

UINTAH CITY



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

Mayor Gordon Cutler

UINTAH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Planning – Robert Guillier

Council Members:

TUESDAY, October 6th, 2020

Building Inspector – Jeff Monroe

Jerry Smith

Michelle Roberts

7:00 PM

Treasurer – Mike Ulrich

Kristi Bell

Dave Boothe

MINUTES

Sheriff – Lt. Butler

Fire Chief –

Attendees: Mayor Cutler, Jerry Smith, Kristi Bell, Michelle Roberts, Dave Boothe, Jolene Sturzenegger, Darinda Wallis, Mike Ulrich, Paul Sullivan, Britt Clark, Jeff Holden, Brandon Everett, Brett Parke, Jake Morley, Daniel Combe, Casey Christiansen, Marilyn Pearson, Don Pearson, David Yonan, Kevin Ward, Cody Valdez, Laura Eaton, Blake Eaton, Mike Marz, Ted VanDuinen, Josh Harmon, Austin Bennion, Chris Johnson, Joseph Dye, Kathleen Wolfe, Marne Rice, Josh Falslev, Britt Johnson, Beau Robinson, Dallas Tallant, Scott Kendall, Danielle Bird

MEETING MINUTES:

1. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cutler called the meeting to order for Tuesday October 6th, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Jerry Smith

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Council members are required by law to file a public disclosure statement with the City Recorder listing business interests and investments that could create a conflict of interest with the duties of the Council Member. When a matter in which a Council member has a business or investment interest appears on the Council agenda, the Council member must publicly disclose that interest.

Mayor Cutler asked the Council if they had any conflicts of interest with tonight's agenda; there was none.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (2 minutes per person):** (00:03:33)

- Mayor Cutler explained the guidelines regarding public hearings and public comments. He explained how each topic for public hearing will be open and closed, and that two minutes are allowed per person to comment. He asked that comments stay on topic to each public hearing.
- There were no comments from the audience for the general public comment tonight.

3. **APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD SEPTEMBER 15TH, AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES HELD SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2020:** (00:02:55)

Presenter: Mayor Cutler

- No issues.
- Jerry Smith motioned to approve the Work Session meeting minutes and City Council meeting minutes held September 15th, 2020, and City Council meeting minutes held September 29th, 2020.
- Dave Boothe seconded the motion.
- Mayor Cutler asked if there was any discussion on the motion; there was none.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING TO OPEN AND AMEND THE FY 2020-2021 BUDGET:** (00:05:25)

Presenter: Mike Ulrich

- Mike Ulrich explained the changes to the budget were from the unexpected funds received from the Weber Cares program (due to COVID) that assisted local Uintah businesses, and insurance money that came in from the damage to City Hall and the Scout House from the windstorm on September 8th, 2020. These funds came into the budget, but then were transferred out to Weber County to disburse to qualifying Uintah businesses and to repair for wind damages, respectively.
- Mike Ulrich also explained that building permits and the fees associated with permits, came in stronger than anticipated as well.
- There were extra expenditures to the budget as well such as paying the Building Inspector more than anticipated, with the extra activity associated with the building permits, and a part time Public Works employee was also hired.
- Mayor Cutler explained that amending the budget at this time is in accordance with recommendations from the State, to look at city budgets more frequently than what was done just towards the end of fiscal years in the past; Mike Ulrich concurred.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close City Council and open the Public Hearing.
- Jerry Smith seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****OPEN PUBLIC HEARING*****

- Mayor Cutler invited the public to step up to the podium for comments relating to amending the FY 2020-2021

Budget.

- There was no public comment.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close the Public Hearing and open City Council.
- Dave Boothe seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING*****

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 260-20; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF UINTAH CITY, UTAH, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021; PROVING FOR A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE: (00:09:52)

Presenter: Mayor Cutler

- Kristi Bell motioned to accept Ordinance No. 260-20, an ordinance of the City Council of Uintah City, Utah; AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021; PROVING FOR A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
- Jerry Smith seconded the motion.
- Mayor Cutler asked if there was any discussion on the motion; there was none.
- All in favor; Dave Boothe – yes; Kristi Bell – yes; Mayor Cutler – yes; Michelle Roberts – yes; Jerry Smith – yes.
- The motion passed.

6. PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION ON THE CULINARY WATER CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN, IMPACT FEE, AND CAPITAL CHARGE: (00:11:13)

Presenter: Kristi Bell

- Kristi Bell explained that the purpose of this discussion is a chance for the community to review and provide feedback for the new culinary water capital facility plan, and impact fees. Over the last few years, the City Engineer, Uintah City Public Works, the Citizen Water Council, and the Water Department Head, have been meeting to discuss the plans for the future for the city's culinary water capital facilities plan. Factors to be considered when planning are expected growth, state regulations/laws, and issues that need to be addressed (such as fixes to problems in existing systems and replacements that need to be done, as well as future water needs/projects based on projected growth). Based on those discussions, a report has been compiled that addresses these issues/needs/suggested projects.
- Kristi explained in regards to impact fees, they will be handled differently with this plan. An impact fee is intended to recover the city's costs of building excess culinary water capacity from new residential or non-residential development, rather than passing these growth-related costs onto existing residences through rate increases. The largest change to the impact fee portion is how water will be purchased in the future. In the past, blocks of water have been purchased as new development happened, but as the price of water increases, so does the cost to each resident. Weber Basin Water has begun offering a new contract type that takes the burden of growth off of existing residences, and places it on the new developments to purchase the water necessary for their new connection.
- Mayor Cutler thanked Kristi Bell for all of her work in the water department.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close City Council and open the Public Hearing.
- Dave Boothe seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****OPEN PUBLIC HEARING*****

- Mayor Cutler invited public comment.
- Dan Combe stated that he agrees with this plan completely; changing it so that it is placed on new construction, stating that many of Uintah's current citizens are of retirement age and on fixed incomes. Dan thanked Kristi Bell for all of her work as well.
- Scott Kendell asked the Council if they could give an update on the waterline going down Cottonwood Drive. Mayor Cutler made reminded Scott that comments need to stay on the topic of the Public Hearing. Kristi Bell advised that she will address that project with in her Council Comments at the end of tonight's City Council meeting. Scott stated he wanted to give a "heads-up" that on the 14th of this month, that the Davis County and Weber County Commissioners are meeting to address the borderline. Scott expressed his concern with water being a big issue for Uintah, especially on the west end of the city with the mobile home park; residents there are also worried about their fees. Scott stated his concern with Silverking not "stepping up the plate" with their residents of the mobile home park and the wind storm that took place recently. Scott stated Uintah does need more water and the Cottonwood line will be a help with that, and he thanked the Council for supporting that project.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close the Public Hearing and open City Council.
- Jerry Smith seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING*****

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 261-20; AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE CULINARY WATER CAPITAL FACILITY PLAN AND IMPACT FEE STUDY, AUGUST 2007; AND ESTABLISHING AN ORDINANCE OF UTAH CITY ADOPTING THE CULINARY WATER CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN; AND ADOPTING AND ENACTING THE IMPACT FEE ANALYSIS AND WEBER BASIN CAPITAL CHARGE FEE FOR THE PROVISION OF CULINARY WATER, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS: (00:17:23)

Presenter: Kristi Bell

- Michelle Roberts wished to express that Kristi Bell is very fiscally responsible, and is grateful for all that Kristi has done in her position.
- Kristi Bell motioned to approve Ordinance No. 261-20; an Ordinance to repeal the culinary water capital facility plan and impact fee study from August 2007, and establishing an Ordinance of Utah City adopting the culinary water capital facilities plan; and adopting and enacting the impact fee analysis and Weber Basin capital charge fee for the provision of culinary water, and other related matters.
- Michelle Roberts seconded the motion.
- Mayor Cutler asked if there was any discussion on the motion; there was none.
- All in favor; Dave Boothe – yes; Kristi Bell – yes; Mayor Cutler – yes; Michelle Roberts – yes; Jerry Smith – yes.
- The motion passed.

8. PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION ON UTAH CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND POSSIBLE ANNEXATION INTO THE WEBER FIRE DISTRICT: (00:19:17)

Presenter: Mayor Cutler

- Mayor Cutler explained that before the Public Hearing on this is opened, Chief Paul Sullivan from Weber Fire District, who is here tonight with Deputy Chief Britt Clark, will take a few moments to explain what Weber Fire District can offer Utah City.
- Chief Sullivan spoke and discussed topics from the attached Weber Fire District Fact Sheet.
- Utah City Deputy Chief Mike Marz spoke and his comments are attached.
- Mayor Cutler asked City Recorder Darinda Wallis to explain an issue with the budget, as it pertains to Utah City Fire Department. Darinda explained that one of the issues that came up last City Council meeting was line item 10-36-100, for \$56,026.00. This is money that is taken out of savings to balance the budget. Darinda stated that this cannot be done every year. The Utah City Fire Department expenses for this budget are \$47,000.00. Darinda further explained that when there is talk about the budget and money concerns, that IF Utah City were to use Weber Fire District, that service would then become a line item on citizen's property taxes, and the \$47,000.00 used to fund the Fire Department would come back to Utah citizens, helping to cover the \$56,000.00 that was used to balance the budget. This would be a savings to Utah citizens.
- Mayor Cutler expressed that the City has tried to do all it can to be very transparent on this issue. Mayor Cutler explained that there will be no action on this subject tonight; tonight is for the public to speak on this issue. The Council will think this over after hearing opinions tonight, and have a vote on it in the next City Council meeting. Mayor Cutler also asked the public to please contact any Council members within the next few weeks, if there are questions or concerns on this issue, and stated that he is surprised that the Council has not heard from more citizens already.
- Darinda Wallis explained that are many people in the lobby and outside that are waiting to comment, and asked the public to be mindful of the current situation with COVID. Darinda reminded the public to keep in the time allotted for comments, and to leave once done, so that others can come in to the council room and give their comments.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close City Council and open the Public Hearing.
- Dave Boothe seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****OPEN PUBLIC HEARING*****

- David Yonan spoke. David completed a comment form, and it is attached.
- Brandon Everett spoke. Brandon completed a comment form with a letter, and it is attached.
- Brett Parke spoke. Brett expressed that if the taxes of Utah Citizens are to be increased, whether it be to have Weber Fire District or to keep Utah Fire Department, that it needs to go to a vote. Brett states that more information needs to be given and that this decision needs to be researched a little more thoroughly; and then the decision should go to a vote rather than just a motion.
- Don Pearson spoke. Don stated that he has lived in Utah his whole and been on the Fire Department. Don appreciates the Mayor mentioning that the Council is trying to make sure that things are clear on this issue. Don wanted it to be emphasized how much it is going to cost Utah citizens, if Weber Fire takes over. Don stated that as he understands it, the amount it would cost to utilize Weber Fire, are more than what the city is paying now for the Fire Department. Don stated that if that is not clear, it needs to be made clear. Don stated that it makes sense to him, from his perspective, to take the money it takes to use Weber Fire and put that instead towards Utah Fire. Don feels that this would take less money than it would take to annex to Weber Fire. Don feels that doing this would help Utah City be able to reciprocate and balance out services.

