

Minutes of the **Pre Council and Regular Session** of the **Lehi City Council** held Tuesday, **April 24, 2023**, at Lehi City in the Council Chamber, 153 N 100 E. Lehi, UT.

Members Present: Mark Johnson, Mayor
Paige Albrecht, Council Member
Chris Condie, Council Member
Paul Hancock, Council Member
Katie Koivisto, Council Member
Mike Southwick, Council Member

Others Present: Cameron Boyle, Assistant City Administrator; Ryan Wood, City Attorney; Lorin Powell, City Engineer; Kim Struthers, Planning Director; Dean Lundell, Finance Director; Andy Gowans, Management Analyst; and Teisha Wilson, City Recorder.

Pre Council, 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Opening Comment

Mayor Johnson welcomed everyone and noted that all Councilmembers were present. Councilors Koivisto joined virtually. Councilor Albrecht gave the opening comment.

2. Presentations and Reports

2.1 Lehi Archives Annual Report

The Lehi Archives presented their annual report. Approximately two years ago, a relocation took place. There was excitement surrounding the new location and the upcoming launch of a new website and logo. The website was expected to provide convenient access to digital resources, including scrapbooks, photographs, and other materials.

The Mayor and Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the progress made in organizing the facility and the efforts put into digitizing collections. They discussed the online search functionality, which allowed users to explore items of interest.

The Lehi Archives Treasurer presented a financial report, highlighting the revenue generated through events, gift shop sales, and donations. The expenses incurred by the Historical Society were also outlined. The grant funds received for the historical marker program were mentioned, with appreciation expressed for Lehi's contribution.

The discussion concluded with a wish for additional staffing to aid in the scanning and preservation efforts. The importance of knowledge transfer and the need for someone else familiar with the computer system and organization methods were emphasized. The involvement of volunteers, particularly during Heritage Day, was acknowledged and appreciated.

2.2 Lehi Arts Council Annual Report

The Lehi Arts Council presented their annual report to the Council and summarize some of the highlights of the year. They organized three different kids' workshops throughout the year: one in the winter, one in the summer, and one in the fall. These workshops were a tremendous success and gained popularity. They were thrilled to announce the launch of a new program called "Stage for Everyone," designed for children with special needs. Their children shows sold out within minutes of being posted, generating revenue through tuition fees and ticket sales, which helped support other shows.

They reported that in order to sustain operations, they applied for and received three grants last year, utilizing the funds for various purposes, including updating the sound system. Recent projects included renovating the bathrooms and addressing the storage of set pieces, which involved removing unsightly trailers and constructing a new storage unit.

2.3 Discussion of Mountainview Corridor landscaping and aesthetics for the Lehi/Saratoga Springs segment.

Kim Struthers, Community Development Director, provided an update on a recent meeting with UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation) regarding the proposed Mountain View Corridor. The section in question covers approximately four miles. UDOT requested the Council's input and feedback on landscaping. The Council discussed various aspects such as landscaping, retaining walls, color schemes, and bridge designs. They expressed a preference for concrete over rock due to maintenance concerns and suggested using textured concrete to differentiate pedestrian areas from the roadway. The Council also discussed the naming of bridges and expressed a neutral stance, avoiding city names except for street names.

2.4 Discussion of Lehi Facilities Department items including Sports Park concrete, and Station 83 and Museum roofing.

Steve Marchbanks, Parks Division Manager, stated that the fire station had been experiencing water issues since its construction, with leaks and major problems due to the absence of a barrier between the Capstone and cinderblock during installation. Finding qualified contractors to address these issues was challenging, but eventually, a suitable contractor was identified. However, the unexpected expenses for the repairs were not budgeted for and will require a budget amendment.

At the Sports Park, settling issues caused significant problems with the concrete in the horseshoe pits area. Snowmelt worsened the situation, necessitating the replacement of a substantial portion of the concrete. Drainage was also an issue, and plans were made to install a sump on the south side to address it. The cost for these repairs amounted to \$25,000. Additionally, the museum had been dealing with roof leaks for three years, and while small fixes were attempted, new issues continued to arise. Due to the uncertainties involved in repairing the old building, a thorough investigation was being conducted by a licensed company specializing in historic buildings. The budget amount for this project was not yet determined.

