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Minutes of the  
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL

February 23, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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Present:	Mayor	Randy Lewis
	Councilmembers	Millie Segura Bahr, Kate Bradshaw, Kendalyn Harris, Richard Higginson, Chris Simonsen
	City Manager	Gary Hill
	City Engineer	Lloyd Cheney
	City Planner	Francisco Astorga
	City Attorney	Clinton Drake
	City Recorder	Shawna Andrus
	Finance Director	Tyson Beck
	Power Director	Allen Johnson
	I.T. Director	Alan West
	Parks Director	Brock Hill
	Streets Director	Charles Benson
	Golf Professional	Kent McComb
	Police Chief	Ed Biehler
	Planning Admin Asst	Darlene Baetz
	Recording Secretary	Maranda Hilton

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.

**Work Session – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Bountiful City Hall Council Chambers**

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

**FIBER BASICS AND NEXT STEPS – MR. ALAN WEST**

Mr. Alan West offered a brief history of and basic information about fiber optics, how they work and how they compare to other forms of data transmission commonly in use. He explained that fiber optics transmit data almost at the speed of light which is about 6,000 times the bandwidth of copper. He explained that although it is not known exactly how long fiber optic cables last, they do last longer than copper and are superior in terms of reliability, security, and distance. The cost of fiber optics is higher than copper, but it has come down from what it once was.

Bountiful had a fiber circuit installed in 1998 which provided services to City Hall, Fire Station 81, the South Davis Recreation Center, the Power plant, the Water Department and the Streets Department. It cost almost \$250,000 and it was estimated that it would pay for itself in cost savings over the next 10 years. In 2019, UTOPIA installed a new circuit for the City which connected the temporary city hall offices location at 150 North Main Street and the Police Department. This costs the City \$990 per month, but that will decrease significantly once the initial investment is paid off at the end of the nine-year contract. He added that his experience with UTOPIA has been positive in terms of reliability and service.

1 In 2007, City officials looked at the possibility of providing Wi-Fi service throughout the  
2 City, but it was determined that Wi-Fi speeds were not fast enough to be an improvement over  
3 copper. The fiber industry was also growing at that time and it became the clear competitor.

4 In 2002, Bountiful was invited to participate in the first UTOPIA campaign, but the Council  
5 and Mayor at the time felt they did not want to get involved in the private sector. Eleven cities in total  
6 decided to participate. Some of the cities had a good experience with it and there was a lot of bad  
7 press surrounding it in others.

8 Mr. West explained that a fiber provider simply provides the infrastructure, not the internet  
9 services. If Bountiful City decided to use UTOPIA, subscribers would choose from several internet  
10 service providers who partner with UTOPIA. The estimated monthly cost for internet speeds of 250  
11 megabytes per second (mbps) is \$65. Competitors like CenturyLink only provide 20-40 mbps by  
12 comparison.

13 Mr. West explained that there is a lot of interest in fiber-to-home in Bountiful right now.  
14 Residents want dedicated fiber to every home, not shared speeds among neighbors. They don't want  
15 non-subscribers to have to pay for fiber services or installation, and they want open access which will  
16 ensure competitive rates between internet service providers (ISPs). Fiber installation could have a  
17 positive effect in many ways, providing easier access for work-from-home and remote schooling,  
18 increased security, better business connectivity, better utility metering, and many other applications  
19 for the City that have previously been unexplored.

20 Mr. West explained that there are three potential business models the City can choose from:  
21 UTOPIA financing, building, and managing the system with a guarantee from the City; the City  
22 financing the installation and UTOPIA building and managing it; or the City financing, maintaining  
23 and managing it. He said that maintaining and managing the system is fairly complicated and City  
24 staff does not have experience in that.

25 The next steps will be to decide whether or not to proceed. If the decision is to proceed, next  
26 steps would be to create a survey to help determine take rates, decide on a business model, submit an  
27 RFP, and then go ahead with the installation. There are other potential partners besides UTOPIA,  
28 namely EntryPoint Networks, Google Fiber, Century Link, and possible others.

