

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EPHRAIM CITY HALL
5 SOUTH MAIN, EPHRAIM, UTAH
MARCH 4, 2020
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Ephraim City Council convened in a Regular City Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in the City Council Room. Mayor Scott called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

At the invitation of the Mayor, Aaron Hughes offered an invocation and Nicole Hadlock led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

John Scott, Mayor
Margie Anderson
Tyler Alder
Alma Lund
Greg Boothe
Richard Wheeler

Staff Present

Shaun Kjar, City Manager
Leigh Ann Warnock
Chase Andrizzi, Attorney
Bryan Kimball, Com. Dev.
Devan Fowles, Planner
Chad Parry, Public Works

Jeff Jensen, Public Works
Aaron Broomhead, Police
Officer Colby Zeeman
Officer Steve Cragun
Lori Voshall, Library
Michael Patton, Recreation

PRESENTATIONS

Shaun Kjar presented a video prepared for the Manti-Ephraim Airport showing the Christmas Santa elementary delivery.

ORIGINAL PROPERTY TRANSFER FOR CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Alma Lund reported Howard Willardson's wife found the original copy of a transfer of deed for property from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to the City of Ephraim, for the Carnegie Library. He had it framed and Mayor Scott presented it to Library Director, Lori Voshall. It will now be displayed in the library.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER

The Council reviewed the Warrant Register of March 3, 2020.

Councilmember Alder moved to approve the March 3, 2020 Warrant Register as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

MOSQUITO FOGGING

Requests have been received by the Council, both for and against generalized fogging in the City. Mayor Scott called for those with comments *for* fogging to begin, and then those who are *against* fogging may comment.

Pro Fogging Comments

Larry Smith – We have talked about fogging for many years. It is important to note the old-fashioned way is not the way it is done any more, and is without harm to humans. It is much more affordable now and is efficient and effective if done as a community. Residents do not enjoy being outside when the community has not been fogged. He requested fogging be reinstated in Ephraim City. He said the Utah State Beekeeper is in favor of fogging as the new methods do not harm bees. He also said there could be liability issues if West Nile Virus were to come to our community.

Chad Parry reported the parks are currently receiving land-application treatment. Pellets have been purchased for storm drains. Mosquitos in the problem areas are being eliminated.

Comments Against Fogging

Amy Jorgensen – This has been an ongoing debate for a while. Pesticides are not safe, period. It is against the law for companies to claim that their products are safe. They are designed to kill things. We are talking about risk to the population, particularly the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, children and pregnant women. Those with asthma are also adversely affected. She commented she did not appreciate the fog coming into her home during spraying. 2012 was the last time that Ephraim fogged and the amount of money spent on fogging in 2011 was \$12,145. She referred to a study done by Cornell which assessed that .01% of fogging actually reached an insect. She feels there are better ways to control mosquitos. Larviciding works better. 2018 had 19 cases of West Nile Virus in the State and one death. In 2019, there were zero cases of WNV located in Sanpete County. WNV is not a critical issue in this area. She proposed the City move towards larviciding instead of fogging. She also suggested educating the public on how to take care of the problem in their areas.

Rachel Keller – Thanked the Council for announcing this meeting in the newsletter, allowing them to comment on this issue. When you come to an impasse, you must look for common ground. We all acknowledge that mosquitos and pesky and carry disease and we want to take care of people. Because we live in a community, we have to compromise and find the common ground. Common ground is effective abatement. We should do what works, and as Amy said, mass fogging is poor use of money and is not effective. My job is to take care of my children and family and yard, and I would not like them sprayed with pesticide. I feel this is a reasonable and respectful request as a citizen of this community. Dr. Gardner has stated that we don't know what we don't know and the long-term risks of these new pesticides are unknown.

Keith Chadler – He commented he is very sensitive to many chemicals. Usually when a spray is used, methylate is used to make it stick. He is very sensitive to it and would get sick every time anything was sprayed in town.

English Brooks – English appreciates that we can all be united in our general contempt for mosquitos. He had no new information; he just wanted to add to the concerns about a general fogging of the City. There are limits to what is appropriate to do on a city-wide level. Larvicide is something he is comfortable with and would feel better about were the community being educated about options and taking care of their own yards.

Mayor Scott summarized by stating that Larry Smith represents a group of people who are in favor of fogging Ephraim on a city-wide basis. That contingency of residents are upset that we ended fogging in 2012. The other contingency that we have is that when the City spends \$12,000 for fogging, the effective rate is \$1.21. Since then, many presentations have been made on the subject. We have heard from several individuals who are personally physically affected by fogging.

Councilmember Wheeler moved that fogging not occur as a general rule within the Ephraim City limits until more information is received. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The City will continue to spray the parks and continue to use larvicides.

Mayor Scott stated that when he ran for mayor, a group of residents accused him of opposing mosquito abatement because it would personally profit him as a beekeeper, and because of that would never vote for him. He wished it to be noted that he has not owned bees for over six years and is unbiased from that standpoint. “We wanted this be a public discussion because I wanted to make an unbiased and logical decision.” He also believes it is important that the public is here to watch the Council’s deliberations and understand why and how the decision was made.

WATER CONNECTION OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS - ANTONIO JIMENEZ

It was determined in the work session that the Council is not ready to make a decision at this time and will not discuss the matter further in this meeting.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Bryan Kimball is undertaking an update to General Plan. Proposals have been requested and four responses have been received. Staff has reviewed those RFPs which have been narrowed down to two, including Sunrise Engineering and Rural Community Consultants.