- Dan Combe spoke. Dan stated he had not heard anything regarding this possible decision until Chief Sacco retired/moved. Dan stated he thoroughly enjoys Uintah Fire, and what they do for the city and the citizens, but at the same time, hearing that we are not "pulling our own weight" with Weber Fire is concerning. Dan stated that Weber Fire has responded to his home once, and the Nursery quite a bit, and that are very professional and he has never had a bad experience with them. Dan stated that looking at what it would take to go their level of service, to what Uintah Fire is being paid, that maybe there has been an injustice done to Uintah Fire. Dan feels more investigation needs to be done before a final decision, because Uintah Fire is bigger than just one man, and that losing the Chief has made everyone scramble. Dan would like more information. Dan stated that hearing Weber Fire talk, changed his opinion a little bit, but that he still loves Uintah Fire; he is on the fence. Dan feels that at the end of the day, that it can't just be about money, but that it is about money. Dan stated a lot of Uintah residents are on a tight income, there is a shortage on the budget, and he thinks this needs to be looked into further, and it is not something that needs to be decided on quickly.
- Josh Harmon spoke. Josh completed a form and it is attached.
- Scott Kendell spoke. Scott stated that this is the third time annexing into Weber Fire District has been considered. Scott stated that a group of citizens rallied around the first time this was discussed with different things being done such as auctions and donations, and the city kept the department. Scott stated the second time this was discussed, Mayor Bybee had fired much of the Fire Department for theft, and much of the department was lost. Scott stated that if Uintah does join Weber Fire and do a tax increase, that it will kill the mobile home park, that is already strapped because of water. Scott stated he has offered a lot of assistance at the mobile home park, for instance with the bad wind storm that just came through. Scott spoke about all the help from the Uintah citizens with that storm and that they are the best. He stated that he hired many of them when he was on the Fire Department, and that people are ready to join. Scott stated that he committed to Mike Marz, that if he needs him back, that he will help him recruit. Scott stated that there needs to be an effort to keep it here and it would be a travesty if we got rid of Uintah Fire. Scott expressed that he feels once the department is gone, it will never come back, and this has been shown with other agencies and counties. Scott stated that if you look at Facebook right now, that it is rampant with people wanting to keep the fire department. Scott stated that he had spoken with the Mayor of Washington Terrace even, about a combined effort with them for fire services. Scott feels that there a lot of things that can be done to rally around Uintah Fire and keep it here.
- Beau Robinson spoke. Beau is a Volunteer at Uintah Fire. Beau stated he takes pride in being a Firefighter at Uintah Fire, and loves to help the community at U Days, etc. Beau stated that he wants to keep the traditions of Uintah Fire going and that he feels that is important. Beau stated that if it is response times that are concerning, that there are options to fix that such as 24/7 staffing and moving back into Wildland. Beau feels that an issue might be trust, and he wants the City Council to be able to trust Uintah Fire, as well as the citizens. He wants the community as a whole to trust that the volunteers have all their "certs" and not be worried about liabilities. Beau feels that if trust is built within the community and with the Council, that Uintah Fire can work this out. Beau stated that Uintah Fire has the potential, the equipment, and the crew to make it work, and they love what they do.
- Marne Rice spoke. Marne completed a form and comments and they are attached.
- Jake Morley spoke. Jake was thankful for Uintah Fire for saving his parent's home in the past. Jake completed a comment form, and it is attached.
- Blake Ewton spoke. Blake completed a comment form and it is attached.
- Laura Ewton spoke. Laura completed a comment form and it is attached.
- Casey Christiansen spoke. Casey stated that he is the Battalion Chief for Uintah Fire. Casey stated that he feels that staffing/manning the station will help greatly with concerns, and that they are not asking to be millionaires to do this, but to be able to break even. Casey stated this is a discussion he has had with Council many times. Casey stated that they know now what didn't work with this in the past, but this is a team effort now, and some mistakes can be avoided now to make it work and make it better. Casey feels that just going from having to Uintah Fire to annexing into Weber Fire, that there are a lot of steps in between there that have not been explored yet. Casey wanted to express that everyone on Uintah Fire, has stood in this room and sworn an oath that they hold true and dear to their heart; they wear this on their badge every single time they put on the uniform. This means something in the hearts of each one of the Firefighters that serve in this community, they take it to heart, and he pleads to not let that go away.
- Dallas Tallant spoke. Dallas stated he is a Uintah Fire Volunteer who got his start here, and it means a lot to him. Dallas stated a lot of his training that he needed was done through Uintah Fire. Dallas stated he feels a lot of pride in Uintah, and a great sense of community. Dallas believes in staffing the station full time for better response times, and feels if Weber Fire is busy on another call, Uintah City won't get the priority they need. Dallas said he feels there a lot of other resources to work through these issues, such as applying for grants, and Uintah can have a better department because of it.
- Kevin Ward spoke. Kevin stated that he lives in Uintah Highlands and is an elected official of the Weber Fire District's Board of Trustees, serving as the current Chairman of The Board. Kevin stated that he recognizes the difficult decision that is having to be made between joining a professional career department that can provide service and response for multi-faceted issues. Kevin stated that right now, Uintah City is getting a bargain from Weber Fire with the responses to Uintah City, but everyone really does need to pay their fair share. Kevin stated that when Weber Fire leaves other areas unprotected as they respond to Uintah, but cannot get service reciprocated, that it really is just not fair. Kevin stated there is a plan in place that could use the Uintah station as a Wildland Division, which would allow for seasonal staffing. Kevin stated that one of the biggest threats to Uintah City would involve wildland, as witnessed just a few years ago, and that the only reason that did not turn into a huge catastrophe was because of the

leadership of the Weber Fire District. Kevin stated that the response time to emergencies would greatly improve, as there is a full-time staffed Weber Fire station literally just up the road. Kevin addressed the issue of feeling a loss of local control by saying that just simply wouldn't be, as a representative from Uintah would hold a seat on The Board. Kevin stated that he would serve as an ally with Uintah City, being from Uintah Highlands. Kevin offered to answer any questions from the public at a later date, if there are any.

- Danielle Bird spoke. Danielle stated that she has been on the Uintah Fire Department for almost six years and stated that she is fully certified. Danielle stated that she loves Uintah citizens, and wants to continue to serve the community. Danielle stated she hopes that the Council listen to the citizens and what they are hearing here, and that they really think about this decision.
- Kevin Rice spoke. Kevin completed a comment form and it is attached.
- Mayor Cutler asked if there was anyone in the foyer who needed to have a turn to speak, as all in the council room have spoken, and there were none.
- Kristi Bell motioned to close the Public Hearing and open the City Council meeting.
- Jerry Smith seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion passed.

*****CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING*****

9. COUNCIL COMMENTS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS: (01:32:02)

- Mayor Cutler asked Kristi Bell to address the comment from Scott Kendell about the waterline, although Scott has since left the meeting.
- Kristi Bell addressed the status on the Cottonwood Line. Kristi advised that as a council, they approved the bid for the contracts that came in for this project. Kristi explained the funding came in under budget, and that was good as this project is needed and necessary for the continued development of Uintah City. Kristi stated that is where the project is at right now, and if Scott has more questions, he is welcome to call her with them.
- Mayor Cutler asked if South Weber has ordered the project, and the time frame for starting. Kristi Bell answered that South Weber is wanting to start as soon as possible and that we should see work on it fairly soon. Kristi would like to also point out that again, this is something that has saved Uintah City a lot of money, that it is a project that needed to be done and that could have cost the City anywhere between \$800k – a million plus. This will increase a water line that will feed into the future tank that is needed on the west side of the city for Uintah City, so partnering on this project now with South Weber has saved Uintah City greatly, along with using grant money. This is now only costing Uintah City \$133k.
- Kristi Bell also wanted to quickly address some info regarding grants, as it was brought up a lot in the public meeting. CDBG grants will no longer be available to Uintah City; this is the last year we will be able to use those because Uintah no longer qualifies for them. Jerry Smith asked why this was, and Kristi explained that in short, the general population of Uintah City makes too much to qualify.
- Mayor Cutler addressed all the work that goes into the Water Department with grants and projects, and mentioned the possibility of creating a type of Water Manager position; to be determined.

10. CITY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS: (01:36:45)

PARKS; BUILDINGS; NUISANCES; EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS; PC – DAVE BOOTHE

- Nothing to report.

WATER; GARBAGE; CTC; U-DAY; NEWSLETTER – KRISTI BELL

- Kristi Bell reported that the water panel met and were presented with a few different site plans for the Bybee tank. Kristi reported that the panel agreed that the buried, double tanks were the best option, even though they cost more. Kristi stated they justified this decision because there would be less tampering with these tanks, the water temperature is better managed which helps improve the quality of the water, the worry about Weber County not issuing a permit because of the impact on view, and being able to use one tank if the other has to go offline for any reason. Kristi reported that there is someone on the water panel who will start searching grants.
- Kristi gave a reminder that newsletters are due this week.

ANIMAL CONTROL; WEBER COUNTY TRAILS; EQUIPMENT; ROADS – MICHELLE ROBERTS

- Nothing to report.

CEMETERY; SERVICE PROJECTS; RAILROAD RELATIONS – JERRY SMITH

- Nothing to report.

