

Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL
Friday, January 14, 2022

- Present: Mayor Kendalyn Harris
- Councilmembers Jesse Bell, Kate Bradshaw, Richard Higginson, Cecilee Price-Huish
- City Manager Gary Hill
- Assistant City Manager Galen Rasmussen
- City Attorney Clinton Drake
- City Engineer Lloyd Cheney
- City Planner Francisco Astorga
- Finance Director Tyson Beck
- IT Director Alan West
- Parks Director Brock Hill
- Water Director Kraig Christensen
- Streets & Sanitation Director Charles Benson
- Human Resources Director Shannon Cottam
- Chief of Police Ed Biehler
- SDMFD Chief Dane Stone
- Recording Secretary Maranda Hilton
- Excused: Councilmember Millie Segura Bahr

Official notice of the City Council Meeting was given by posting an agenda at City Hall and on the Bountiful City Website and the Utah Public Notice Website and by providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County Journal and Standard Examiner.

Friday Session – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Hyatt Park Station, Farmington, Utah

WELCOME, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND PRAYER/THOUGHT

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Shannon Cottam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Higginson offered a prayer.

COUNCIL REPORTS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Harris led a discussion on the “Council Reports” portion of the City Council meetings. She suggested the Council consider best practices moving forward concerning turning their council report time over to other people. She suggested that their reports should be a time to share updates from their liaison assignments, and that they should not turn the time over to anyone else. The Council agreed.

They also discussed having a portion of the meeting dedicated to legislative updates. Mr. Hill felt that during the legislative session it would be a good idea to do that, but not in every meeting throughout the year. He felt certain they could add it to the agenda as needed when an issue arose.

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2 **POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION**

3 Mr. Hill led a discussion about how they can better adhere to City policy instead of
4 exhausting manpower and resources trying to make an exception for every worthy cause. He gave
5 examples of utility customers who consistently do not pay and ask for exceptions, residents who have
6 cemetery plots who want exceptions to the non-resident fees or the “no items left on gravesites”
7 policy, and had staff and councilmembers share their experiences with this issue as well. Mr. Hill
8 explained that current policies are generally well thought out and in place for a reason, so they should
9 not be changed without careful consideration . It is always good to question and examine the policy,
10 but it needs to be done in the right way, not in a reactionary way.

11 Councilmembers talked about how important this issue will be when it comes to upholding
12 the General Plan and taking the heat, when needed, in order to achieve the vision for the City.

13 Councilmember Higginson also noted that if the City is not careful, government can get very
14 big and be oppressive to residents. He finds it best to keep the City workforce small and therefore tax
15 residents less. Mr. Hill agreed that if there were more resources the concerns could be addressed
16 faster, but it would also mean higher taxes. He knows that people can get frustrated when everything
17 is not acted on quickly, but because the City is operating at full capacity, items must be prioritized.

18 Councilmember Bradshaw added that as Councilmembers, when a resident comes to them
19 with a question, and they reach out to staff and get an automatic “no” it is difficult for them to do
20 their job. She reminded staff that they should be working as a team with the Council. Mr. Hill
21 thanked her for the insight and said it was helpful.

22
23 The meeting took a short break from 9:52 a.m. to 10:09 a.m.

24
25 Mr. Galen Rasmussen handed out the Budget Calendar and the Budget Committee assignments and
26 made sure the Councilmembers were okay with their assignments and the meeting dates. They were
27 approved.

28
29 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FEES**

30 Mr. Hill led a discussion about affordable housing legislation. He explained that a common
31 refrain they are hearing in the legislature is that cities are the main reason that housing is
32 unaffordable. He spent some time debunking those allegations, showing that city fees are a very small
33 percentage of the actual cost of building a home. He also explained that if cities do not charge
34 developers the cost of new development, then the cost falls to the current residents through increased
35 taxes, which is simply not fair. He also argued that if a developer has lower costs, they almost
36 certainly will not be passed onto the purchaser, who will still be charged market value for the home.

37 Mr. Astorga and Mr. Cheney did a cost analysis for the fees they charge in the Planning and
38 Engineering Departments, comparing their fees to how much it actually costs them in employee
39 wages to complete those reviews and issue permits. They also looked at what other cities are charging
40 for fees and permits. They discovered that they are grossly undercharging for fees and permits. Mr.
41 Hill explained that if the City is undercharging for fees, then the City is subsidizing those costs and
42 taxpayers are bearing the burden. He proposed a fee increase to help cover those costs and be fairer to
43 residents. Using the comparison charts they created, they want to raise the fees to be closer to what
44 the actual cost is to the City for each item. The Councilmembers all agreed to no longer subsidize the
45 cost of new development and raising the fees.

1 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

2 Councilmember Bradshaw listed a few themes from the upcoming legislative session
3 including water conservancy and landscaping restrictions, housing affordability and homelessness,
4 retail incentives, COVID testing requirements and accommodations, and use of force and other law
5 enforcement bills.

6 Mr. Hill expanded on some of these bills and answered questions about them. He said that
7 they will bring updates to the Council during Council meetings, and they will also keep a link with
8 information on the City website, like they did last year, in an effort to keep the public informed.

9 The Council thought it was a good idea to do whatever was needed to help the public be
10 informed about these issues.

11
12 **MID-YEAR RETREAT OR SITE VISIT?**

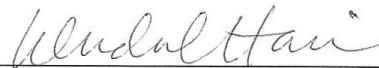
13 Mr. Hill asked the Council if they would like to do a site visit somewhere instead of a mid-
14 year retreat. They all liked the idea of doing a daytrip somewhere close by. They chose May as the
15 ideal month for scheduling the visit.

16
17 **WRAP-UP**

18 Mayor Harris thanked everyone for the wonderful retreat and asked to get a group picture.
19

20 **ADJOURN**

21 The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 p.m.



Kendalyn Harris, Mayor


City Recorder