PTA. He said anyone can individually promote Bond issues, but the City needs to be careful when commenting on electoral issues. It's okay to share information but not to use tax funds to support an issue.

11. Mayor/Council Reports

James Ahlstrom – No report

Mark Preece reported that the Centerville Planning Commission voted 4-3 to recommend the City Council move forward with a 45 units/acre zoning change for the West Centerville Neighborhood project. He also mentioned that there was discussion from other interested parties that there may be other proposals coming forward.

James Bruhn asked Steve Maughan to check on areas of road sinking around gas holes across from his house. Steve will call Questar.

Debbie McKean asked Duane Huffman and Paul Holden to present a Golf report in an upcoming meeting.

Kelly Enquist shared the news that Dewey Peterson recently passed away. He also thanked the Council and staff for an entertaining year, and wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Mayor Romney shared an interesting statistic. He compared West Bountiful's personal property tax value, of approximately \$200m, with other cities in Davis County. There are only two cities that are higher - North Salt Lake just more than us and Clearfield has \$250m. He thanked everyone for all they do.

12. Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2014 City Council Meeting.

MOTION: *James Ahlstrom moved to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 meeting as presented. Mark Preece seconded the Motion which PASSED by unanimous vote of all members present.*

Adjourn

MOTION: *James Ahlstrom moved to adjourn this meeting of the West Bountiful City Council at 11:17 pm. James Bruhn seconded the Motion which PASSED by unanimous vote of all members present.*

The foregoing was approved by the West Bountiful City Council by unanimous vote of all members present on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Cathy Brightwell
Cathy Brightwell (City Recorder)