STORM WATER & FLOODPLAIN; GRANTS; FIRE DEPARTMENT; WACOGS – MAYOR CUTLER

- Nothing to report.

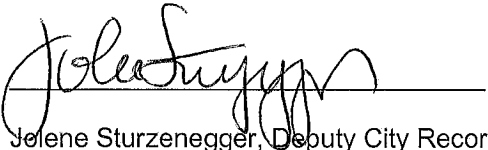
11. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: (01:41:42)

Dave Boothe motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Kristi Bell.

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

APPROVED by City Council this 20th, day of October, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jelene Sturzenegger", is written over a horizontal line.

Jelene Sturzenegger, Deputy City Recorder

WEBER FIRE DISTRICT FACT SHEET

Benefits of Joining a District

Fire Districts have been formed all over the United States to assist communities, both large and small, in providing a more cost efficient and effective way of providing fire service. And, even though many large cities utilize Districts (in Utah multiple larger cities are within Districts), the benefit is even greater to small communities. Just looking at Weber County, the cities of Farr West, Hooper, Huntsville, Marriott-Slaterville, and West Haven are in the Weber Fire District; while Harrisville, Pleasant View, and North Ogden are in the Northview Fire District.

Without Weber County's two Fire Districts, each of these cities would have to provide their own fire protection. This would be 8 separate fire departments! Adding the county areas we cover, that would make 9 or more. By joining Districts, these communities, and Weber County, can enjoy top-notch professional fire service at no direct cost to these cities, or to the county.

Fact is there is synergism within a district – by joining together we can recruit better, train better, equip better, and ultimately perform better, all at a lower overall cost. We also have the ability to provide services that small departments would not be able to provide (explained below).

Also important to note, Weber Consolidated Dispatch is a District as well covering all of Weber and Morgan Counties. How much more difficult would things be if each of the fire and police agencies in these two counties had to have their own 911 center? Districts work.

Responses into Uintah

The Weber Fire District has been responding on calls in Uintah for years. In fact, we are the first responders for medical, working under a contract with Uintah City. For structure fires, we have a Mutual Aid Agreement with Uintah fire, but often arrive first on scene. For other calls requiring only one unit to respond (small grass fires, power lines down, car fires, fire alarms, etc.), the District has historically left this up to Uintah Fire to request us if needed. However, there have been many occasions where we have responded when Uintah could not respond or had a delayed response (sometimes they have been staffed but did not have qualified personnel). Excluding the medical calls, Weber Fire has done this at no charge to Uintah City; meaning our taxpayers have covered this expense.

About the Weber Fire District

Weber Fire District was created as a special service area in 1982 by the Weber County Commissioners. Prior to its creation the department was known as the Weber County Fire Department.

The District provides emergency fire and medical services to all of the unincorporated areas of Weber County, and the incorporated cities of Farr West, Hooper, Huntsville, Marriott-Slaterville and West Haven.

The District covers a geographical area of approximately 511 square miles of land area with an estimated population of 51,000.

Services Provided

The Weber Fire District is a career professional fire department, providing an "All Hazards" response. This means our department and personnel are equipped, trained, and certified to respond to any emergency. Our services include:

- Fire Suppression
 - 5 front-line Engines
 - 3 Reserve Engines
 - 2 Ladder Trucks
 - 4 Water Tenders
 - 1 Battalion Chief
- EMS:
 - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
 - Paramedics
 - Three Ambulances
 - One Paramedic Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
 - Hazmat Technicians staffed daily
 - Fully equipped Hazmat trailer (tractor-trailer)
- Heavy Rescue:
 - Heavy Rescue Specialization and Certified staff on every day (Swift Water, Tech Rescue).
 - Heavy Rescue Equipment
 - Heavy Rescue Trailer
- Fire Prevention:
 - Two Fire Marshals
 - Three Fire Investigators
 - Public Education Programs
- Wildland Team
 - 8 Type VI Engines
 - 1 Type IV Engines

- 1 Tactical Water Tender

Staffing

Firefighting is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. According a study done by *24/7 Wall Street*, we are statistically one of the most dangerous jobs there is. Each year the fire service experiences nearly 80 to 100 line-of-duty deaths. Some involve deaths during fire suppression operations while others experience medical emergencies. For some quick statistics, in 2018 82 firefighters died, 44 of which were Volunteer and 33 of which were career (plus 5 Wildland firefighters).

Fighting structure fire takes training, experience, and commitment to do it safely and correctly. The district is part of a large system that regularly is engaged in fire suppression – whether it be structural, wildland, or property – we have a highly experienced and certified staff for response. These include:

- Operations Personnel
 - 3 Battalion Chiefs (guaranteeing Uintah a responding Incident Commander (NFPA Requirement))
 - 18 Captains
 - 60 Firefighters
 - 15 Part-time Firefighters
- Administration
 - 9 Member Fire Board, representing each of the Cities we cover, and all the unincorporated area (Uintah will appoint 1 member to this Board to oversee the Fire District)
 - 1 Fire Chief Administrator
 - 2 Deputy Chiefs – one over Operations and one over Fire Prevention
 - 1 Deputy Fire Marshal
 - 3 Fire Investigators
 - 1 County Fire Warden
 - 3 Administrative Assistants

Certifications

All of our operations personnel are required to have, at minimum, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, their Red Card (for wildland deployments), and their EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic. To drive they must have ADO-Pumper. To operate a Ladder they must have ADO-Aerial. Our Hazmat, Heavy Rescue, and Wildland Teams have multiple advanced certifications; and most of our personnel have certifications far beyond the basic list seen here.

Our Fire Marshal is a Certified fire investigator, is an ICC certified inspector (required for Plan Reviews), and a Utah peace officer (both of our fire marshals are peace officers).

The Fire Chief has 40 plus years of experience, and has a Masters in Public Administration.

Stations

- 6 Stations, the closest to Uintah being Station 64 in Uintah Highlands:
 - Located one mile from the Uintah Border, and 3.72 miles from the furthest border. This puts our response time well within a response time of under 5 minutes to any location.
 - Staffed with 3-4 personnel per day, responding with one Class A pumper and one Type Six brush truck.

System

- The Weber Fire District is a career professional department that is part of the county-wide Automatic Aid system for fire response. We are involved at both the operational and policy levels of the fire service within Weber County.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

Welcome to tonight's public meeting. We welcome your comments about this subject. The public hearing will proceed as follows:

Public comment (In order to allow as many to speak as wish to, public comment is limited to **five minutes** each. The Council can approve exceptions to this rule.)

1. Instructions:

- a. Please fill out the form below for oral or written comment. A staff member will collect them.
- b. Do you wish to make oral comment? ☒ YES NO (Circle one)

2. Guidelines for Speaking:

- a. Please wait to be recognized before going to the microphone.
- b. Please be brief and to the point.
- c. Try not to restate a point made by others.
- d. Please direct questions through the Mayor and confine remarks to the topic of discussion.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Mike Marz

ADDRESS 6624 S. 1725 E

Utah Mt. 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Fire Dept.

DATE Oct. 6

TELEPHONE NUMBER 385-333-5549

COMMENTS _____

We will spend a lot of money and
get nothing for it.

If a move is made, money spent on UCFD
would have a 100% return. (Increased
service to residence

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One) Given 2 choices

I do not favor annexing to Weker.

Self-reliance and Independence is the true form of freedom. Uintah is in a unique and envied situation right now because we have our own fire department. This is something many cities across the Wasatch Front and around the country wish they had themselves because of the freedoms it gives them to dictate their own future.

We in the Fire Department understands that we need to be able to provide full-time service. This is our greatest desire too. We have proven in the past we are capable of providing 24/7 service and we know we can do it again. We understand there is concern about us being able to consistently provide this in the future. If you look at our past the ability to provide the service correlates closely with the support we have from the council.

We have reached that breaking point where serious change needs to take place. We have realized for years that this day would eventually come because with an operating budget of only \$35,000 it is impossible to save for future equipment needs. Instead of taking such drastic steps and paying the average \$300/house to Weber county, we propose half that amount, \$150/house, which, when combined with our current budget will give us approximately the same \$120,000 that would have been sent to Weber county but kept in house and used to make our department viable and have the ability to save for the future and retain our autonomy.

There is much more to our plan than can be explained in much detail here but basically with those funds we will provide full time 24/7 service, pay for daily operating expenses and save for our future equipment needs.

We will use the individual strengths of our people to recruit new people, provide training, apply for grants (Utah EMS Grant, Utah Firefighter Plate Grant, FEMA assistance to FF Grant, FEMA Safer grant, FEMA Fire Prevention/Safety Grant, Ut Fire dept assistance grant (DNR)

CDBG grants are still available but a survey would need to be done again. City council manages this grant) we are always looking for and exploring other options and avenues to provide service and bring money into the department. The days of this being our own little department are over. We need to branch out and be creative to bring people in and give them a desire to stay. There are a lot of good people out there.

When people join our department the really good ones find that we have something special in this community and they want to be a part of it.

The day has come when a serious change needs to be made. I plea to you is to make the change that keeps us the masters of our own future and not subservient to another. We will all be better off in the long run.

Thank you for your time.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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- Please direct questions through the Mayor and confine remarks to the topic of discussion.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

DAVID YONAN

ADDRESS

2305 REGENCY DR.

UINTAH, VT 84403

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONTRACTING WITH WEBER FIRE DIST

DATE

09/06/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(818) 903-3587

COMMENTS

ALL OUR COMMUNITY NEED TO KNOW WAYS WE CAN KEEP OUR OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT WHILE STILL ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ABOUT: RESPONSE TIMES, ATTRACTING MORE LOCAL VOLUNTEERS, COSTS / BUDGET.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

BRANDON EVERETT

ADDRESS

6826 SOUTH 1750 EAST

WINTAH, UTAH 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIRE DEPT.

DATE

10/06/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801 643 4466

COMMENTS

I FORMALLY REQUEST ADDITIONAL TIME
ANNEX TO WFD (7-10 mins)

SEE ATTACHED.

THANKS FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

Good Evening Mayor, City Council, Fellow Residents, and representatives of the Fire Service.