29 Consensus among the Council was that they would like to continue on the path toward  
30 offering fiber-to-home and would like to get a survey out. After some discussion, most Council  
31 members felt that the best course of action was for the City to do its own survey in an effort to be  
32 transparent instead of using UTOPIA. Councilwoman Bradshaw also felt that knowing exactly what  
33 current providers have to offer was an important step before asking residents for their input. She also  
34 asked that the City make certain it would not be responsible for any other city's obligations if the  
35 decision was to use UTOPIA. Councilman Higginson asked that anyone who might be a quality  
36 provider be considered. Mr. West agreed that these things were critical to helping make a decision  
37 and said that he would contact providers to find out more. It was decided that City staff would begin  
38 creating a survey at the same time as Mr. West gathered more information. Mr. Hill commented that  
39 spending a couple of months gathering all the information needed isn't going to make a big  
40 difference in the timeline of the entire project since build-out could take up to five years. The Council  
41 agreed.

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43 The meeting was closed at 6:54 p.m.  
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1 **Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**  
2 **Bountiful City Hall Council Chambers**  
3

4 Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He  
5 said he hoped residents would be pleased with how the renovations of City Hall turned out and  
6 commented on how bright it was in the Council Chambers now. He thanked those who worked on the  
7 design and construction of the building, saying they should be pleased and proud. He thanked the  
8 Council for making all the decisions that turned this building into a reality.

9 Mr. Karl J. Keyes led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Sterling Bennett, First Counselor in  
10 the Bountiful North Canyon Stake presidency, offered a prayer.

11  
12 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

13 The public comment section was opened at 7:07 p.m.  
14

15 Mr. Robert Steagall – said he is in favor of Bountiful pursuing fiber-to-the-home for residents.  
16 He feels having more competition in the market will benefit everyone. He asked that they consider  
17 using an RFI (request for information), even an informal one, in order to get the best ideas.  
18

19 Mr. Mike Klingler – said he was in favor of fiber installation and suggested ideas he had seen  
20 used in other cities, namely subsidized internet for low-income families, and planning installation of  
21 fiber to coincide with other road maintenance projects to keep costs lower. He also said he is favor of  
22 doing a survey first to make sure the take rate will be sufficient.  
23

24 Mr. Mike Gibson – said he thinks there is a clear desire for fiber in Bountiful and has heard  
25 only good things about UTOPIA from everyone he knows who uses them. He feels having more  
26 competition will improve customer service for everyone and asked the Council to get the survey out  
27 as soon as possible.  
28

29 Mr. Dave Burr – said he owns Sumo Fiber, which is a UTOPIA provider, and is very familiar  
30 with them and some of the other providers they have worked with in Idaho. He will get his  
31 information to Mr. West to help with the investigation. He urged the Council to get a survey out as  
32 soon as possible in order to figure out if the project is viable.  
33

34 Mr. David Johnson – said he is a teacher at Bountiful Junior High and explained that upload  
35 speeds are very important right now as they pertain to online learning. Most service providers have  
36 inadequate upload speeds, so he asked the Council to please take that into account in their decision-  
37 making.  
38

39 The public comment section was closed at 7:14 p.m.  
40

41 **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

42 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2021 and  
43 Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,  
44 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.  
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1 **COUNCIL REPORTS**

2 Councilman Higginson did not have a report, but said it was nice to be back at City Hall and it  
3 was nice to see so many law enforcement personnel present this evening.

4 Councilwoman Bahr did not have a report.

5 Councilwoman Harris reported that the Historic Preservation Committee is in need of  
6 affordable broadband services for their security cameras, and that the windstorm damaged the roof of  
7 the Willey cabin, so they will be trying to get that repaired soon.

8 Councilman Simonsen said he was happy to be back in such a beautiful building that is  
9 happily situated right next to the Veterans Park.

10 Councilwoman Bradshaw reported that there are still several bills being reviewed by the Utah  
11 State Legislature at the capitol that would take away local control. She encouraged Councilmembers  
12 to help the ULCT reach out to legislators as needed and encouraged residents to keep apprised of  
13 these issues as well.

