



**Present:**

Mayor Adele Justice                      Council Member Dell Mead  
Council Member Chris Winn              Council Member Troy Winter

**Also Present:**

Brittany Yeates, Recorder	Gary Mitcheson	Gary Price
Jacqueline Wilde, Treasurer	Liz Nielson	Eric Nielsen
Kasey Edgehouse, Golf Pro	Marv Garrett	Craig Nielsen
Tracy Behling, Ferron Canal Co.	Robbie Riley	Cynthia Nielsen
Gordon Bennett, Ferron Canal Co.	Casey Jo Reid	Julie Johanson, paper
Garrett Hansen, CVSSD		

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, WELCOME

Mayor Justice welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 PM. Roll call showed Council Members Mead, Winter and Richman was present. Council Members Winn and Price were absent.

**GENERAL BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. DISCUSSION OF WATER AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The mayor said she called this emergency meeting because she is concerned about the water situation. It was a little more dire than we originally thought. She invited the canal company to see where we are with the water. It has been observed in the past that if you have tight restrictions then the people use more water.

Tracy Behling with the Canal Company said that when they met earlier in the year, the projected runoff was 18,000-acre feet and the allocation was set at a ½ acre per share. Now the projected runoff is down to 9,000 so the allocation was lowered to ¼ acre per share.

He then mentioned that the dams on the northwest coast are not releasing water so are not producing hydropower. This is making the local power plants run more which means they need to use more water.

The normal forecast is 40,000-acre feet. He said that in 1977, the runoff was only 7,000-acre feet. That is lowest recorded in the last 70 years. This year we're only projected 2,000 more than that. Millsite Reservoir is not a storage reservoir but a regulating one. Even if the construction work would have been completed, we would have only had around 2,000-acre feet more. Once the construction is done, the reservoir will be back up to the original capacity of 18,000.

He then read a quote from the State & NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

"We've been concerned about the high likelihood that a significant portion of this year's snowmelt runoff would soak into head water soils and not make it to the downstream reservoirs. Unfortunately, we are seeing that reality unfold. Note that the snow water equivalent has dropped. Infiltration has caused the soil moisture to increase, however, at the same time there has been minimal response in Utah's streams. Showing that, as we feared, most of the water being delivered from our snowpack is staying in the head waters and not producing a significant runoff response."

He would hate to see groups of people pit against each other. Like the farmers, the city residents, and the power company. We will get through this.

Power company owns a third of the shares and pays over \$600,000 a year to lease

more. This has been an insurance policy for them and now need it. They are not being demanding but they do need the water and they pay for it.

Garrett Hansen asked at what elevation would we stop the reservoir at. The bare minimum would be 1016 for the buffer for the power plant. Started at 1014 and are now at 1020. Really cannot go below 995.

Gordon Bennett with the Canal Company explained how they account for all the water. He said they purchased a new computer system that allows them to calculate daily. They check for leaks. They account for the city, the golf course, and all the farmers. He said people are constantly calling him to help keep a handle on the water to make sure they are not wasting any water. There are gauges or meters on every pipeline coming out of the dam.

Garrett Hansen with CVSSD said that he does the same thing for the city. He will give a reading to the city weekly.

Council Member Winter would like that data put into a graph because he is a visual learner. The mayor said she did that back in 2003 and we can do that again.

The mayor said we've used half of our water already and the water has only been on about six weeks. We haven't even made it to the hot months of the summer, so the second half won't make it far. The hundred shares that are allocated for the golf course are gone. She asked what should be done because the city needs that golf course and can't afford to let the greens die. We've been getting complaints about the cemetery being dry with Memorial weekend coming up. She said there is better use for that water. She asked if we let the parks and cemetery go. Do we just water the greens at the golf course and let the fairways die?

Kasey Edgehouse is the golf pro at Millsite Golf Course. He said they watered the fairways for the last time on Friday. 55,000 gallons of water is used when watering with sprinklers on the greens. He may even start watering the greens and tees by hand.

The mayor has prepared a letter to go out to the citizens to ask for their help. That letter will also go to the Clawson citizens. She is wondering if a letter would be enough or should we also call an emergency town hall meeting. It was agreed doing both would be a good idea. The meeting should be held before this weekend because a lot of planting happens Memorial weekend.

**Council Member Winter made the motion to have an emergency meeting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the water situation. It was seconded by Council Member Mead. Motion carried.**

3. ADJOURNMENT

**Council Member Mead moved to adjourn at 9:44 PM. Council Member Winn seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

ATTEST:

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Mayor Adele Justice

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Brittany Yeates  
Ferron City Recorder