My Name is Brandon Everett and I reside at 6826 South and 1750 East, and I support the continued research of annexation to the Weber Fire District and well as the continued research of how to make our volunteer dept more viable asset to our community. I speak to you as a Jr. resident of Uintah as my family is celebrating our first year in our city. But also speak to you with the knowledge and experiences of a 20-year career wildland firefighter, where I currently serve as a Battalion Chief with a local Federal Land Management agency. I have had the opportunity to work from firefighter all the way to Division Supervisor and Type 3 Incident Commander.

I am disappointed that when asked for our residents to speak out on this issue that our mayor and city council, are not able to provide a formal proposal for annexation to the Weber Fire District nor to the restructure of our current Volunteer Fire Dept. which are currently the only two options issued with little to no information to formulate a decision. However, when I talk to both Weber Fire District and current Volunteers of Uintah Fire Dept and others independently, I have found more information that has helped me to come to my decision. I would like to say that without due diligence in this research my decision would have likely been different, and for a resident that does not understand the inner workings of the fire service I can see this would be difficult to understand and make an informed decision.

To join with the Weber Fire District as Uintah's primary provider for long term PROFESSIONAL and CAREER EMS and Fire response is a partnership, can be worth far more value than the property tax increase that a resident of Uintah would pay for this service if done right. In my opinion this is a service that the residents of Uintah have been secretly seeing some of the benefits from for many years without having to pony up to the table.

To retain our current volunteer dept brings the community together and provides a fabric that can continue to strength our relationships. But for a program that is nationally on the decline, I raise concern on the ability to maintain a fire dept on \$30K, or what is left over from an operational budget of \$50k after fees paid to Weber Fire District for coverage outside our volunteer depts response coverage or capabilities. A budget that is buried in our cities operational fund, which is clearly unacceptable to not have a proper line item for emergency services. I defer to Mr. Yonan in his expertise for the continued ideas on an operational plan for the Volunteer dept.

Many of us can probably recall a recent event that the city or a resident has benefited from the services of the Weber Fire District and our volunteer dept. The Uintah fire is one that should be on everyone's mind, especially in a year where we are facing more extreme wildfire conditions than in 2017. According to the Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands WUI assessment, we live in one of the Highest Risk WUI areas on the Wasatch front, with 2 expanding interstate HWY's, a main railroad corridor, and ever-present problematic canyon winds and fuel types that promote conditions for FAST moving and catastrophic wildfires. These types of events we have seen all too recent in our area and in neighboring states, where means of evacuations of just one neighborhood of residents along Bybee, Combe, or 6600 South would be problematic and likely result in injury or death.

The partnerships that Uintah would enter with Weber Fire District, would need to benefit the residents in many facets more than fire and ems response. It would be my expectation with this annexation that the county would incorporate and partner with Uintah to

use and maintain the current Uintah City resources and facilities to retain a presence in Uintah City. "*Proud to serve Uintah...*" on the door of engine 64 is not good enough!

The following are proposals that should be brought to the table when considering annexation to Weber Fire District.

#1 Would be to work on a minimum of seasonal staffing of station 91 as a wildland facility for use by the county's seasonal firefighters and brush crew, fire warden, Type 4 Engine, Type 6 3A units and Uintah's water tender. Much of the rest of the cities aging equipment and fleet that is nearing replacement could be placed as reserve for mutual aid support.

#2 Would also propose a change to 4-person staffing at Weber Fire District Station 64, to handle additional call volume and complexity.

#3 Would require that this added tax burden, Uintah city would obtain an appointed seat in the Weber Fire District Board of trustees like that of other incorporated cities in Weber Fire District.

The following should be considered regardless of annexation to Weber Fire or retention of the Volunteer dept.

#4 Creation of a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan by the Chief or Warden and organized annual wildland fuels reduction work planned and coordinated with community participation. This work is a contributing match in kind, to show our city and its residents' contribution to bettering and lessening the risk of catastrophic fire to our community. Work that Weber Fire District and residents have been hard at work for more than a decade.

#5 Contribution to the State of Utah Wildfire Suppression Fund. When you consider the cost of one load of retardant delivered by a large airtanker is 50k or one hour of flight time for a helicopter dropping water on a fire is roughly 5-10k the average total cost for fighting a fire similar to the Uintah Fire can reach 100K in the first several hours with just air resources, and over 800K total in the case of the Uintah Fire. This is a cost that our city and residents cannot afford to risk again

This Partnership is more than 0.00137% it can be the start of bettering our community for the long term by integrating a PROFESSIONAL and CAREER Fire and EMS service into our community. The continued operation of our Volunteer Fire Dept, should be a decision not taken lightly at the minimum reassessed in its operational status needs and budget for long term viability to recruit, train and retain its personnel.

I hope that the current volunteers to our Fire Dept are not discouraged by these times and continue their honorable and thankless career in the Fire service regardless of the decision of our city.

Brandon Everett,
Resident.
(801)643-4466

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Daniel Combe

ADDRESS 2085 E 6550 S

Wintah UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Fire Dept.

DATE 10-06-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-721-9535

COMMENTS _____

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

JOSHUA Harmon

ADDRESS

2540 E 6500 S

Uintah UT 84403

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Uintah City FIRE DEPT

DATE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801 386 2079

COMMENTS

FOR Weber Fire Dist. taking
over, but costs must be cheaper
if ~~we~~ we are already paying
them.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(Circle One)

For Weber Fire Dist.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Marnē Rice

ADDRESS 6693 S. Buena Vista Dr.

Uintah, Utah

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Future Fire Service to Uintah

DATE 10-6-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-479-0230

COMMENTS Attached

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

Evernote:Public hearing fire department

Message

Marné Rice <no-reply-content@evernote.com>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 6:01 PM

Reply-To: Marné Rice <pennies4mypig@gmail.com>

To: marnerice@gmail.com

I have a profound respect for anyone that willingly gives up their precious time and generously shares their abilities with our community.

There are others that may speak much more eloquently about budgets and logistics. I will leave those points of discussion to them. I will focus instead on what I do know, community.

Uintah is unique and becoming more so every year. Geographically and in social practicality we are a small town. We enjoy benefits that are easily taken for granted and easily dismissed as to the value they play in our quality of life here in Uintah. The fire department plays a role in the life we enjoy here, not only in services that are provided but it is also an anchor point to our community. Woven into our community not just to be depended upon in times of crisis but also times when service is needed both individually and collectively. The fire department is there when we come together to celebrate our community.

The good men and women of the Uintah City Fire Department work with our specific needs and culture in mind. Investing in our own City and our own fire department is the choice that supports Uintah to be its best. Keep our department and we retain control of our budget year to year. Turning it over to Weber fire district gives us little protection when it comes to a hike in the price of future services. If the cost becomes more than what our city and its citizens can practically bear, where will we be? How hard would it be to rebuild what has been dismantled? Could we again have the level of talent and the interest of those willing to volunteer on our behalf, if they have been dismissed?

If the desire is to live anonymously and write a check for services rendered, we can live in any nameless place. However if our goal is to be part of where we live, to nurture and grow our community, then the choice is to invest on our own behalf. Put resources into our fire department to increase not only services but strengthening the community it supports.

Community is not always convenient or easy it is however something worth working for and worth building up.

Evernote helps you remember everything and get organized effortlessly. Download Evernote.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Jack Morley

ADDRESS

1327 E. 16600 S.

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE

10/6

TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS

Keep the Dept. Unless someone
convinces me.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME BLAKE EWTON

ADDRESS 1675 E 6600 S

VINTAH, UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING SUPPORT FOR VINTAH CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE 10/6/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-682-6419

COMMENTS I THINK THERE IS GREAT VALUE IN KEEPING
OUR LOCAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT ADEQUATELY FUNDED
AND STAFFED. I SUPPORT THE \$150 OR MORE INCREASE
TO STAFF OUR VINTAH CITY FIRE HOUSE 24-7
AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FIRE FIGHTERS ON STAFF
THIS COMMUNITY HAS A SPIRIT FOR TAKING CARE OF
ONE ANOTHER & WE SHOULD CONTINUE THAT.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Lauren Euton

ADDRESS

10516 S. 1725 E.

Leinitah,

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE

10-16-20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS

We were not aware of the situation at the fire department concerning budget + staffing. Now that it is being brought to the community at large I feel we should give Leinitah FD an opportunity to work it out by advertising for more volunteers + have some information meetings for those who may want to know more about what it entails to be a volunteer firefighter. We should talk budget w/ our Dept + Community before just handing it off to another community. If you raise our taxes to give to Weber
Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

Why not give it to our fire dept? we can always resort to Weber if we can't find volunteers w/ in our community.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Kevin Rice

ADDRESS

6693 S. Buena Vista Drive

Uintah Utah

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Uintah City Fire Department

DATE

10/6/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

385-240-9166

COMMENTS

I am in favor of maintaining and containing continuing funding from the General Fund our current department, advertise for a new Fire Chief and seek local members of the community for involvement

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

I have lived in Uintah for 29 years. In that time, I've come to learn a little about the culture of this great community. We are a community that, for the most part, is self-reliant. This is a close-knit community and everyone takes care of everyone. That's just one of the reasons I have enjoyed living here. This community is made up of all classes, from those with money to those that are on fixed incomes; incomes that are barely providing for the needs of their families. For them, money is always tight, but they sacrifice and are making it work.

My family has sacrificed and supported our husband and father for 28 years while he's served on the Fire Dept because of his love of this community and wanting to help his fellow citizens. When he goes on a fire call, he has potentially put his life on the line to help his fellow man, you included.

To take the Fire Dept away from our community, send it outside our community, and cause our citizens to pay an exorbitant amount in raised taxes to do so is irresponsible to me.

There are other options that should be considered before the council sells us out to Weber County. For instance, if you haven't already, the "Water Smart Grant" and the State Division of Water Resources in SLC should be researched to see if they can help with our water issues so that you don't feel you need to use the fire dept budget to pay for it instead of keeping the fire dept.

