



## CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 30, 2016  
Approved August 10, 2016

<u>Presiding:</u>	Mayor Carmen Freeman
<u>Council Members Present:</u>	Jared Henderson, Nicole Martin, Craig B. Tischner and Coralee Wessman-Moser
<u>Staff Present:</u>	Brett Wood, City Manager Gordon Haight, Assistant City Manager Alan Rae, Finance Director Bryn McCarty, City Planner Heather Upshaw, Senior Planner Cindy Quick, Deputy Recorder

**7:30 PM** (or as soon after the Herriman City Council and Planning Commission Work Meeting as possible)

**CLOSED SESSION:** *(Front Conference Room)*

### COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. **7:45:59 PM** Closed Session

1. *The Herriman City Council shall convene in a closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205*

Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser **MOVED** to meet in a closed session to discuss Utah Code §52-4-205 (3) strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares. Council Member Craig B. Tischner **SECONDED** the motion.

B. **8:03:51 PM** Adjournment

Mayor Carmen Freeman called for a motion to adjourn the closed session and go into a work meeting.

Council Member Nicole Martin **MOVED** to adjourn the closed meeting and convene into a City Council Work Meeting, Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser **SECONDED** the motion.

Mayor Carmen Freeman, Council Member Jared Henderson, Council Member Nicole Martin, Council Member Craig B. Tischner and Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

## **8:07:55 PM COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**Presiding:** Mayor Carmen Freeman

**Council Members Present:** Jared Henderson, Nicole Martin, Craig B. Tischner and Coralee Wessman-Moser

**Staff Present:** Cindy Quick, Deputy Recorder

Council Member Jared Henderson offered his review of the neighborhood meeting held on June 29, 2016 in Heritage Place. He detailed expectations he had for the meeting and his disappointment in the format and information that was presented. He felt the city gave misleading information to residents about the purpose of the meeting and that the title was neighborhood meeting when it was actually an open house. He had asked staff to hold an informational meeting for the residents in Heritage Place.

Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser advised Council Member Henderson that it is not the role of city council members to dictate to city staff that procedures be done at their direction, unless it is a consensus of the council, as a whole.

Council Member Henderson continued that he felt the meeting wasn't posted in a timely manner. He was not aware of the meeting until he saw it on the future meetings section of the city council agenda on Wednesday (June 22), one week prior to the neighborhood meeting to be held on Tuesday (June 28) the following week. Upon seeing that notice, he sent a notice to the residents in Heritage Place because he thought the meeting would be a big deal to them. Council Member Nicole Martin asked Council Member Henderson if he did receive notice about the meeting, mailed out from city staff. His response was yes, that he received it on Thursday (June 23). He felt that when the decision to hold the meeting was made, it was not communicated to council. He met with City Manager, Brett Wood on Friday (June 24) to find out the plan for the meeting and mentioned to him of his concerns. City Manager, Wood suggested Council Member Henderson meet with staff on Monday (June 27). Over the weekend, Council Member Henderson met with residents in Heritage Place in an effort to prepare them about the upcoming meeting. He advised the residents to come prepared to hear what the city would be sharing with them and keep an open mind. He also requested to meet with staff on Monday. During that meeting with staff, he felt that one staff member agreed to his suggestions, while the other staff member already had a format in mind and planned to move forward with that plan. He asked staff what his role should be during the meeting and was advised to let them know who in his neighborhood might have issues. He attended the neighborhood meeting and

was surprised with the open house format, he felt that he had to 'put out fires' with the residents throughout the entire meeting. He thought the city missed a major opportunity with the residents, he felt the city could have had 80% buy-in for the proposal but the communication and information presented was poor. He also noted concerns with communication in general. Mayor Freeman felt that City Manager, Brett Wood was doing a wonderful job but thought in situations like this, he needed to take a more affirmative position and provide more direction. Council Member Henderson added that the city has really good people, who are really good at their core job, and he felt they need to focus on that core job. He felt they should allow other employees to focus on their core job and not allow the crossing of those job lanes.

Council Member Nicole Martin agreed that we can always do better at communication, however, communication would always be the failure. She agreed that the city could come up with more strategic ways to communicate with residents because there will always be weighty issues to work through.

Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser felt that the neighborhood meeting had to be done quickly and in order to involve the residents in the process, which the city definitely wanted to do, staff had to move quickly to set up the meeting before it was on the next agenda. The notification to council was sent out, in the afternoon, on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the meeting was scheduled later that same day. Unfortunately, the day scheduled would not work for her, due to a family commitment. She felt that there should be more understanding and grace given to staff because they are juggling so much. She suggested that Council Member Henderson should help residents understand how much is on any one individual's plate at the city at one time and how fast things are moving. The city has a limited staff with no way to expand because there is nowhere to put them. She did think it was great that he met with the residents in an effort to prepare them for the meeting.

Council Member Henderson felt, going forward, the city could do better with communication. Council Member Craig B. Tischner asked him what he would like to do going forward and Council Member Henderson wasn't certain.

Council Member Martin suggested that the city could put out information on the website, similar to the webpage created for the gun range issue; a Q&A informational resource page. They could include the materials that were provided during the joint work meeting. Similar projects could be shown. The information provided would be based on the comments and suggestions received from the residents. She explained that the role of a city council member was to buoy up the city, to build trust, not to go out against the city. Going against the city would hurt, not only the city, but the city council as well. The city could explain to residents that they do have their best interest at heart and provide more information and work to build back credibility.

Council Member Henderson explained that he felt Heritage residents no longer trust the city. He mentioned that perhaps he could have picked his words better but he was embarrassed about the outcome of the meeting. He felt there was a dysfunction in communication.

A brief discussion about the wording for the information took place. The project is not industrial, not commercial, but perhaps could be best described as innovative technology. Pictures of the planned project

would be important to include with the information presented and necessary. The project would be more like a business office park, not industrial.

Council Member Martin noted that as a new council body they are learning how to communicate with an administration and there would be great value in defining roles of both council and administration, as well as, communication expectations for both.

Council Member Moser explained that the neighborhood meeting was a staff meeting, not a council meeting and that suggestions could be made from council but it should not be run by the council. She also thought that the description of the project was very important. Was it commercial? No, not really. Was it industrial? No, that paints a picture of refineries and smoke stacks, which is not accurate. Still, manufacturing isn't accurate and would be confusing. She noted the best option was what was done, to say it was commercial and provide further information. She further added that if the city had a new zone like the one proposed during the joint meeting, they could have used that information to further describe the project. She felt nothing was done wrong.

Mayor Freeman asked what the council envisioned his role in this situation and asked if he should be more engaged with City Manager Wood. The response was no, his role was to the broader community and subcommittees, not to manage staff or managers. Council Member Tischner added that he is the CEO and if he sees issues they should be brought to the council as a whole.

A brief discussion about attending staff meetings took place. It would be okay for council members to attend staff meetings when invited or just to observe but attending could create confusion among staff of who is in charge of the meeting.

Council Member Tischner suggested in the future that if Council Member Henderson became aware of something that could upset residents he should discuss it with the city council, as a whole, and the council could then provide direction to the City Manager and he would provide direction to managers and staff.

Council Member Moser suggested that Council Member Henderson prepare a simple statement with what went wrong and where we could do better. She suggested a few points to make from what he had already stated; he felt the format of the meeting should have been a meeting versus an open house and ask for a better definition on the notice. Council Member Martin suggested he recommend when there are weighty issues that the city look at some sort of communication channel, like the city website or repository of information. The city will always be regaining credibility with residents, it's a never ending process. She suggested regaining credibility for this issue could be done with greater transparency and providing more information. Another recommendation could be to create a policy to develop an issues webpage. Council Member Moser further suggested that he show the gaps and expectations. She requested that he send the statement to the council and copy City Manager Wood.

Council Member Henderson wanted them to know that he was not trying to get anyone in trouble or place blame, he simply needed direction, organizationally. Council Member Martin noted that using a post mortem exercise was always good for any issue. Council Member Moser reviewed what Council Member

Henderson could do; define the gap and expectations, keep the council in the loop and copy City Manager Wood who could then take the issue to staff meeting and disseminate what was needed.

Mayor Freeman thanked the council for their time and Council Member Moser and Martin thanked Council Member Henderson. Council Member Henderson felt that in the future it would be important for the city to share with residents what they felt were potential concerns, to show empathy. The council agreed.

## **Adjournment**

Council Member Coralee Wessman-Moser **MOVED** to adjourn the closed meeting and Council Member Craig B. Tischner **SECONDED** the motion. All voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**8:55:58 PM** Meeting adjourned