

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 21, 2016; 7:01 P.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**MAYOR BOB STEVENSON, JOYCE BROWN,
BRUCE DAVIS, TOM DAY, SCOTT FREITAG AND
JOY PETRO**

STAFF PRESENT:

**ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, KEVIN WARD,
TERRY COBURN, TRACY PROBERT, BILL
WRIGHT, KEVIN WARD, DAVID PRICE AND
THIEDA WELLMAN**

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Layton City Center.

Mayor Stevenson opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Freitag gave the invocation. Scouts and students were welcomed.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilmember Brown moved and Councilmember Petro seconded to approve the minutes of:

**Layton City Council Work Meeting – December 17, 2015; and
Layton City Council Meeting – December 17, 2015.**

The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as written.

MUNICIPAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Brown mentioned the Family Recreation Valentine's Dance that would be held on February 12th at the Central Davis gym from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. She said this was a fun family activity and there would be a live band, refreshments and prizes.

Councilmember Petro said an open house for the Snow Horse Gallery was being held at the Davis Conference Center where art from local youth was being displayed.

Councilmember Freitag expressed appreciation to the Public Safety Staff with the recent tragedies that had taken place in the community.

Mayor Stevenson echoed Councilmember Freitag. He said the City was working to see if anything could be done to alleviate any possible safety issues.

PRESENTATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

Alex Jensen, City Manager, said that was a wonderful segue into this presentation. He indicated that three employees were receiving recognition for having 20 or more years of service with the City. Alex recognized Doug Pierce, Lance Beech and James Petre for having 20 years of service with the City.

Alex said the City was blessed to have great employees; there was no greater asset to the City than the employees. He said they were not only great employees but they were good people. Alex said the City had dedicated employees that genuinely cared about the City and serving the citizens. He thanked the spouses and families for their support.

Mayor Stevenson said the teamwork that was in the City was unreal. He thanked everyone for what they did for the City and citizens.

YOUTH COUNCIL SWEARING IN

Carolyn Hunter, Youth Council Advisor, indicated that there were great kids involved and committed to the Youth Council. She thanked the City for its continued support of the program.

Thieda Wellman, City Reorder, administered the oath of office to the Youth Council members.

Councilmember Day thanked the advisors for their great work with the kids.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) GRADUATES

Kevin Ward, Fire Chief, introduced Natalie Tholen, the Public Education Specialist. He explained the CERT program and the training that was provided. Chief Ward said there were several thousand citizens in the City that were CERT trained. He introduced recent graduates who came forward to receive their certificates and to shake hands with the Mayor and Council.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Macayla Adams, 258 Aircraft Avenue, said she was speaking on behalf of Layton High students that were affected by the tragedy last Monday. She indicated that she used that crosswalk most days. The day of the accident she didn't walk to school because it was too dark. Ms. Adams said there were many days that she used a flashlight to cross the street. She said the City needed to provide more lighting at the crosswalk; the sign was not visible enough. There should be more emphasis on crosswalk safety.

Becky Adams, 258 Aircraft Avenue, said she appreciated the responses she received from the Council on her email. She said her daughter used this crosswalk most every day, and some elementary children used the crosswalk. Ms. Adams said this should be a school zone crosswalk and there needed to be a community wide effort to educate drivers on crosswalk safety.

Shelley Ashby, PTA President at Whitesides Elementary, 53 Aircraft Avenue, said there were three crosswalks where safety needed to be addressed, including the crosswalk at Fort Lane and Lindsay. The lighting was not good at this crosswalk. She said there should also be a crosswalk at Fairfield Road and Wasatch Drive; and there should be additional lighting for the crosswalk on Gentile Street and Colonial Avenue. Lighting similar to the one in Kaysville City on Main Street, that was pedestrian activated, would make all three of these locations much safer. Ms. Ashby said Whitesides Elementary would be having activities to promote crosswalk awareness. Anything the City could do to promote the safety of children would be greatly appreciated.