As you well know, you have been causing our Fire Dept to exist on a budget that is so underfunded they have not been able to properly staff or upgrade the equipment and now instead of supporting our community and our fire station to fix the underlying problems, to support them and our community to remain self-reliant in a very troubled world, with earth quakes, disaster causing winds, fires, riots, snow storms, etc., you want our community to rely on outside help. Instead of raising our taxes a little bit to fund the fire dept you want to raise it a lot to fund an outside fire dept.

What is going to happen when the disasters hit (and we know they will sooner than later) and Weber Fire is out dealing with all the other issues. We will suffer because they can't get to us. If we remain self-reliant and support our fire dept with the resources to build them up instead of destroy them, they will be putting Uintah first instead of last.

In conclusion, we should be supporting our community and doing what is best for us which is to keep the fire dept in Uintah and not outside of Uintah.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME TED VAN DUINEN

ADDRESS 1593 E 6600 S

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE 10/6/20

TELEPHONE NUMBER 303 681 8925

COMMENTS I would prefer to keep the money
IN OUR COMMUNITY

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO ☒

(Circle One)

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Austin Bennion

ADDRESS

2222 E 6550 S. Uintah, UT. 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire Department

DATE

10-06-20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-690-8355

COMMENTS

I would like to vote KEEPING the

fire department in Uintah

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Joseph Dye

ADDRESS

1159 E 6600 S

Uintah

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire department

DATE

10-6-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801 452 5113

COMMENTS

Please keep Uintah FD in Uintah and funded by Uintah. Local services provide better services locally. Tax increase for local (Uintah) FD better than tax increase for Weber county provided services

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Kathleen Wolfe

ADDRESS 975 E 6600 S Lot #70

Uintah, UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING _____

DATE 10/01/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-479-1274

COMMENTS _____

Having survived 2 house fires in my primary residence
gravelly up I feel this is a crucial service to our
community, and an approach of doing whatever it
takes to continue Uintah fire dept. ^{is needed for} I have close family members
serving in this capacity ^{out of state} I HOPE to see us take steps toward
progress rather than
back sliding.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

☒ YES

NO

(Circle One)

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I am a SINGLE DAD w/ CHILD & LACK
OF TIME TONIGHT!
THANKS FOR HEARING MY
VOICE

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

BRITT JOHNSON

ADDRESS

1639 E 6850 S

UNITAH, UT 84905

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING - UCLFD

DATE

10/6/20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-452-7370

COMMENTS

I THINK THIS DEPT SHOULD STAY! I BELIEVE IF
WE ARE WILLING TO INCREASE TO MOVE DEPTS, WHY
NOT FUND OURS WITH MORE? IF THAT DOESN'T WORK
THEN PLEASE MOVE TO WEBERFD. I BELIEVE EVERYONE
THAT HAS BEEN IN THAT STATION & WORKED/VOLUNTEERED
WOULD STATE THATS WHY THEY ARE HERE!!!

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

☒ YES

☐ NO


(Circle One)

FOR UNITAH CITY F.D.

YEARS AGO AS A NEW RESIDENT, I HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON INCORPORATING "FRIENDS"
HIGHTON CITY FIRE DEPT AS AN ADDITIONAL WAY OF
SUPPORTING THE F.D. NOW THE SOLUTION IS
TO PAY AN OUTSIDE ENTITY ???

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR LEGACY AS COUNCIL
FOR DISBANDING AN ORGANIZATION THAT YOU
AS A COUNCIL APPROVED TAKING ~~BOOKS~~ FROM
THE FEDERAL GOV'T IN A GRANT FOR THE
BUILDING. NOW DISBAND! LET WEBER FIRE
DISTRICT USE IT? PLEASE REVIEW AN
INCREASE TO OUR LOCAL F.D.!! ALLOW A
VOTE IN NOV? I APPRECIATE A VOICE
IN THIS DIFFERENT TIME!!

THANKS,

BRITT JOHNSON


PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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- d. Please direct questions through the Mayor and confine remarks to the topic of discussion.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Amanda Marz
ADDRESS 6624 S 1725 E Utah, UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Utah City Fire Department

DATE 10/6

TELEPHONE NUMBER 385-244-9061

COMMENTS 5-6 years ago I help start a non-profit
Organization, Friends of the Utah City Fire Department
to raise money for the fire department to update their
building and equipment. I did this so we could keep
the fire department, because of how important it
is to me. If a fire ever broke out I would rather

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

→
on back

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING _____

DATE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

COMMENTS have a faster response time from the fire
department, because they are closer, than have to
wait longer and have my family's lives in danger longer
having to wait for another city's fire department
come. I vote keep the Uintah City Fire
Department. I am willing to help raise money to keep
the Fire Department again.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Bart and
Pringle

Lesia

ADDRESS

6665 South 1650 East, Uintah, Utah 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire Department

DATE

October 6, 2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-725-4076

COMMENTS

We are in favor of continuing the Uintah Fire Department if it is feasible. We already have the building and equipment. The number of qualified volunteers is probably an issue. The "Fact Sheet" has some good points about the capabilities of the Weber Fire District. We definitely need backup from them, but if the cost for us to join the Weber Fire District is an additional 300 a year on our property taxes, that is a lot of money. We are certainly not up to speed on all of the issues and ramifications, so we will support whatever the final decision is.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Barbara Sibert

ADDRESS

975 E. 6600 S #27

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE

To see if we can get help from
city to clean up mobile home park

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-690-9271

COMMENTS

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Jordan + Erin Donos

ADDRESS 2158 E 6550 S

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Fire dept / H₂O Tank

DATE 10/6

TELEPHONE NUMBER 307-260-3028

COMMENTS _____

1. Concerned moving fire dept. will raise costs & lower service. Keep it here & keep within control of taxes required.

2. Replacing water tank has many fed & state grants to offset city costs. Need to research & apply before passing costs

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing? on.

YES NO (Circle One)

(Not) in favor of losing fire department,

10/06/2020

Re: Uintah Fire Department

To whom it may concern,

I will not be attending the council meeting tonight due to my need to maintain distance during current COVID concerns. I do, however, wish to comment on the topic of either keeping Uintah Fire Department in the community or turning over administration to Weber County.

I interact frequently with the Weber Fire District as a Safety Supervisor at Compass Minerals and have confidence and unwavering respect for their abilities and professionalism. They are one of the best county fire departments I have had the pleasure of working with.

I live in Uintah and in spite of my respect and admiration for Weber Fire District, I would prefer to keep the Uintah Fire Department as a community department for as long as possible.

I am not nearly as concerned about \$150 a year vs \$300 per year tax increase as I am about how well the firefighters are trained and how quickly they can respond. I believe keeping the money in Uintah for improvements to our department makes good sense.

The Uintah Department has come a long way in developing a very capable department in the last 10 years and I think we should build on that and give Uintah the support it needs to keep growing.

Our community has grown significantly in the 16 years we have lived here and South Weber has grown even more. Recruiting has always been difficult in volunteer organizations but I believe a recruitment campaign will be more successful in the future due to the growth in population within 5 miles of Uintah. There are opportunities to provide mutual aid and train additional firefighters with the significant influx of young families.

Looking at past needs might suggest there is no need for a local fire department but looking to the future, I believe we should reconsider. Once administration is turned over to Weber County we will not be able to go back to a community based department and our tax dollars will go to support a large organization that is responsible for a huge area, not just us.

I would like to see us give Uintah Fire Department another chance to staff the station, recruit additional members, and grow before turning to Weber Fire District. I offer my help in further evaluation of the question if you wish.

Carolyn Durga
6854 S 1600 E
Uintah, UT
801-690-4202

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Beverly Bingham

ADDRESS

14653 S. 1775 E. Uintah, Utah 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Disbanding Uintah City Fire

DATE

Oct. 6, 2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-479-5137

COMMENTS

I do not want my property taxes to increase for something that already gets paid for, and I do not want to get rid of Uintah City Fire. It is unnecessary and not practical in the long run. Keep Uintah City Fire Dept. AND go with the proposed budget for them.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

Beverly Bingham

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Max and Cindy Call

ADDRESS

16653 S. 1775 E. Uintah, Utah 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Do not get rid of Uintah's FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE

Oct. 16, 2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-603-9264 or 801-603-2519

COMMENTS

We feel that we do not want to get rid of Uintah City's FIRE DEPARTMENT.
The tax increase that would go to Weber FIRE District is unnecessary when a small increase should go, instead, to Uintah FIRE. Weber FIRE already assists when necessary and already gets \$ for that, so getting rid of Uintah FIRE is unnecessary.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



Ms. Leora Dye
2029 E. 6600 S.
Ogden, UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING _____

Retain fire department

DATE _____

10-6-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

COMMENTS _____

Keep our fire department

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(Circle One)

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Terry Millgate

ADDRESS

6726 SO. 1540 E. Vintah

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Vintah City Fire Department

DATE

10/6/20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-859-1288

COMMENTS

We are not in favor of annexation
of Fire Department. We need to keep
our current department

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME KEVIN & PAMELA RICHINS

ADDRESS 6771 BUENA VISTA DR

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

UINTAH CITY FIRE DEPT.

DATE

6 OCT 2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-458-5989 (K) 801-309-8613 (P)

COMMENTS

I FULLY SUPPORT INCREASING FUNDING TO OUR
UINTAH FIRE DEPT TO MAINTAIN A LOCAL FIRE DEPT.
I DO NOT SUPPORT ANNEXING OUR FIRE SERVICES TO WEBER CO.
I RECOGNIZE EITHER OPTION INVOLVES A TAX INCREASE.
I MUCH PREFER ANY ADDITIONAL TAXES GO TO A LOCAL
UINTAH CITY FIRE DEPT.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

David & Barbara Morley

ADDRESS

2309 E. 6550 S., Uintah City

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Uintah City Fire Department

DATE

10-06-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-814-1336 & 801-814-1374

COMMENTS

We feel STRONGLY that we should maintain our own fire dept. We understand that this would require additional taxes.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing? Question is ambiguous - two options are being considered

YES

NO

(Circle One)

→ No we do not want annexation into the Weber Fire District

→ Yes we want to maintain our Uintah City Fire Department

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Allen & Stephanie Smith

ADDRESS 2105 E. 6600 S. Umatilla

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Fire Department

DATE 10/6/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-643-4502

COMMENTS We are in favor of keeping the volunteer
fire firefighters & increasing the budget to keep
the Umatilla City Fire Department

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

(See above)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

George and Maureen Fedor

ADDRESS

1303 E. 6600 S.

Uintah, UT 84405

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire Department

DATE

10-6-2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-244-8745

COMMENTS

We vote to maintain and continue
funding, from the general fund and advertise
for a new Fire Chief.