3. Agenda Questions

None.

4. Administrative Report

Cameron Boyle, Assistant City Administrator, updated the Council on city operations.

5. Mayor and Council Reports

The Mayor and Council reported on their assigned committees.

The meeting recesses at approximately 6:40 p.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Regular Session, 7:05 p.m.

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Johnson welcomed everyone and noted that all Councilmembers were present. Councilor Koivisto was attending virtually. Councilor Condie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. 20 Minute Citizen Input

Paul Benz stated his concerns with Strata's work on 1100 West and the need for improvements to sidewalks in that area.

Jonathan Maitland also expressed safety concerns along 1100 West.

Kenneth Glade stated concerns he had with Strata's operation on 1100 West and was concerned that the approval process was not followed.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1) Approve Purchase Orders

Motion: Councilor Hancock moved to approve the consent agenda items. Councilor Southwick seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Project Selection for the 2023 Program Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Jessica DeLora was representing Mountainland Association of Governments and presented the applications for the Council's consideration.

Mayor Johnson invited the applicants to present.

Michelle Holbrook, representing the Holbrook Community Center, also known as the Curtis Center for Arts and Education, expressed gratitude to the Mayor and the City Council for alerting her to the funding opportunity. She appreciated the chance to apply for funds and acknowledged the difficulty in selecting the best projects. They are seeking \$30,000 to support their project. The plan was to designate two rooms in the Curtis Center exclusively for people with disabilities, aligning with the low-income category. The funds would be used for furniture, sound systems, and storage units. The project is part of a larger \$10.5 million initiative, with \$1.3 million still needed.

Rebecca Martel, from the Utah County Children's Justice Center, introduced their organization as a home-like environment where children who have experienced abuse are interviewed. Their primary focus is to connect these children and families with immediate resources. She thanked Lehi City for their generous funding, which has allowed them to provide therapy sessions for child victims, making a significant positive impact on the kids and their families.

Lorin Powell, City Engineer, requested funds for infrastructure improvements near Lehi Elementary School.

There was discussion regarding the allocation of funds for different programs. The available funding for the program was \$333,305. The council discussed the requests from various applicants, including the Holbrook Center, Lehi Engineering, and the Children's Justice Center.

Motion: Councilor Hancock moved to allocate \$265,000 to Lehi Engineering, \$23,305 to the Holbrook Center, \$5,000 to the Children's Justice Center, and \$40,000 to MAG (Mountainland Association of Governments) admin. Councilor Southwick seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Resolution #2023-21 approving an agreement between Lehi City and Hadco for the construction of the Holbrook lower pressurized irrigation pond.

Greg Allred, Water Division Manager, was available to answer questions.

Motion: Councilor Condie moved to approve Resolution #2023-21 approving an agreement between Lehi City and Hadco for the construction of the Holbrook lower pressurized irrigation pond. Councilor Koivisto seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Resolution #2023-22 approving an agreement between Lehi City and Water Well Services for the Flight Park well drilling project.

Motion: Councilor Southwick moved to approve Resolution #2023-22 approving an agreement between Lehi City and Water Well Services for the Flight Park well drilling project. Councilor Albrecht seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of Resolution #2023-23 approving an agreement between Lehi City and SIRQ Construction for pre-construction and construction services for Lehi Family Park phase I.

Steve Marchbanks, Parks Division Manager, was available for questions.

Motion: Councilor Condie moved to approve Resolution #2023-23 approving an agreement between Lehi City and SIRQ Construction for pre-construction and construction services for Lehi Family Park phase I. Councilor Hancock seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of Resolution #2023-24 approving an option and lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless for a cell tower.

Motion: Councilor Southwick moved to approve Resolution #2023-24 approving an option and lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless for a cell tower. Councilor Hancock seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, Yes; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, Yes; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Consideration of Resolution #2023-20 requesting inclusion of Lehi City in the Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project.