14  
15 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES GREATER THAN \$1,000 PAID FEBRUARY**  
16 **1 & 8, 2021**

17 Councilman Simonsen made a motion to approve the expenditures paid February 1 & 8, 2021,  
18 and Councilwoman Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,  
19 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

20  
21 **SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE CHIEF EDWARD BIEHLER**

22 Ms. Shawna Andrus, City Recorder, administered the oath of office to Chief Edward Biehler.

23 Chief Biehler spoke to the Council about the mission statement of the Bountiful Police  
24 Department. He explained that their commitment to providing the highest quality police services to  
25 the citizens of Bountiful will remain unchanged. They have established a culture of professionalism  
26 and integrity which they will continue to foster as they provide public safety, order, and protection  
27 under the law. He also commented on their commitment to training and preparing for emergency  
28 events, like the active shooters in schools, fires and windstorms that Bountiful residents have  
29 experienced recently. He said what an honor it was to be associated with the “finest police  
30 department staff in the state”, saying it is impossible for others to understand the sacrifices these men  
31 and women make in an effort to serve our community. He honored the men and women he has served  
32 with over the years, especially Chief Ross, who has been a mentor and a friend, and who taught him  
33 how to be a leader. He thanked his coworkers for their continued support as he grows into this new  
34 role. He thanked his family, his wife and children, for their understanding and constancy. And finally,  
35 he thanked the Council, the Mayor and City Manager for their support and care. He promised to be  
36 engaged and accountable to the City and to the residents of Bountiful as he does his best to fulfill his  
37 responsibilities.

38 Mayor Lewis commented that he is extremely proud to live in a community that supports the  
39 police. Councilman Simonsen thanked Chief Biehler for what he does and said there is a lot of  
40 support in this community for him.

41  
42 **RECOGNITION OF FORMER POLICE CHIEF TOM ROSS – MAYOR RANDY LEWIS**

43 Mr. Hill introduced former Chief Ross and his wife, Rayma. He spoke about Tom’s ability to  
44 make everyone feel important and about the special relationship of trust that they formed as City  
45 Manager and Chief of Police. Tom is one of those people who will always come when you call in the  
46 middle of the night. He thanked Tom and Rayma for their service to the community.

1 Mayor Lewis presented Mrs. Ross with flowers and Chief Ross with a check. He also spoke  
2 about how proud Bountiful feels that someone from Bountiful’s community was chosen to help with  
3 the State justice system. He thanked Chief Ross for all that he has done.

4 Chief Biehler presented Chief Ross with a framed plaque and read the inscription out loud.  
5 The inscription mentioned Chief Ross’s 34 years of service, in many different positions with the last  
6 15 years as Chief. Tom also served as president of the Utah Chiefs of Police Association for over four  
7 years, influencing the direction of law enforcement for the entire state of Utah. He played a critical  
8 role in the creation of the Davis County Receiving Center which helps people with mental illness and  
9 drug abuse problems get the help they need. He said that Chief Ross is a great example of a leader  
10 doing the right things for the right reasons and that law enforcement today is better because of his  
11 influence.

12 Chief Ross said how glad he was to be able to stand before the Council one time in this new  
13 building. He said the building will be a legacy for Bountiful for years to come. He thanked the Mayor  
14 and Council who selected him as the Chief in 2006, saying that they really took a chance on him, not  
15 knowing what kind of leadership he would bring, and he will always appreciate that. He said that  
16 everything he is now taking to the State in this new role comes from his time serving in Bountiful. He  
17 spoke about his experiences sitting with people in crisis, both victims and offenders, and it was  
18 through those difficult conversations that he realized that something more was needed to help people,  
19 and the Receiving Center was formed. He said it is not all to his credit, but that there were many  
20 hands who helped in its creation. He expressed how sad he is to leave Bountiful and his “family” at  
21 the Police Department. He said how fortunate Bountiful is to have such great leaders who care more  
22 about the residents than about their own ideas and wants. Lastly, he spoke about the support of his  
23 family and the price they have paid to allow him to do what he loves. He explained that his wife has  
24 played a significant role in his success, and that their conversations over the years have helped to  
25 keep him centered. He explained that his family is his greatest success and is what has kept him sane  
26 and able to handle the difficulties of his duties.

27 Councilman Higginson stated that Bountiful has been blessed by the style of police culture  
28 that Chief Ross fostered here. He said that that legacy is safe in the hands of Chief Biehler and that  
29 doing simple things like supporting leaders like them will help to keep our community safe.

