

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
June 3, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
	D.J. Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Joe Olson	Councilmember
	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
	Robin Troxell	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Boss	City Recorder
	Dave Burnett	Public Power Director
	Mike Christiansen	City Attorney
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief
	Derek Oyler	Finance Director
	Kristina Rasmussen	Deputy City Recorder
	Jason Roberts	City Administrator
	Cami Sabin	Management Analyst Intern
	Brandon Thueson	Fire Chief
	Mike Young	Assistant Fire Chief

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Reverence Period was given by Bishop Branden Braegger. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Olson.

AGENDA

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

New Hires in Public Works

CONSENT

Request for Approval of May 20, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Request to Write-off Accounts Due to Bankruptcy or Being Sent to Collections

Reappointments to the Library Board and Advisory Council on Aging

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM BRIGHAM CITY RESIDENTS AND THOSE PAYING
PROPERTY TAXES IN BRIGHAM CITY**

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Ordinance Adding Section 13.05.01, Annual Fire Restriction Order, or alternatively, Consideration of Resolution Issuing Annual Fire Restriction Order

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Citizen Quality of Life Survey Results

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE
OF REAL PROPERTY**

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

Mayor Vincent recognized Scott Rutherford who was recently hired as a Water System/Equipment Operator I in the Public Works Department.

CONSENT

Approval of May 20, 2021 Budget Work Session and City Council Meeting Minutes

Request to Write-off Accounts Due to Bankruptcy or Being Sent to Collections

A list of accounts totaling \$1,525.14 was presented to be removed from the City's system due to customers taking out bankruptcy or being sent to collections.

Reappointments to the Library Board and Advisory Council on Aging

Mayor Vincent recognized Joe Dutson and Joan Peterson for their service to the Library Board, and Janet Bass and Grant Christiansen for their service to the Advisory Council on Aging.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Councilmember Bott, seconded by Councilmember Olson, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Juliana Larsen – Regarding the employee incentive program discussed at the May 20, 2021 Budget Work Session, Mrs. Larsen commented on longevity timing and offered alternatives to the travel vouchers. She also expressed concerns about using tax revenue to fund the program.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Farr – spoke about an email received from a City employee addressing the employee incentive program. He liked the suggestion for a stipend of some sort.

Councilmember Bott – attended the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. They discussed Peach Days and are working on getting a band for the concert. Councilmember Bott expressed hope that people would take pride in Brigham City and, similar to last year's virtual Peach Days activities, do service for others. He complimented David Walker for his work with the hanging flower baskets on Main Street.

Councilmember Peterson – attended the Box Elder High School graduation and congratulated the seniors for their achievements.

Councilmember Olson – was thankful for those who currently serve in our military and those who gave everything to protect our freedoms. He recognized their different backgrounds and the lack of racism and prejudice in their sacrifices. He challenged everyone to be more involved in events and more unified as a community. Councilmember Olson expressed appreciation for the Youth City Council and the services they are involved in, and he commented on the Boys and Girls Club and the plans they are working on.

Councilmember Troxell – The Yard of the Month was awarded and Councilmember Troxell encouraged everyone to submit nominations. She cautioned against over-watering and supported following State water restrictions. Prior to the last Council meeting, she attended a CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) meeting. They are putting together programs to encourage citizens to take emergency response classes.

Mayor Vincent – had the opportunity to visit the cemetery on Memorial Day and was humbled by all the flags. He expressed his appreciation for those who have sacrificed for us including law enforcement and emergency services. He was proud of the seniors who graduated and are working hard on their education. Mayor Vincent felt that the nation needs to work together regardless of beliefs. He conveyed his appreciation for the Council and dedicated City staff.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Ordinance Adding Section 13.05.01, Annual Fire Restriction Order, or alternatively, Consideration of Resolution Issuing Annual Fire Restriction Order

Assistant Chief Young came to the podium and introduced Tommy Thompson, GIS IT Director for Forestry Fire Statements. Mr. Thompson explained that the goal of doing the risk assessment was to reduce the

possibility of suffering harm and loss to people, infrastructure, and habitat. Mr. Thompson spoke of the three primary outputs that people should be familiar with:

1. The Threat Index – a measure of the wildfire threat related to the likelihood of an acre burning.
2. The Effects Index – the index that identifies where valuable resources and assets could be affected by wildland fire and where the fires are very costly to suppress.
3. The Risk Index – this combines the Threat Index with the Effects Index.

Mr. Thompson recited 2021 Utah wildfire statistics. He also mentioned Utah is in a severe drought and stressed the importance of fire restrictions during a drought. There have been 293 fires in the State with Box Elder County having 10 fires so far this year. 92% of fires are caused by humans and many of the fires are on private land. Mr. Thompson displayed a live viewer map on the screen that explained drivers for fire restriction areas include the wildland development areas and the highly valuable resources and assets; namely, drinking water, forest assets, infrastructure (houses, power lines and roads). Chief Thueson came to the podium and explained that they look at this map to get information when they are looking at imposing restrictions to specific areas. The map showed some red areas on the west side of town, but the topography there is flat there so fire will not develop quickly and fire resources can easily access the area. The east bench area, however, is difficult terrain, hard to access, and has poor water supply.

Assistant Chief Young explained that some of the boundaries near 200 South on the restricted areas map in the proposed Ordinance were changed as requested by the Council. No changes were made to the north end of Highland Boulevard due to the risks in that area. As the Council requested Assistant Chief Young investigated other Utah cities. Ninety-nine cities have enacted firework restrictions. Some cities use signage advising of firework restriction areas. Signage would not be cost effective for Brigham City as 40 signs would be needed at \$200 per sign.