Mayor Johnson stated that this is to determine if the City will have an election using Ranked Choice Voting.

Mayor Johnson asked for public comments.

Nick Franklin expressed his opposition to ranked choice voting, which he believes disenfranchises people and may not be necessary considering the familiarity with the current voting system.

Caitlin Osborne was opposed to ranked choice voting. She argued that rank choice voting requires people to rank candidates they may not support, which she believes is not helpful to the democratic process. She advocated for the traditional voting method. Caitlin mentioned a conversation with a senior citizen who also opposes rank choice voting and finds it confusing.

Christy from the Utah Election Integrity Board provided an update on the anomalies collected from the pilot program for rank choice voting in Utah. She mentioned that the pilot program has experienced a decline, with only a few cities out of 23 renewing it.

Jeremy Baker, a resident of Lehi and a member of the Utah Libertarian Party, expressed his support for rank choice voting (RCV). He acknowledged that some concerns about RCV are valid, such as under votes and over votes on ballots, but believes that education on how to vote properly can help address these issues. He highlighted the positive impact of RCV on election

campaigns, noting that it encourages collaboration between candidates and creates a better atmosphere for elections.

Ron Smith expressed his preference for holding a primary election. He mentioned that in a primary, candidates who are unlikely to win can be eliminated early, which he believes is beneficial for the campaign process. While he stated that he likes ranked choice voting, he also expressed a preference for the previous system that was in place before rank choice voting was implemented.

Michelle Miles expressed her concerns about rank choice voting (RCV) and its impact on voters in multi-seat races. She mentioned examples from other cities in Utah, where some voters' preferences were not fully accounted for in the RCV process. Michelle specifically pointed out a situation in Lehi's 2021 election, where voters who ranked her as their first choice only had their vote counted for her and no other candidates, whereas other voters who ranked different candidates as their first choice had their votes counted for multiple candidates. She believes that the traditional voting system is fairer for both candidates and voters.

Aaron Bolen shared his opposition to rank choice voting (RCV) in Lehi. He mentioned that while he initially had no strong opinion on RCV, his concerns now stem from the fact that RCV does not accurately reflect voter preferences and reduces the amount of information used to make voting decisions. Additionally, he argued that increasing the number of candidates on the ballot reduces the time voters spend gathering information on each candidate, leading to a less informed voting decision.

Tiffany expressed concerns about RCV, feeling it encourages candidates to ask voters to rank them second, which she finds disingenuous and less genuine. She prefers voting for candidates based on their principles and stands on issues. Barker believes RCV favors incumbents with well-known names and can be confusing for voters. She thinks elections should be simple and not require a high threshold of education to understand. Barker opposes RCV and advocated for a return to the traditional vote system.

Michelle Stallings expresses her opposition to ranked-choice voting (RCV) and believes the confusion surrounding it is valid. She argues that when over 1300 residents had only one vote counted in a two-seat election, it indicates a flawed system. Stallings emphasizes the importance of a fair election process that allows all voters to have equal voting power. She criticized RCV for preventing voters from fully expressing their preferences and believes primary elections are valuable in giving voters more time to choose between candidates. Stallings urges against adopting RCV, stating that it benefits incumbents.

Erin Davidson, the new county clerk, conducted an analysis of a ranked-choice voting (RCV) election and found it to be complex and potentially misleading. He noticed in the previous election that many voters ranked candidates they didn't truly support because they were unaware that ranking a candidate is equivalent to a yes vote for that candidate in subsequent rounds. Davidson argues that while RCV may sound good in theory, it may not accurately represent the true preferences of voters. He believes RCV may give a perceived vote of confidence but not a genuine one.

Josh Daniels, the former county clerk, discussed the past use of the plurality system in Lehi's elections and the prevalence of bullet voting, where some voters only cast a single vote even if they were allowed to vote for multiple candidates. In the 2017 election, 18.8% of voters bullet voted. Daniels explains that ranked-choice voting (RCV) eliminates the incentive for bullet voting and encourages voters to consider and rank all candidates, resulting in a more comprehensive and balanced voting process. He believes that using RCV would be beneficial in correcting the bullet voting effect and promoting a fairer election system.