Please keep the Uintah Fire Department!!
We feel it is vital to our community.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

☒ NO

(Circle One)

We don't want to
annex into Weber
Fire Department/District

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Josh Falslev

ADDRESS

1613 E. 6850 S.

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire Dept

DATE

10/5/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-791-5908

COMMENTS

I fully support our local fire dept.
& am willing to pay more if needs be.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES

NO

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME RULON DYE

ADDRESS 1943 E. 6600 S. UINTAH, UT

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING UINTAH CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE 2 OCT 2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801-479-6057

COMMENTS KEEP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GOING.

WE'VE PUT ^{OVER} HUNDRED ~~THOUSAND~~ ~~DOLLARS~~
AND 50-60 YEARS OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, BUILT AND ENLARGED
TWO FIRE HOUSES. AFTER ALL THIS LETS NOT
LET IT SLIP AWAY! KEEP IT GOING.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

Rulon V. Dye

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

Dennis J. Guymon

ADDRESS

6566 S. 2275 E

Uintah, UT

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fire Department

DATE

9-27-20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

801-920-1735

COMMENTS

Do we have the funds to pay
for a paid Fire Dept.?
If so I would consider having a
paid Fire Dept. The taxes for supporting
a Fire Dept may be high, but I would
like the City to consider it anyway.
Annexation would be the best alternative to
Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

me

☒ YES

NO

(Circle One)

Dennis Guymon

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME Matthew R. Bell

ADDRESS 1502 E 6650 S

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING Fire Department

DATE 9/27/2020

TELEPHONE NUMBER 801 721 9384

COMMENTS After reviewing the information I would favor
dissolving the Uintah Fire Department. Facts I have found
show that a ^{fulltime} ~~part~~ Fire Department can respond
5-10 minutes faster in an emergency which mean
life or death. I am in favor of falling under the
Weber County fire district

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

JEN STANKIEWICZ & ANDY VAN ZANDT

ADDRESS

6541 S 2175 E

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIRE SERVICES

DATE

9/21/20

TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS

We would prefer a Weber ~~County~~ Fire District annexation, higher taxes for this service are fine. It seems more cost effective and would provide more reliable service.

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES ☒

NO ☐

(Circle One)

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT FORM

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(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME **William Pope**
ADDRESS **2580 East 6550 South, Uintah, UT 84405**

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING **Uintah City Fire Department**

DATE **October 06, 2020**

TELEPHONE NUMBER ____ **801-425-2802**

COMMENTS **Comments begin on next page.**

Do you favor the proposal that is the subject of tonight's public hearing?

YES NO (Circle One)

I AM UNABLE TO PROVIDE A YES OR NO ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION

AS THERE ARE TWO PROPOSALS PRESENTED.

Hon. Mayor, Gordon Cutler
Hon. Council Member, Jerry Smith
Hon. Council Member, Michelle Roberts
Hon. Council Member, Kristie Bell
Hon. Council Member, Dave Boothe

Dear Honorable Members of the Uintah City Council,

Although I am familiar with all of you as the City Council, I wanted to open these written comments with my introduction for anyone who is not familiar with who I am.

I currently reside at 2580 East, 6550 South in Uintah. After retiring as a Fire Captain for a Career Department in California with 20 years of full-time experience, I was the Fire Chief for the City of Uintah from 2014 until 2018. I currently manage the Emergency Planning and Emergency Medical Response for a Master Planned Community in Salt Lake County, while residing in Uintah. I am the immediate past chairman, and standing member, of the Emergency Vehicle Management Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and a standing member of the Utah Bureau of EMS Grant Committee.

During my tenure as the Fire Chief of Uintah the Department experienced exponential growth. Whether you measure that through pure personnel numbers and levels of training attained by them, as I left the department as Chief the Uintah Fire Department was providing 24/7 on duty station coverage with trained certified personnel, and an active roster of +/- 30 Firefighters. The work that the volunteers put in allowed our eligibility for various grants which in turned bolstered a skeleton budget and maintain/replace many layers of personal protective equipment and firefighting tools that may have otherwise not been possible.

While these contributions are tangible, as I think back to my tenure as the Fire Chief and the lessons I learned is it never was about response times and "baby's are going to die in the street" if we don't do something. But instead the equity that these volunteers provided to you on an almost daily basis is the contributions you should measure your fire department on.

Of course, that's not to say that things such as response times and insurance ratings are not important. But the true measure of your fire department isn't the statistics they generate, but instead the safety and the feeling they generate.

As I begin my comments, I would like to be ultra-clear at the beginning. I, as a citizen of this city, the platform in which I comment before you now, am vehemently opposed to any proposal that involves the dissolution of the Uintah City Fire Department. I would like to thank you in advance as I outline my reasoning behind this for you now:

*1.1 Quantity of Personnel, their Location, and its effect on response times –
NATIONAL STANDARDS*

In order to adequately respond to the assertion in the flyer presented by the City, that the quantity and locations of volunteers firefighters "...raises concerns of response times to fire calls..." we need to first look what the standard response looks like.

National Fire Protection Association Standard 1720 – "*Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments*", 2020 Edition

This standard outlines the staffing and deployment of personnel in a volunteer fire agency. Specifically, in Section 4.3 there is a table which outlines the National Standard for Volunteer Fire Response¹. Uintah as a Suburban demographic area this table outlines the standard in 2020 to be:

A minimum of 10 staff to respond within 10 minutes and meet that objective 80% of the time.

At face value, this seems to be a lot. Actually, if you are to take the City's position in the flyer in a vacuum it is probably nearly impossible with "...12 remaining firefighters..." (and "Of those twelve, only one lives within the city boundaries.")

The important part of this to consider, is the fact it is a feat that even Weber Fire District would be able to handle if they were to take over for the Uintah Fire Department. Not without the support of mutual aid and automatic aid agreements.

You see, the part that is omitted from the flyer in which the city has produced is Uintah already enjoys the benefit from these same mutual aid agreements within Weber County, and also with surrounding jurisdictions in Davis and Morgan counties, not to mention surrounding jurisdictions in Weber County already. The agreements are made as inter-local agreements and are actually mandated by law to do so.

*"(1) The Governing Body of every incorporated municipality and the board of commissioners or county council of every county shall: (b) cooperate with all contiguous counties, municipal corporation, private corporations, fire districts, state agencies, or federal governmental agencies to maintain adequate fire protection with their territorial limits."*²

This comparison between the services that Uintah's volunteer department, and Weber Fire Districts response models becomes even more contrasting when you actually have to factor in that Weber Fire Districts response standard for being a Full Time Staff Department is located in NFPA 1710. When we look at this requirement, even with automatic aid agreements in place, Weber Fire District will not be able to provide the City of Uintah with performance based on the national standards, which include³:

¹ "Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments" NFPA 1720, 2020 Edition, page 1720-8

² Title 11, Chapter 7, Section 1 Utah Code "Cooperation with other Governmental Units, Burning Permits, Contracts" Effective 1/1/2017.

³ "Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments" NFPA 1710, 2020 Edition, Paragraph 4.1.2.1m Page 1710-9

- On Scene Arrival time to any location within the city within 4 minutes (mind you their closest station 64 up in the Uintah Highlands along the South Ogden Border); and
- The second arriving unit (of at least 4 personnel) to any location within the city within 6 minutes.

At best, when comparing operations against the National Standards, this argument put forward by the city is moot. Neither the volunteer department that Uintah operates, nor the Career Department operated by Weber Fire District can not meet the standards in NFPA 1720 or NFPA 1710 respectively without the support of surrounding jurisdictions.

At worse, when comparing operations against the National Standards, the burdens of faced by Uintah's volunteer department can be overcome with recruiting. The burdens faced by Weber Fire District can only be overcome with relocation of their fire station, or the addition of additional fire stations both prospects are most likely not financially viable.

*1.2 Quantity of Personnel, their location, and its effect on response times –
INSURANCE RATING*

The City's flyer propagates "This one issue alone will have a detrimental effect on our insurance rating which drives our individual homeowner's insurance rates." **This assertion is at best misleading.**

During my tenure as the Fire Chief (2013-2018) I was able to work alongside your volunteer firefighters to enact the changes which brought about improvement to the Uintah Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), of which we as citizens in the city enjoyed an increase in our Public Protection Classification from a 4 to a 3. Having gone through this process in my professional career, and now having gone through the process two times with a volunteer agency (Uintah and another, both of whom increased scores) I feel uniquely qualified to address this assertion put forth by the city. In a basic watered-down version, VeraRisk evaluates the effectiveness of municipal fire suppression efforts and assigns them a score from 1 to 10 (1 being the best public protection, and 10 being the less than the minimum recognized protection). Assuming all factors are equal, a community with a lower PPC will enjoy a lower price of fire insurance than a city with a higher PPC number.

During this evaluation the VeraRisk inspector will assign scores based on the FSRS Manual, with a maximum score for all areas of 100. There are several sections, and several factors to get to 100. Because of this I will focus my response solely to the assertion quantity and location of our personnel has a detrimental effect on our rates.

15% of the PPC scoring is weighted on personnel (or 15 points). Scoring in this section is based on the total number of on-duty firefighter available in a fire station. This is based off the OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)(i) 2 firefighters in / 2 firefighters out rule. In determining the formula ISO applies that 3 volunteers are the equivalent to one on-duty firefighter. Additionally, any volunteers who are staffing the station are counted 1 to 1 (1 volunteer = 1 Full Time, while staffing, in addition to the 3 to 1).

There is no consideration for things such as location of where the volunteer lives.

Even at the current level of 12 volunteer firefighters, 3 = 1, we meet the OSHA 2 in / 2 out standard for the ISO determination.