Mr. Christiansen presented options for an ordinance or resolution. He explained the purpose of an ordinance is to allow implementation of punishment. Resolutions are for informative purposes and policies. Historically, Brigham City has been using resolutions. Prosecution and collection actions have relied on State code to pursue restitution. An ordinance is preferred to a resolution if the boundary line will be the most specific provision and to make sure it is enforceable. Assistant Chief Young and Chief Thueson preferred an ordinance opposed to a resolution. Councilmember Olson suggested language be included for evaluations and modifications of the ordinance as needed. Councilmember Troxell suggested a 5-year review cycle.

Councilmember Peterson pointed out that the restricted area language in the proposed ordinance does not match Exhibit A in the southwest part of town. There was a discussion about Highland Boulevard. Councilmember Peterson proposed language for several of the restricted areas – everything east of, and including properties adjoining Highland Boulevard, Highway 91, and Michelle Drive. Councilmember Peterson felt the areas at 6th and 7th East, Radio Hill, and the area behind the houses on 350 South were not at risk for fire due to the proximity of the Staker Parson pit. Chief Thueson's concern at Radio Hill was the infrastructure and the upslope terrain. He stated they are trying to create a safe zone in the high-risk areas where factors involved include difficulty in suppression, homes and development, infrastructure, and minimal water sheds. Councilmember Peterson felt the ordinance was vague and difficult for residents to understand.

MOTION: Councilmember Olson made a motion to approve the Ordinance Adding Section 13.05.01, Annual Fire Restriction Order, with the map as displayed in Exhibit A and including the language proposed by Councilmember Peterson, and with the provision for reviews every five years. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bott.

Roll Call:	Councilmember Farr	Aye
	Councilmember Bott	Aye
	Councilmember Peterson	Nay
	Councilmember Olson	Aye
	Councilmember Troxell	Nay

DISCUSSION ITEM

Citizen Quality of Life Survey Results

Ms. Sabin presented the results of the Quality of Life Survey. The survey was distributed to 315 people over a 2-week period from March 9 to March 23. A total of 225 responses were received for a 71.4% response rate. Her presentation divided the survey into four sections.

Section 1: Satisfaction with the quality of life in Brigham City – Average Rating 4.11/5.00

The top five things participants liked were new businesses and jobs, Main Street improvements, small town feel, community events and activities, and the splash pad. The top five things participants did not like were limited options for retail and dining, empty buildings especially along Main Street, rising prices, lack of sidewalks and bike lanes, and the perception that leaders do not listen. The top six improvements participants would most like Brigham City to make over the next five years were greater variety of retail stores, greater variety of restaurants, trails, sidewalks and bike lanes, improvements to Main Street, and increased community events and activities.

Section 2: Brigham City departments and services

Police Department – Participant concerns were theft, vandalism, drugs, speeding, illegal traffic maneuvers, and reckless driving. Participants would like to see more animal control enforcement concerning barking dogs and expressed a desire for weekend staff. Ms. Sabin stated overall this was very positive feedback for the Police Department. Councilmember Peterson agreed stating he deals with enforcement every day and the numbers for the Police Department were really good.

Brigham City Fire Department - had the most positive feedback out of all the departments. Comments included the expense of ambulance services, why firefighters respond with a lot of equipment, and why firetrucks are driven when not on an emergency.

Services - showed the recycling program had the lowest positive response. Comments about the program related to high costs, lack of acceptance of materials, lack of bins in apartment complexes, and how the opt out system was rolled out. Garbage collection comments included skipped cans and streets. Feedback on the water rate were related to high costs. There were also comments on a lack of solar incentives. Ms. Sabin stated a lot of the dissatisfaction comes from citizens not getting information.

Recreation - Participants commented that the pool should be free or discounted for residents and have extended hours on evenings and Sundays. For City parks, comments included a need for more swings, and restrooms availability. Youth and Senior Citizen programs came in with the lowest satisfaction rate overall. Participants would like to see more of a variety of programs.

Participants would like to see street surface maintenance. They requested more prominent lighting in residential areas. There were concerns with Main Street trees causing limited visibility. 73% of the participants rated the value of the service received from the City for their tax dollars good to excellent. Overall participants felt Brigham City is a good place to live and they feel safe and proud to live in the City. The survey showed a need for better communication and information letting citizens know how they can make a complaint, or let the City know how they are feeling.

Section 3: Neighborhood-specific concerns and interactions with City employees

Speeding cars, unmaintained yards and poor street lighting were the top three responses overall. When asked if they had contacted a City office in the last year and how satisfied they were with the City's response, the average rating was 3.64/5.0. Participants reported unresolved problems, lack of returned calls or emails, incorrect/incomplete information given by employees, or resolutions not meeting expectations. When asked for suggestions, comments, or questions for those managing Brigham City, comments included continued input from residents, improved public information, and focus on current residents over outside interests. 36 participants expressed gratitude to leaders, law enforcement, and staff. Ms. Sabin stated there are opportunities for more public education.

Section 4: Primary takeaways

1. Disconnect between those who say Brigham City is a good place to live (93%) and those who say the City is moving in the right direction (58%).
2. Participants felt safe and are supportive of our law enforcement and emergency services.
3. Need opportunities for better communication between residents and City leaders.
4. Desire for a pedestrian-friendly community, including trails.
5. Continued need to increase the size of the panel.

Ms. Sabin is working with Donna Pett on options for answering survey participant questions.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

A motion to adjourn to a closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real property was made by Councilmember Bott and seconded by Councilmember Olson. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers voting aye. The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:50 p.m.

The Council returned to an open meeting at 9:45 p.m. and adjourned.

The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the June 3, 2021 City Council Meeting.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2021.

Christina Boss

Christina Boss, Recorder