Wendy Hart, representing Utah Election Integrity, emphasizes the mathematical flaws in ranked choice voting (RCV). She cited the example of Moab City's 2021 election, where a significant percentage of first city council votes (58%) and second city council votes (74.9%) were either discarded or confused due to overvotes or undervotes. She raises concerns about voter disenfranchisement and questions whether voters truly liked RCV when their ballots did not count properly. Wendy also mentioned that Cottonwood Heights decided not to use RCV in their recent election due to concerns about voter confidence. She urged against adopting RCV, citing its complexity and the risk of depriving voters of genuinely informed choices.

Stephanie Grant expressed opposition to implementing rank choice voting (RCV). She highlights that RCV creates a general election with too many candidates for voters to make informed decisions. She pointed out the complexities of vote redistribution in multi-seat elections and stated that only a few voters truly understand the process. She emphasizes the confusion surrounding RCV, even among experts, and suggested that having voting districts for each council seat would change the discussion.

Councilor Koivisto expressed her strong opposition to ranked-choice voting (RCV) and reiterated their stance against it in the last election. She believes that RCV caused confusion and lacked proper education, especially for a community with a significant number of young families. She suggested considering a primary system if the Council decides to hold a RCV election and emphasized the importance of making voting as easy and accessible as possible to improve voter turnout.

Councilor Hancock shared his thoughts on ranked-choice voting (RCV) and highlighted that RCV encourages a focus on issues rather than personal attacks during campaigns. He pointed out that in previous elections, both incumbents and non-incumbents have won with a majority of votes, even without RCV. He also raised concerns about the issue of bullet voting in traditional elections, where many votes are wasted due to voters not using all their available votes. He suggested using RCV in a primary election, and then again in the general election to narrow down the field and elect the top candidates.

Councilor Southwick expressed his preference for ranked-choice voting (RCV) without a primary, as it saves the city money and aligns with the idea that voters ultimately rank candidates in their minds anyway.

Councilor Condie shared his unique perspective as someone who has participated in both traditional and ranked-choice voting elections. He expressed appreciation for the thoughts of other Councilmembers and noted that ranking candidates already happens in traditional elections when voters choose their top candidates. Councilor Condie mentioned that it's roughly a 50/50 split in opinions. They expressed uncertainty about the problem that ranked-

choice voting is trying to fix and pointed out that both systems can be manipulated. He does believe that a primary election is necessary, regardless of the voting system used.

Councilor Albrecht reflected on the decision-making process regarding ranked-choice voting (RCV) and noted that it was a difficult decision that required research and debate. Councilor Albrecht acknowledged the potential benefits of RCV but also points out the need for more education to help voters understand the system better. She expressed support for a primary election and suggested that a five-month period may be enough to vet candidates. Councilor Albrecht challenged the notion that RCV favors incumbents and emphasized that incumbents must own their voting record. She mentioned the arguments made in favor of RCV in the past, particularly the desire for a candidate to secure more than 50% of the votes. She stated that she is willing to give it one more chance and hopes for increased efforts to educate voters about the system.

Mayor Johnson addressed the issue of bullet voting or "vote for one" strategy, which he finds mathematically problematic. He believes that in multi-seat elections, voters should choose the best three candidates rather than voting for only one. He expressed concern that bullet voting can negatively impact deserving candidates and potentially lead to the election of candidates who might not be the best choice.

Motion: Councilor Hancock moved to approve Resolution #2023-20 requesting inclusion of Lehi City in the Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project; with the adjustment that if there are more than six candidates that file for declaration of candidacy, that we have a Primary Election and that both the Primary and General Election utilize Ranked Choice Voting. Councilor Albrecht seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Albrecht, Yes; Councilor Condie, No; Councilor Hancock, Yes; Councilor Koivisto, No; and Councilor Southwick, Yes. The motion passed with 3 in favor and 2 opposed.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the City Council at this time, Councilor Hancock moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Koivisto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.

Approved: May 23, 2023

Attest:

Mark Johnson, Mayor

Teisha Wilson, City Recorder