

UINTAH CITY



2191 East 6550 South – Uintah, Utah 84405

(801) 479-4130 Fax: (801) 476-7269

Office Hours M-W 9:00-5:00 Th-F 9:00-1:00

Mayor Gordon Cutler

UINTAH CITY COUNCIL

Planning – Robert Guiller

Council Members:

WORK SESSION

Building Inspector–Jeff Monroe

Michelle Roberts

Kristi Bell

TUESDAY, September 15th, 2020

Treasurer – Mike Ulrich

Jerry Smith

Dave Boothe

6:30 PM

Sheriff – Lt. Butler

MINUTES

Fire Chief – Marc A. Sacco

Attendees: Mayor Cutler, Jerry Smith, Michelle Roberts, Kristi Bell, Dave Boothe, Jeff Holden, Darinda Wallis, Jolene Sturzenegger, Daniel Combe, and Marc Sacco

MEETING MINUTES:

1. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cutler called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Michelle Roberts

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

2. **DISCUSSION ON UINTAH CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT:** (00:00:50)

Presenter: Mayor Cutler

- The Mayor opened this discussion explaining that the purpose of this meeting is for the City Council to do the City's work, with the discussion being on public record. The Mayor stressed that there has been no prior decision made on this topic; that this meeting is strictly to discuss the best way to proceed with the Uintah City Fire Department at this time.
- The Mayor explained that Weber Fire District representatives had met prior with Uintah City representatives, in which facts were given to the City in regards to what Weber Fire District is doing for Uintah City currently, and what it would mean to annex into the Weber Fire District, should that be what is decided. The following handout information was compiled and made available to the Council and public for this work session discussion:

Uintah City Fire Department and Request for Public Comments

If you are not aware, our current Fire Chief has relocated out of the State. This loss triggers reflections on the current status of the department.

We have twelve remaining firefighters on the department. Of those twelve, only one lives within the city boundaries. The remaining eleven live on an average of 8 or more miles outside of the city. This raises concerns of response times to fire calls especially with the heavy traffic flow on the highways surrounding our community. This one issue alone will have a detrimental effect on our insurance rating which drives our individual homeowner's insurance rates.

As a council we are exploring different avenues for our Fire Department and how we can maintain State mandated statutes for fire service. In regards to this, we plan to hold a Public Hearing on October 6th to seek citizen's input and comments.

The avenues we are considering are:

Do we maintain and continue funding, from the General Fund, our current department, advertise for a new Fire Chief and seek local members of the community for involvement?

Or:

Do we consider annexation into the Weber Fire District? They are currently providing our service until a decision can be reached. Going with the Fire District would mean our Volunteer Fire Department would be disbanded and would no longer be funded by the City. This annexation, however, would result in an additional tax line, on your yearly property taxes, at the certified tax rate (CTR) of .001378.

Please take time to fill out the public hearing comment form, on the backside, and return it to the City Hall. You can also bring it with you to the public hearing if you would like to attend the meeting. Please note that we will strive to stay in compliance with the current COVID regulations and will limit the number of people inside the building that evening.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the following:

Mayor Gordon Cutler: MayorCutler@uintahcity.com

801.726.0613

Councilman Dave Boothe: uintahfire@aol.com

801.479.4595

- The Mayor asked for thoughts from the council upon reviewing the handout. To add more clarity to what is being presented at this work session, the City Recorder, Darinda Wallis, stated that the hope of this work session is to have the Council review this issue, prior to deciding if a Public Hearing is in order. The Public Hearing would be held to see how the citizens of Uintah City would like the Fire Department to proceed, as the Uintah City Fire Department is now going through this administrative change. The discussion/action taken at the City Council meeting following this work session, is where the Council will motion on having a Public Hearing or not.
- Kristi Bell expressed that she feels a Public Hearing is good and she would support that, so that all the citizens of Uintah City would have an opportunity to be informed of all the facts that are involved in making this decision.
- Mayor Cutler expressed that this discussion is not coming from any one thing or incident that has occurred with Uintah City Fire Department. Mayor Cutler expressed his appreciation to those fire volunteers who have shown their dedication to serving Uintah City, and that it is important to preserve the history of the department. The Mayor spoke of a recent meeting with himself, Darinda Wallis, Jolene Sturzenegger, and some of the fire volunteers, in which he was impressed with the passion in which the volunteers spoke with, in regards to serving with the Uintah City Fire Department.
- Jerry Smith expressed that there have been changes in serving on the Fire Department as time has passed. Jerry feels two things to look at are the distance the volunteers have to travel to respond to Uintah City emergency calls, and how much the City is already relying on other agencies to respond to the City's emergencies. Jerry also expressed concern regarding where Fire Department money is being used currently; is money going for protection or training. Jerry does not want to take anything away from the Fire Department of the past, but questions what it means to Uintah City in this current day.
- Michelle Roberts expressed her feelings of nostalgia, and the importance of keeping to the uniqueness of Uintah City. Michelle stated she also understands that time changes things as well. Michelle agrees that it is important to find out what the community wants. Michelle asked if Chief Sacco had given a recommendation of what he thought should be done, and Mayor Cutler replied that Chief Sacco had not; they had not had a chance to sit down together.

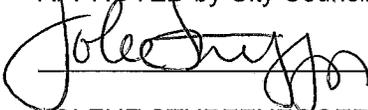
3. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: (00:25:13)

Kristi Bell motioned to close the public work session.

Seconded by Jerry Smith.

All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED by City Council this 6th day of October, 2020.



JOLENE STURZENEGGER, Uintah City Deputy Recorder