As I opened with, there are two reasons why this assertion in the City's Flyer is misleading, which are:

1. **The actual quantity of on-duty personnel takes into account mutual aid agreements.** As I described in 1.1 above, the total number of personnel accounted for with respect to our City Response includes all of the personnel that are on duty within our city mutual response agreements. That means, the 3 into 1, figure above becomes exponentially bolstered by the agreements Uintah Fire has with Weber Fire District, South Weber Fire Department, Mountain Green Fire Protection District, Ogden Fire Department, South Ogden Fire Department, Riverdale Fire Department, and Roy Fire Department. Just to name some of the local surrounding with their on-duty counts going into our FSRs rating schedule.
2. **The City vaguely asserts that if we maintain our volunteer department, we will have a higher PPC than if we as a city annex into Weber Fire District's Special Services District.** If this is indeed actually the assertion, it is blatantly false. You see, Uintah's Volunteer Fire Department has a PPC rating of 3 (remember 1 is the best); and Weber Fire District (and I only checked the Uintah Highlands as it is what is applicable) maintains a PPC rating of 4. ***So, in fact, if Uintah were to annex into Weber Fire District, we would lose our ISO PPC Rating of 3 and drop to a 4 which would do the opposite of what the city is forwarding in this flyer.***

1.3 Quantity of Personnel

The quantity of volunteers on the Fire Department is solely regulated by the City Council.⁴ When I took over as the Chief of the Uintah Fire Department in 2013 the department's authorized level was 12 personnel. Working with the city administration, that number was increased to 30 to pursue the feasibility of staffing the fire station full time with volunteer firefighters to (1) provide better service to the community, but as well as (2) bolster our positioning within NFPA standards and ISO ratings. We were able to achieve that staffing goal, with +/- 3 personnel at any given time; and were staffing the station 24 hours a day 7 days a week for almost half of a year with volunteer firefighters. Since I have left in 2018, the department has been regulated back down to +/- 12 personnel. I cannot speak to the reason behind that, but the current administration and departing Fire Chief felt that to be the best course.

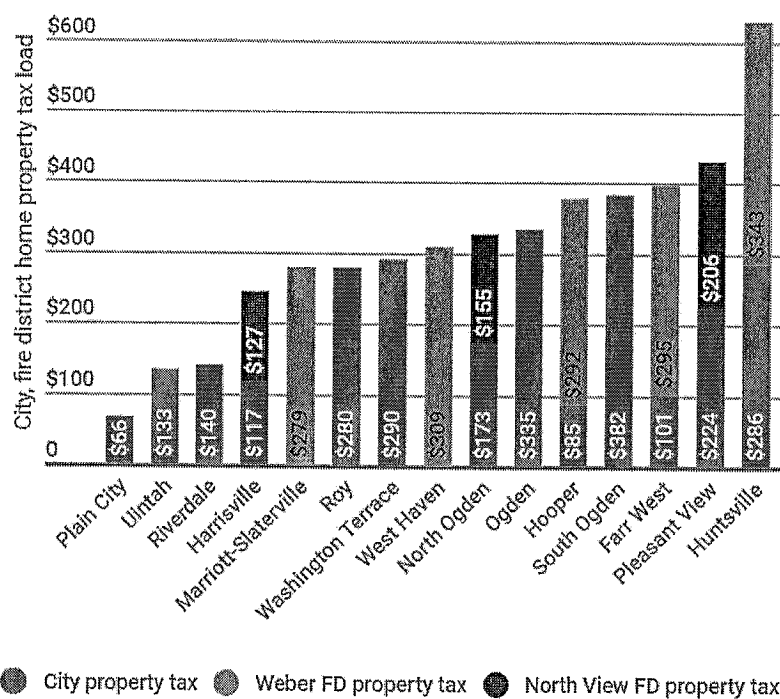
What I can speak to, is that when you have a high-trust workplace culture, that quantifies the firefighters experience and improves volunteer engagement, there is no problem staffing to higher levels. In my opinion, any questions as to the inability to have more than 12 firefighters is based off of these decisions made by the council and if the shackles were removed under the correct leadership the numbers of volunteers at the Uintah station would begin to flourish once again.

⁴ See Uintah City Code of Ordinances, Title 5, Chapter 1, Article B, 5-1B-2 "Composition of the Department".

1.4 The Tax Rate and Weber Fire District

I know that Mike Marz, currently the Deputy Chief of the Department, has spoken quite poignantly on this issue so I won't belabor his spot-on assessment. I will only add some additional comments while echoing what Mike has outlined in his public comment:

To start with I wanted to share this graphical representation⁵ of Mike's Public Comment:



What this graph shows you is what the approximation of the relative tax costs per average valued home. Here are the couple of take a ways that I would like for you to have while echoing Mike's comment(s):

1. The three highest cumulative tax levels are Huntsville, Pleasant View and Farr West (all 3 serviced by a Fire District)
2. Uintah is currently the second lowest in the County.
3. If we were to use Mike Marz's calculations and add \$300 for the outlined Certified Tax Rate to the \$133 shown in this graph, in one swoop **Uintah becomes the city with the second highest relative tax costs in the county.**

A question that I have for the Council, should they decide to go forward with this idea of annexation into Weber Fire District, is would we see a reduction in our Property Taxes for the amount that used to be allocated by general fund for Fire Suppression Activities, or would the city just keep the current tax rate and just tack this on top?

⁵ Source: www.inforgram.com quoting "2018 tax rates and average home values for each city come from the Weber County Clerk-Auditor's Office and 2018 Fire District Tax Rates come from the Weber and North View Fire Districts"

I remember sitting in a budget planning meeting a couple, maybe three years back, when during that meeting there was a lengthy discussion that the council didn't want to have to be the council to raise taxes. So, rhetorically asking of course, we still have a council that doesn't want to raise taxes so they will shoulder that responsibility onto Weber Fire District, under the guise of "we didn't raise your taxes, Weber Fire District did."

1.5 Weighted Say in Financial and Operational Concerns

As outlined in the Fact Sheet Provided by Uintah would appoint 1 person to an already 9-person governing board. This provides the city with a 10% weighted input in district operations and fire operations within our own city.

1.6 Paying for Other City's Growth

Uintah is basically a landlocked City. There will be no substantial land grab annexation, so what we see a city footprint today is what we will see for a while. Just in area. What does that mean, there is a ceiling for growth in Uintah that is stunted when compared to other cities who receive their fire services through Weber Fire District.

So, what does that mean, well we could look at Weber Fire District's operations in Ogden Valley. Already operating 2 stations (one in Huntsville, one in Eden), the Weber Fire District has a long-range plan to build and staff a third station up at Snowbird. Building new fire stations is expensive. So is building equipment and paying for staffing for it. How will the district pay for that? Well most likely, an increase to the certified tax rate.

However, if Uintah is a part of the Weber Fire District; then you will be stuck with that same increase. So, in essence you will end up paying for that fire station in which you will not see any beneficial use from. The same argument could be carried out in other cities with growth potential such as Farr West, and unincorporated areas of the County.

All the while, Uintah limited in space, will never be able to grow to change the need for service. So, we end up in a situation where we continue to fund the public safety protection of other cities, while seeing no increase benefit.

This can be seen in our contact with the Weber County Sheriff Department, and their history of rate increases.

"I always advise the cities that I represent that it's pretty risky to do public safety on a fee basis." – David Church, Alpine (Utah) City Attorney.

1.7 Paying when someone pulls out

That quote from Mr. Church is well placed as Alpine city was just faced with a difficult, but not so uncommon situation. We don't have to look very far back into history to see what happens when a city pulls out of a fire district. The remaining cities have to foot the bill. For the 2019-2020 budget Alpine and Highland, Utah had to both substantially increase their fee payout to Lone Peak Public Safety District after Cedar Hills pulled out of Lone Peak. So, what will happen if Eden, or Farr West were to pull out and open their own fire department? While all the remaining are stuck holding the bill.

1.8 But Will It Happen...

Even if were to ignore the example I just gave with the Lone Peak Saga, there are several examples in recent history of Agencies pulling out of Special Services Districts (for Fire and Police) at substantial cost:

2011 – Bluffdale police leaves Unified Police after only 2 years

2016 – Draper leaves Unified Fire Authority⁶

2018 – Washington Terrace backs out of Merger Talks with Riverdale and South Ogden⁷

2019 – Cedar Hills pulls out of Lone Peak Fire District⁸

2019 – Riverton City leaves Unified Police

2020 – Taylorsville leaves Unified Police to form its own department⁹

1.9 Once you go down this path you cannot go back...

Once the City decides to close the department, it would be fiscally irresponsible to maintain any of the fire equipment.

Fire Apparatus would be sold, turn outs and other miscellaneous equipment same result.

The New Fire Station, built with State Taxpayer Funds to provide a fire station, the City of Uintah takes back and becomes a city building for roads? Something else? The city does own the building, they have the right to do so, but having been one of the people who stood in front of the State Legislature personally and said this Building is Going to be for the Protection of our citizens, and the city just sells out that hard work of everyone involved along with the promise we made for the use of those state funds.

⁶ <https://kutv.com/news/local/draper-city-council-votes-to-leave-unified-fire-authority>

⁷ https://www.standard.net/news/government/washington-terrace-backs-out-of-fire-department-merger-talks-with-riverdale-south-ogden/article_7d56fcdf-441a-5e50-8abc-0892e773a286.html

⁸ https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/north/alpine/alpine-approves-raised-property-tax-to-fund-public-safety/article_381f468b-4eba-5a27-8264-200de37c0391.html

⁹ <https://kutv.com/news/local/taylorsville-leaving-unified-police-to-form-its-own-department>

What Cities like Draper, Taylorsville, Cedar Hills now realize is that they have to start from scratch. Again. Buy new equipment, hire new personnel, the list goes on and on.

Uintah would not have the budget to do that. Once this commitment is made, there will never be a return from it.

1.10 Missed Funding Opportunities

I have seen a couple questions out there how the department is able to function on such a small budget. Well the short answer is because of dedication of the volunteers of the department who participate, even not living in the city, to drop what they are doing – dinner with their kids, date night with their wife, to help you when you need it. Of course, that good will doesn't pay the bills.

One of the reasons that the City now sees itself in a tight funding situation with regard to the fire department is the almost 100% decrease in seeking out grant funding opportunities.

I cannot say that this is a result of City Policy to no longer seek out grant funding opportunities, or the department's outgoing administrator not being able to be successful in this endeavor, as I don't know. What I can say, is that I currently sit (and have for several years now) on the Utah Department of Health, EMS Grant Committee, and for the past two years the City of Uintah has failed to submit for life per capita grant (which consists of a simple 1 page application) and has left approximately \$7,000 on the table that could have gone into supporting the Department.

What other grant funding opportunities are being missed?

1.11 What if it's not all about the money

Even if everything were equal, a point which I have illustrated above is not, but if they were there is the intangible, the things you can't pay for.

Let's be real, when your house is on fire, you don't really care whose name is on the side of the door of the fire engine. Just that when you need a fire engine, one arrives.

But let's be more real than that, that until you need a fire engine, it is probably pretty far down on your personal hierarchy of needs. As the staff in the City Offices and see how many times they get called if the trash isn't picked up; versus that it took the fire department 9 minutes to show up instead of 6. I can guarantee you that the answer will tip to the former.

Of course, being trained, ready and able to response to an emergency is the core function of a fire department. But it's not the only function. Yet, the city's flyer seems to gloss over this fact and only focuses on response times and quantity of people on the roster.

When I was the Chief of Uintah, we took a different approach to providing the services to the city. Some of those I am happy to see have continued since I left in 2018. All of these things are provided at no cost, and some of you have grown accustomed to just seeing them. However, you will see them go away as it is highly doubtful, based on their current operations, they would provide any of the following:

- **First Aid Coverage at U-Days.** The U-Day's mass gathering permit requires the contracting of onsite first aid/emergency response for the entire U-Day event. Your city Fire Department provides this service at no additional costs to the city. Whereas contracting that service out would be an additional charge added to the U-Days budget.
- **Fire Engine Rides at the Car Show.** Speaking of U-Days, the City was able to Auction off Rides in the City Fire Engine in support of the Car Show and U-Days expenses.
- **Irrigation Ditch Burn Support.** Every Spring the Irrigation ditch traversing the city are cleaned out and grasses burned. From hosting coordination meetings at the fire station to providing all day fire suppression support to ensure nothing gets "out of hand" the Fire Department spends the day supporting the ability to more rapidly clear out the irrigation canals.
- **Christmas Family Adoption.** Starting in 2013, and each year while I was the Chief, the Department adopted a family that was struggling at Christmas. **Out of the volunteers own pockets**, and some donations from local businesses coordinated through our Public Affairs Officer at the time, we would purchase Christmas Gifts, and the items needed to prepare a Christmas meal for everyone in the household.
- **Easter Egg Hunt.** Starting a few years back the Fire Department took over the planning and execution of the Easter Egg Hunt the city produces. While the hunt only lasts a few minutes most of the families stay to enjoy a pancake breakfast made by the firefighters.
- **Halloween Trunk or Treat.** When I was the Chief, I started this event because they were doing something at the Church Parking Lot and couldn't host it one year. And each year following that it just got bigger and bigger. More families, more cars, more kids. Food trucks, haunted station tours, even a little emergency preparedness education thrown in. I'm sure that this even could be moved to some other location, but even the parents have a hard time resisting going through the haunted fire house.
- **Day Care Visits.** Our next generation is always our most precious investment. Our Fire Department makes annual trips to day care's in the city, allowing children of multiple ages be around the fire equipment, learn a little fire safety, and learn not to be scared of a firefighter in all of their turn out gear. Insert a little fun with the presentation, and it has become an annual event that is not only looked forward to by the day care and the children, but also the firefighters.
- **Last Day of School Event.** Our department has the unique opportunity in not being over inundated with a high call volume that each year, on the last day of school, we are able to take a fire engine into a local school and wet the kids down from the fire engine. It turns into a large water fight, and while the kids do their best – all that is left is some really wet kids, a lot of smiles, and a lot of laughter. This school contacts Uintah Fire because we have students attend, but also because the other local departments (Weber Fire District, and South Ogden Fire) are not able to help out with the request for various reasons.

- **U-Days wake up.** I have to be honest here, the first year as Chief when Mike Marz told me we have to drive around every street at 7 am on a Saturday siren blaring – I thought he had lost his mind. He told me “If you don’t do it, your phone is going to be ringing off the hook”. Of course, I didn’t doubt him, and we did it that year, and every year after that. Driving up and down the streets, blaring our siren to wake everyone up for U-Days. That first year, as I hung out at the Park, I can’t tell you how many people came up to me “Heard the Sirens this morning, thanks!” I even heard from a couple “Did you drive down my street, I didn’t hear it?”

Using a strong metaphor here, **is the city council really contemplating letting the sirens go silent?**
Are the voting members of this city, ready to let them do it?

Sometimes things aren’t about dollars. Sometimes things are just about being a part of the community. And, whether they live in the city or not, the fact that volunteers will close that door on the side of the truck that says Uintah and go out and do something as simple as buying a cup of lemonade from your child’s stand – is that difference between what a fire department should be, and the loss of it that you as a council and us as citizens of this city should be afraid it turns to.

In Summary, I find it difficult to understand why the council is interested in moving 100% influence of the services, budget, policy and personnel of the Fire Department to an unassociated third party.

Especially when given the fact that a Special Services District model may not be sustainable (i.e. when city leaves, the rest will be left to shoulder the load). Especially considering that Uintah would not have the resources to recover back to where we were.

As we see the argument regarding insurance premiums increase forwarded by the city deflate with the fact of our PPC 3, to Weber’s PPC 4; along with the singular action that moves us as citizens to being the second highest proportionally taxed in the county; the City Council needs to do better than that.

Instead of seeking out a path of least resistance, I challenge you, Respected Council Members, to recognize that the troubles forwarded in your flyer are overcome not with contracting the service out, but instead creating a culture in the Fire Department that is in harmony with the **expectations of our community**. I know there is interest from a retired firefighter who lives in the Highlands that is interested in keeping the department open. I also, am willing to proverbially walk the talk and return to the department and help. What I challenge you with is to keep direct accountability of our city services, and be good stewards of our tax dollars, and not just punt the problem to an arguably worse choice both from a fiscal and a community equity perspective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

/s/

William Pope

wpope2953@gmail.com

Uintah City

From: SCOTT ROUNDS <lrounds66@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 7:56 AM
To: uintahcity@uintahcity.com
Subject: Fire Department

Hello there! I just read the information form provided regarding the Fire Department. My two cents -

I prefer we contract with Weber County for services. Yes, the cost to property taxes appears to be more to contract with the county...

BUT, did that cost (shown on the paper) of running our own department account for the maintenance, upkeep, and replacement costs for equipment? What about insurance costs for the city just in case the fire fighters do something irregular and a structure burns down or heaven forbid, a life is lost? What about the upkeep and maintenance on the fire house? What about the costs incurred when the fire is too big for the department to handle and the county and other cities are called in? What about the insurance costs of volunteers who may get injured when fighting a fire?

My vote (not that I actually get one) is to contract with the County.

Have a fabulous day!

Lani Rounds

Uintah City

From: Marc A. Sacco <msacco@uintahfd.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Uintah City; Gordon Cutler; Kristi Bell; Michelle Roberts; ccsmith@uintahcity.com; uintahfire@aol.com
Cc: Mike Marz; Casey Christiansen
Subject: Consolidated UCFD Fire callback statistics 2016 thru 2020
Attachments: UCFD Statistics - taken from Dispatch info -.docx

All,

According to Weber Fire District, they provide more support to Uintah City than Uintah City provides to them.

There are three distinctly separate issues facing response in Uintah City.

1.) EMS response

Uintah City pays Weber Fire District via contractual agreement for WFD to respond to the first 100 medical calls within Uintah City at \$13,500/year (which comes directly out of the UCFD budget). This contract is in place since our station is not staffed 24/7 and either party (Uintah City or Weber FD can cancel this contract with 30 day's notice). Since 2014, WFD has never surpassed the 100 call mark. Should they do so, they would receive \$300/medical call from #101 and beyond. City hall has a copy of this contract on file. Since Weber Fire District is paid for these responses, they should not be using medical response statistics as justification for "helping UCFD more than UCFD helps WFD".

2.) EMS Transport

South Ogden Ambulance 82/Transport Engine 82 has the historical "EMS land rights" for patient transport within Uintah City. No one else can establish an ambulance service - including UCFD and WFD - and take those patients/funds - until South Ogden FD gives up those EMS land rights. We pay SOFD nothing since they receive the patient transport fees. Even if UCFD is disbanded and WFD takes over, WFD will not be able to receive the patient transfer funds until SOFD gives them up. WFD should not be using these medical response statistics as justification for "helping UCFD more than UCFD helps WFD" either.

3.) Fire/other emergency callback response.

These calls are comprised of automatic aid (First due stacks that are automatically call for as noted in the computer systems at Weber Dispatch) and mutual aid (when we specifically request special help after the First Due stacks have been dispatched) agreements with all the applicable cities in Weber and Davis counties. This is technically the ONLY issue of the three where WFD could conceivably raise concerns to justify their vague statements during the Council Meetings.

UCFD Callback statistics provided in the "UCFD Statistics" attachment have been retrieved directly from Spillman data and relate specifically to Issue # 3 above.

Finally, Layton FD's Fire Chief Kevin Ward stated that surrounding fire departments "saved the day" during the Uintah Fire. From what I recall, there were over 300 total firefighters on that fire, so in part, that statement is true. However, he neglected to mention a few details:

- The Uintah Fire technically started in Weber County jurisdiction, which is why they took charge of the management of that fire and should have.

- UCFD had 16 volunteers working that fire - 16 members who left their jobs on 05Sep17 (a Tuesday) and each provided over 12 hours of support to firefighting efforts. I would be interested to know if any other department(s) provided that many personnel to the initial firefighting efforts that day.

) Please consider these facts and accurate statistics as you weigh your important decision against the claims that UCFD can only provide "mooch"ual aid to the other "professional" fire departments in the area. Questions / concerns regarding this information may directed to me.

v/r

Marc A. Sacco
Fire Marshal
Uintah City Fire Department
msacco@uintahfd.org