T.J. Barker, 842 Shannon, Kaysville, indicated that he was the Principal of Central Davis Jr. High. Mr. Barker said he travelled to Layton every day. He said he was here in support of parents and families with concerns for students that attended schools in the area. Mr. Barker said there needed to be a crosswalk on Fairfield Road at Wasatch Drive.

Diane Hammer, 1587 Trune Circle, Syracuse, said she was the Principal at Whitesides Elementary. Ms. Hammer said the area where the tragedy occurred was very dark. She said there were a lot of children walking to school. Ms. Hammer encouraged the City to make this crosswalk safer, similar to the one mentioned earlier in Kaysville.

Mayor Stevenson said every year the City looked at things that could be done to make the City safer. He said they were still studying the situation to see what happened and what could be done. Mayor Stevenson said somehow the community needed to educate themselves, other drivers and pedestrians. He said we had to be more aware of our surroundings.

Alex said every year the City looked at all infrastructure in the City, including the safety of pedestrians and school crossings. He said it was important to remember those were two very distinct things under State statute. Alex said how a pedestrian crossing was treated was much different than how a school crossing was treated. He said what made something a school crossing was not just that a few kids walked it, it was actually prescribed; there had to be a certain number of kids that used it; a certain traffic volume; etc., that met the criteria to put in a school crossing as opposed to a pedestrian crossing. That was a situation the City had to work through, and was familiar with. Alex said it was not as simple as saying there was a child that used the area therefore we put in a crosswalk. He said the City found that sometimes, particularly for younger children, when a crossing was installed it created a false sense of security. Children thought they were safe even if they weren't. There were a lot of national studies on this. Alex said the City had to be very careful about placing crossings in locations that decreased safety as opposed to increasing safety. He said it was a balancing act in working with the schools, the City and parents to try and make sure people understood the distinction and the difference.

Alex said the City continually looked at lighting issues, pavement markings and signage, all with the end of providing safety. Before this tragic accident, the City had begun to look at all the crossings in the City to identify if there were advances in technology or ways the City could improve those crossings to improve safety. He said as part of the budget process, Staff would be recommending improvements at various locations to improve safety. Alex said in areas where they believed the placing of crosswalks would contribute to a lack of safety, of course the recommendation would be to not do that. He said those were not always popular recommendations, but it was based on a lot of analysis and a lot of study. Alex said this would continue to be an issue that the Staff and Council took very seriously.

Councilmember Brown said someone stated that tickets weren't given for people that go through crosswalks. She said her daughter was given a ticket for going through a crosswalk by Layton High. Councilmember Brown said her daughter thought that because the students were not in her part of the street she could go through; she was taught by the Police Officer that if it was a school crosswalk the pedestrians had to be on the curb before the car could proceed. She said, as Alex mentioned, school crosswalks were treated differently than regular crosswalks. Councilmember Brown said she learned a lesson from her daughter's experience; she now stopped at school crossings until they were clear, but many cars didn't do that. She said unfortunately Police Officers couldn't be at every crosswalk at every minute. Councilmember Brown said the discussion in her home was that the tragedy that happened on Monday could have happened to any one of us; it could have been our children or we could have been the driver. She said very often drivers took their eyes off the road for a number of reasons, and a tragedy could happen. Councilmember Brown said she hoped that people learned from this tragedy and did a better job at being safe drivers and pedestrians.

Mayor Stevenson said the City would keep the schools informed of what was being done. He expressed appreciation to everyone for their comments. This was a tragedy for the entire community.

CONSENT AGENDA:

AMENDMENT TO TITLE 3 OF THE LAYTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 3.21 – RECREATION, ARTS, MUSEUM AND PARKS (RAMP) TAX; COMMISSION – ORDINANCE 16-09

David Price, Parks and Recreation Director, said Ordinance 16-09 would amend Title 3 of the Layton Municipal Code, by adding Chapter 3.21, providing for the imposition of a RAMP tax. He said the ordinance provided for the use of revenue generated by the tax; and established a RAMP Advisory Commission. David said Staff recommended approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Petro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Thieda Wellman, City Recorder