Shaun commented both firms have a lot of experience in Rural Utah. They have been run through the rating criteria by the City Manager, Engineer, Planner and Mayor. The City has past experience with Sunrise, who just completed the Impact Fee Analysis. Rural Community stood out with a very visual online presentation. We are looking at a narrow time frame to complete the project of about 90 days. Both companies can accommodate that schedule. The website tools offered by Rural Community Consultants are very enticing.

Rural Community Consultants obviously have much experience working in rural communities; that is exactly what they do. Sunrise also has Shannon, who used to work for Rural Community, and has worked on a lot of the same projects. Some of her team members are very knowledgeable as well. Both firms would deliver a quality product. Bryan agreed, but personally feels Rural Community is more user friendly than Sunrise. Both were able to meet the requested budget and timeline. Rural Community is slightly less expensive with a bid of \$2,750, compared to Sunrise's bid of \$3,000. The cost is not significant enough to be the deciding factor.

Councilmember Boothe moved to approve the bid from Rural Community Consultants in the amount of \$2,750, to update the General Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Tyler Alder

Recreation Board – This is the first time in a long time we have not heard complaints about the Recreation Department. Track is starting, soccer is starting, and volleyball is in progress. The number of baseball teams is increasing.

Margie Anderson

Youth City Council – They will be going to the Leadership Council in Logan.

State Legislative Liaison – The Legislature approved something to get together with transit authorities to discuss who gets what percentage of the taxes that come in on items ordered on the internet.

There is a plan proposed which would allow IPA to seek grants for forms of power like hydrogen storage as a source of power for the future.

Richard Wheeler

Airport Board – The Board discussed fuel costs and determined they would not be able to compete in the general arena because of the size of our airport. They made a planning list for the next five years to increase the size of the fuel tanks. They also discussed the increased awareness of insurance needs. When we have our fly-ins, we have to have the right people in the right numbers knowing which way people will be taking off and landing during the entire events. They would like to install some cameras. The AWOS is in need of repair. They talked about replacing it or going to an entire new system. More due diligence will be done in that area. Tentative dates were selected for the next fly-in (Sept. 9-12) and the Young Eagles on the 20th of September.

Alma Lund

Fire Board – Wild land training will take place next week, so the Board meeting had been canceled.

Mayor Scott

Taxes - Property taxes are down causing a definite concern. Sales tax may be drastically affected due to a component of the Corona Virus.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Bryan Kimball, Community Development Director

Planning Conference – He attended the Planning conference with Devan. They had some great classes, some touching on multi-family development.

Chad Parry, Public Works Director

Meters – The Department has been working very hard the past six months on a meter reprogram. All of the meters will be changed out. Chad has been working on a deal with a company called Master Meter, which is nearly complete. The new system will allow Ephraim to be on its own frequency, using a tower on the water tank. Staff will be able to work with it from the office, and eventually the public will be able to see it on the website.

Miscellaneous – Chad reported he learned lot of new information. CCRs are completed and posted in the newspaper and the website. Sewer training will begin shortly.

Aaron Broomhead, Chief of Police

EMTs – We are trying to get the officers cross-trained through Ephraim Ambulance to become EMTs. Dillon Rasmussen will be the first to go through that training.

Security Cameras – The cameras have been installed in the Council room and are on. We should be able to go live by the next meeting

Michael Patton, Rec Director

Grant – We are applying for a Utah Recreation Grant. We would be working with County and the Forest Service to get some walking trails up Ephraim Canyon.

Concessions - An RFP has been extended for those interested in providing concessions at the sports-plex and possibly something at Canyon View Park. We hope to have something ready in April for award of contract.

Volleyball Clinic - Thanks to Jeff Reynolds and his volleyball team at Snow College, who offered a free volleyball clinic this year. They had about 70 girls attend.

Chase Andrizzi

Legal Issues – Chase is working with staff on issues as they arise. Court is going well.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dumpster - A large dumpster has been delivered to a property in Ephraim and we have extended the use of that to those who might need it.

Budget – The Capital Projects List shows projects for 2019, 2020 and we are working on 2021. All Department Directors will be submitting projects to be added to the list. We have already had some ideas and requested items for 2021. We wish to complete as many projects as were approved for this year and will complete those as we can.

ULGT Insurance – ULGT has sent a notice of insurance rate decrease. They report a 30% reduction in claims, and administrative expenses are also down. That savings is passed on to us.

March Cleanup – For the week of March 23-28, clippings and shrubbery clippings may be placed on the curb in front of residents’ homes and the Public Works crew will pick them up. A group from the college has also volunteered to help with the pick-up. A larger cleanup will occur sometime in April with big dumpsters.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Alder moved to go into a closed session pursuant to the provisions of the Utah State Code, Section(s) 52-4-205(a), for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wheeler. A roll call vote was called. Voting yes: Councilmembers Lund, Boothe, Wheeler, Anderson, and Alder. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The Closed Meeting began at 8:29 p.m.

At 9:35 p.m. Councilmember Alder moved the Council adjourn the closed session and reopen the public meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lund. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember Anderson moved the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 9:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Boothe. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2020, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council room.

MINUTES APPROVED:

John Scott, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Leigh Ann Warnock, City Recorder

Date