

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:	D.J. Bott Matthew Jensen Ryan Smith Robin Troxell	Mayor Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Boss Mike Christiansen	City Recorder City Attorney
EXCUSED:	Dave Hipp	Councilmember

A special meeting was called to interview applicants for the open Council seat due to Alden Farr's resignation. Mayor Bott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Smith gave the reverence period, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Bott excused Councilmember Hipp and explained two questions had been sent to each applicant with a request for them to email the answers back for City Council to review ahead of the interviews. The questions were *What makes our community great?* and *What things in our community need to be fixed?* He instructed Councilmembers to score applicants on how they answered those questions. He stated each applicant would be given a scenario and Council would score the answers based on how the applicants worked through the process to come to a decision. Below is a summary of each applicant's interview.

Sam Macfarlane (via Zoom)

Scenario: The City budgeted for a water storage tank at a cost of \$2 million. A grant was awarded for \$1 million with project completion by 2026. The project will now cost \$3 million. What does the City do with the project?

Answer:

- Finding experts and funding was a good start
- Look at cutting costs and possibly shift the goal by decreasing the project
- Consult engineer to achieve goal without decreasing the volume and performance of the project
- Look at other funding sources and avoid budget increase
- Give grant money back if necessary but keep the project a priority and reassess the plan

Scenario: What does the City do when there is a second multi-million-dollar project to fund at the same time?

- Check to see if grant can be increased due to inflation
- Combine two projects or break up project and over a longer time span

Paul Roberts

Mr. Roberts took the opportunity to answer the questions that were emailed. The great things about Brigham City are its people and its values. Two things that need to be fixed are the effects of an aging demographic and looking at vertical growth with the limited amount of land space the City has.

Scenario: The City budgeted for Police Department fleet vehicles, but they have increased in price. The City also needs a new fire truck. The price went from \$875,000 and an 18 month build time to \$1.4 million and a 4-year build time. What does the City do?

Answer:

- Other cities are looking at the used market
- Do both a return-on-investment analysis and a deprivation cost analysis
- Purchase the truck

Scenario: The City was renting a track hoe for \$8,500/month. The rental agency asked the City if they wanted to purchase it for \$275,000.

Answer:

- Equipment will only increase in price; purchase the track hoe
- Can accessorize to use for other things like clear debris during floods, drill holes for bollards

Scenario: How do you handle knowing that things which are good for the City are hurting citizens by having to increase taxes?

Answer:

- Look at bonding opportunities
- Weigh current interest rates against deprivation costs

Kristina Lenderman

Ms. Lenderman took the opportunity to elaborate on the answer she emailed. She stated that one of the things in the community that needs to be fixed is citizen frustration at feeling they do not have a voice when it comes to City Council decisions. Her solution was to provide, on social media, better explanations as to how government/departments work, a community feedback panel to monitor social media and bring suggested items to City Council, and a public opinion survey to find out how the citizens feel prior to Council decisions.

Scenario: How do you handle knowing that things which are good for the City are hurting citizens by having to increase taxes?

Answer:

- Look at the size of the need and what it affects, do risk analysis, identify where funds would come from

Scenario: \$385,000 was budgeted for Pioneer Park ballfield lights. The poles are 40-60 years old. Does the City put new lights on old poles or spend \$100,000 on new steel poles? Consider that three of the same age poles that held field netting rotted out at the bottom and fell over.

Answer:

- Inspect existing poles to make sure they will last another year or two
- If they will last, wait until the poles are included in the budget; if they will not last, remove something from the budget to fund new poles or prioritize them over another project

Scenario: Is it endorsing a candidate if City Council appoints someone to fill the vacancy who is running for election?

Answer:

- Base choice on what you hear tonight not what may or may not happen in November

Dave Jeffries

Scenario: The City is experiencing interest from businesses that are high power consumers. With this interest and to accommodate future growth, a second point of distribution has been identified but the City has not found a willing property owner to buy the property from for placement of the electrical equipment. It is possible that if the City finds a willing property owner, the purchase price may be very high. The City also has the option of using eminent domain, if necessary.

Answer:

- If the point of distribution was necessary, and eminent domain was the only option, and it would benefit the City long term, the City would have to go that route
- Major corporations consider sustainability and ecofriendly building important; may be opportunities for solar power to alleviate power strains on City
- Must look at long term growth and income revenue
- Explore a compromise with property owner

Scenario: How would you navigate all of the scenarios presented tonight coming at one time?

Answer:

- Rely on City staff expertise in making decisions; rely on committees to build a consensus

Scenario: Should the City invest in long term economic development or in infrastructure?

Answer:

- Infrastructure must be in place to handle long term growth; budgets must be looked at for items years down the road; prioritize City needs; look at possibility of raising fees to help cover costs

Katia Hadfield

Scenario: The City was approached to see if there was interest in buying a lot of water shares at a price of \$1.2 million.

Answer:

- Water shares may be a good alternative with price of storage tank going up
- Look at buying a portion of the shares so there is funding for storage tank and second project
- Combine projects

Scenario: If costs are substantial now and we need shares in the long term, what do you do?

Answer:

- Find funding and grants, negotiate price, buy fewer shares

Councilmember Jensen commented on the quality of applicants with their feedback and comments. Councilmembers scored the applicants, and the results were tabulated by Councilmember Jensen. Dave Jeffries received the highest score.

MOTION: Councilmember Jensen made a motion to appoint Dave Jeffries to fill the vacant Council seat. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Troxell and carried unanimously. Councilmember Hipp, aye; Councilmember Troxell, aye; Councilmember Smith, aye; Councilmember Jensen, aye.

Mayor Bott thanked the Council and the applicants.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jensen and carried unanimously. Councilmember Hipp, aye; Councilmember Troxell, aye; Councilmember Smith, aye; Councilmember Jensen, aye.

The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the September 14, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Dated this 10th day of October 2023.

Christina Boss

Christina Boss, Recorder