30 Councilwoman Bahr thanked both Chief Ross and Chief Biehler for being attentive and  
31 thoughtful, and thanked them for the leadership they have displayed to ensure a culture of caring.

32 Councilwoman Bradshaw spoke about Chief Ross’s ability to unite people who are divided.  
33 She appreciates her chance to work with him at the Capitol and although she is sad to see him leave  
34 Bountiful, she knows he is the right person for this new position where he will be doing important  
35 work that she fully supports. She welcomed Chief Biehler and said how impressed she has been with  
36 his abilities and knows that much of Chief Ross’s success came from having his support.

37 Councilwoman Harris expressed her appreciation for Chief Ross’s approach to community  
38 and school outreach, saying that “the kids [in Bountiful] ...know that the officers are their friends.”  
39 She said Chief Ross has the best stories and he will be missed. She wished him luck in his new job.

40 Mayor Lewis commented how wonderful it was to hear from each of these great men.

41  
42 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A BID FROM ANIXTER POWER SOLUTIONS FOR 62**  
43 **TRANSFORMERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$104, 606 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON**

44 Mr. Allen Johnson explained that every spring they work to replace transformers that have  
45 corroded over the winter. They got 3 bids for the purchase of new transformers and are asking for

1 approval of the high bid, because delivery time on the lower bids is 18-20 weeks, which is too long  
2 for them to wait. The Power Commission approved this unanimously at their meeting.

3 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve the purchase of 62 transformers from  
4 Anixter Power Solutions and Councilwoman Bradshaw seconded the motion. The motion passed with  
5 Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

6  
7 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A BID FROM BLACK AND MCDONALD IN THE AMOUNT**  
8 **OF \$363,485 FOR DIRECTIONAL BORING FOR THE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**  
9 **– MR. ALLEN JOHNSON**

10 Mr. Johnson explained that there are nine street light circuits that are burned up and need to  
11 be repaired, as well as four distribution projects that require directional boring. They received a few  
12 bids for directional boring services and are asking for approval on the low bid from Black and  
13 McDonald for \$363,485.

14 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve the bid from Black and McDonald and  
15 Councilwoman Bradshaw seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,  
16 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

17  
18 **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2021-07 CHANGING THE FEES AT**  
19 **BOUNTIFUL RIDGE GOLF COURSE – MR. KENT MCCOMB**

20 Mr. Kent McComb explained that as they have evaluated the golf industry, they feel that now  
21 is the right time to restructure the rates at Bountiful Ridge Golf Course. They want to move from the  
22 green fee model to a dynamic pricing model. They currently have a daily rate and multiple discount  
23 rates during the year, but they would like to simplify it to a single rate on certain days with just a  
24 couple of exceptions. The new rate structure will still be affordable and fair and will also allow for  
25 greater flexibility. They will also keep the junior rate in order to encourage growth in the sport. He  
26 explained that they would like to continue requiring prepaid reservations, which they began during  
27 the COVID-19 pandemic as a necessity, because it has solved the problem of losing thousands of  
28 dollars a week to no-shows.

29 Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 and Councilman  
30 Simonsen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris,  
31 Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

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33 **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2021-06 APPROVING THE INTERLOCAL**  
34 **AGREEMENT WITH DAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR JOINT USE OF FACILITIES –**  
35 **MR. GARY HILL**

36 Mr. Hill presented the interlocal agreement between Bountiful City and Davis School District  
37 saying that the agreement contains all the issues the Council raised at the last meeting, with a couple  
38 of tweaks. The agreement is for 10-years with mandatory checks at the one-, three- and five-year  
39 marks. The agreement specifies that the District will have priority use of two fields and that use  
40 begins at 2:00 p.m. and ends at sunset. The agreement allows for developing standards for turf  
41 maintenance after the agreement is made. Finally, a 90-day termination clause was taken out, but  
42 termination can happen immediately if there’s a breach of contract that isn’t resolved within 90 days.

43 The Council agreed to the changes.

44 Mr. Clinton Drake went over a few other minor changes to clarify language in the agreement.

1 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 with the recommended  
2 changes as presented and Councilwoman Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with  
3 Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

4  
5 **ADJOURN**

6 Councilwoman Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn and Councilman Higginson seconded the  
7 motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen  
8 voting “aye”.

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10 The regular session of City Council was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder