

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EPHRAIM CITY HALL
5 SOUTH MAIN, EPHRAIM, UTAH
JANUARY 10, 2018
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Ephraim City Council convened in a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, in the City Council Room. Mayor Squire called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

Councilmember Wheeler offered an invocation. Mayor Squire led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Squire, Mayor
Margie Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem
Tyler Alder
John Scott
Greg Boothe
Richard Wheeler

STAFF PRESENT

Brant Hanson, City Manager
Marcus Gilson, City Attorney
Bryan Kimball, Community Dev.
Leigh Ann Warnock, City Recorder
Steve Widmer, Financial Director
Chad Parry, Public Works Director
Cory Daniels, Power Director
Aaron Broomhead, Police Chief

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler with Jones and DeMille Engineering was present and commented he was recently transferred to the Manti office from St. George. He presented the planning capabilities of Jones and DeMille to the Council and stated he would be willing to conduct a strategic data collection workshop.

I. MOTION AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. WATER RIGHTS

Mayor Squire updated the audience on the history of Ephraim's water supply and stated 60% of the City's potable water comes through the tunnel. That water must be augmented and the well may have chemicals that don't meet state standards. It is almost to the point developers would need to be asked to bring their own water, which would curtail economic development. The Council is trying to protect the City and make sure it is situated for the future. The City currently has an opportunity to purchase a large amount of water rights with land included.

Councilmember Scott commented it has been calculated that the water rights attached to the property would supply water to 1,200 new homes in Ephraim and would take care of 10-20 years of Ephraim City growth as well business growth. The Council feels it is a good price; rare to find this quantity. City forefathers developed the springs to the east, putting in resources to make sure there was available water for the community, the college and future growth. If the current Council is not likewise forward-thinking it could hamper the ability of Ephraim City to grow and continue as the economic lynch pin of the valley. The Council feels this purchase would be a major advantage to the City.

Councilmember Wheeler commented it is not *whether* the City needs the water, it *is* going to need the water. Water agreements will eventually have to be purchased and in the future it would cost the City substantially more than this deal.

Councilmember Anderson spoke of other things that have been done in the past commenting the sewer expansion has saved the City money and the road projects have saved a lot of money. "We are taking care of the future."

Brant Hanson commented the purchase would actually take the City out 40 years. Growth is inevitable with a college and the Council must strategically prepare for that. 542 acre feet of water are for sale, and once everything is said and done, the City should end up with at least 403 acre feet. The land that will be acquired totals 59 acres on the north end of town. Total cost for the purchase is \$4 Million negotiated with a 15 year loan at 2% interest, ensuring a significant cost savings over the 4% offered by the bank. Brant feels the City will never see this quantity of water rights offered at one time in the future.

Councilmember Scott moved to authorize an agreement to purchase land and water rights from Rex and Debra Nielson. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wheeler. A roll call vote was called. Voting yes: Councilmembers Scott, Boothe, Wheeler, Anderson, and Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

2. PEACE TREE

The Public Works Director was seeking direction from the Council regarding the Peace Tree at Pioneer Park. Substantial work has been done at the park, including repairs to cabins and grounds. The Peace Tree is a touchy project. It marks the spot where a peace treaty was signed with the Indians, but has been dead for about 20 years. It is a big tree

with a lot of history. It is very tall and in danger of falling sometime in the future, possibly damaging Maverik or hurting people in the park. Chad has researched many possibilities and would like to cut off the top and do some sort of art work with the trunk. He talked with the college about holding some fundraisers to make it into a totem pole with a cement foundation which would be maintained far into the future. There is a 4' red cedar tree at the cemetery which has sprouted from the pioneer cemetery trees. He suggested the possibility of planting that tree near the existing tree as it has come from the same kind of trees and is as old as the peace tree.

Councilmember Scott suggested summarizing what Chad said in the newsletter and asking for opinions on the Facebook page. He feels feedback from the public will be important.

Councilmember Boothe commented branches could be made into paperweights and would be a great way to involve elementary students and educate them about Native Americans and Ephraim settlers and the treaty that was signed under the tree.

II. APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Squire made Council Assignments. No reports were given.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember Scott moved the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 6:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled to be held on February 7, 2018, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council room.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Date