



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 – 6:00 pm
Approved December 20, 2023

Thomas M. Rees Justice Center
8040 S Redwood Road • West Jordan, UT 84088

1. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCIL: Chair Chris McConnehey, Vice Chair Pamela Bloom, Kelvin Green, Zach Jacob, Kayleen Whitelock, David Pack (*joined at 6:14 pm*)

STAFF: Council Office Director Alan Anderson, Mayor Dirk Burton, City Attorney Josh Chandler, Policy Analyst & Public Liaison Warren Hallmark, City Administrator Korban Lee, Assistant City Attorney Duncan Murray, Council Office Clerk Cindy Quick, City Recorder Tangee Sloan, Administrative Services Director Danyce Steck

Chair McConnehey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and noted that Council Member Pack would join shortly.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Henry McConnehey led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. FILLING MID-TERM VACANCY FOR DISTRICT TWO

a. Legal Review

Council Office Director Alan Anderson provided an overview of Utah Code and the procedure for filling a mid-term City Council vacancy.

b. Mid-Term Vacancy Process and Procedures

Chair McConnehey outlined the process for the remainder of the meeting. City Recorder Tangee Sloan determined by coin toss that Robert Bennett would be interviewed first, followed by Bob Bedore. It was noted that Gary Leany, one of the three candidates, was unable to attend and withdrew his application.

c. Candidate Interviews

The Council interviewed Robert Bennett. Responding to questions from the Council, Mr. Bennett said he was interested in focusing more on what the Council could accomplish rather than what the Council had not accomplished. He believed every citizen who took the time to attend a Council meeting deserved to be heard. Mr. Bennett would personally feel honored to be able to sit on the Board of Canvass and accept the votes of the electorate. He spoke of issues he had participated in when previously on the City Council and mentioned a willingness to do what it took to give a voice to residents in District 2.

Council Member Pack joined the meeting at 6:14 pm.

Mr. Bennett had experience administering a multi-million-dollar budget from his previous time on the Council. He would be available to attend both scheduled Council meetings in December. Mr. Bennett referred to the many active construction projects in West Jordan and expressed concern for the potential of construction fatigue on the part of residents. He suggested increasing the ability of the City to involve the citizens in understanding the need of and how the city would benefit from the completion of the projects. Mr. Bennett appreciated the opportunity, respected the rule of law, was proud to be a citizen of West Jordan City, and would respect the decision of the City Council.

The Council interviewed Bob Bedore. Responding to questions from the Council, Mr. Bedore referred to residents who had attended Council meetings regarding plans for 9000 South. He suggested Council Members meet with residents on the property and discuss the situation with them. He also suggested residents could possibly provide a solution. Mr. Bedore expressed a desire to get to work on the Council. He spoke of his work with the Midvale Arts Council, and his experience working with the theatre. He expressed the opinion that working with a multi-million-dollar budget was not very different from working with a family or business budget. He believed in asking whether a budget item was needed, and whether there was money for it. He expressed the opinion that if the answer to either question was no, a different solution was needed. He always wanted to do his best to avoid debt. Mr. Bedore believed there was a housing divide within the community and felt the Council could work to bring the community together. He noted that he would be out of town for the first Council meeting in December but would be able to join electronically. Mr. Bedore looked forward to working with the Council.

d. Council Discussion

The Council submitted votes electronically, with 50% cast for Bob Bedore and 50% for Robert Bennett. The Council voted electronically a second time, with the same 50/50 result. Following procedure, Ms. Sloan designated Mr. Bennett “heads” and Mr. Bedore “tails” and tossed a coin to break the tie vote. The coin landed “heads” up, and Mr. Bennett was selected to fill the mid-term vacancy in District 2.

e. Resolution 23-070 appointing Robert Bennett to fill the vacancy on the West Jordan City Council District 2.

MOTION: Council Member Green moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 23-070 appointing Robert Bennett to fill the mid-term vacancy in West Jordan City Council District 2.

Chair McConnehey seconded the motion.

Council Members expressed appreciation to both candidates.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Chris McConnehey, Pamela Bloom, Kelvin Green, Zach Jacob, Kayleen Whitelock, David Pack

NO:

ABSENT:

The motion passed 6-0.

City Recorder Tangee Sloan administered the Oath of Office to Robert Bennett. The Council welcomed Council Member Bennett and invited him to join them on the dais.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. City Budget Amendment

Administrative Services Director Danyce Steck presented proposed amendments to the FY2024 Budget. Council Member Whitelock expressed concern that postponing construction of a planned water tank would cost the City more in the long run, in terms of construction costs. The Council and staff discussed the future of the Water Fund. Ms. Steck answered questions from the Council. Council Member Bennett encouraged sharing news of grant awards and confirmation of technology/security with the public.

Chair McConnehey opened a public hearing at 7:27 pm

Comments:

Henry McConnehey (age 10), West Jordan resident, he was in favor of allocating funding for the Wheels Park.

Chair McConnehey closed the public hearing at 7:28 pm

MOTION: Council Member Green moved to APPROVE Ordinance No. 23-41 amending the West Jordan Annual Budget for FY 2024.

Council Member Jacob seconded the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Chris McConnehey, Pamela Bloom, Robert Bennett, Kelvin Green, Zach Jacob, Kayleen Whitelock, David Pack

NO:

ABSENT:

The motion passed 7-0.

5. COUNCIL MEETING WRAP UP

a. City Council Remarks

Council Member Pack –

- Gave a shout-out to the Police Department for recent drug busts.

Council Member Green –

- Suggested the City track whether construction costs were stabilizing or going down, said he would like to have the additional water tank for back up, and said it was better to build sooner than later.

Responding to a question from Chair McConnehey, Council Members unanimously expressed a desire for the Mayor's Office to bring back a budget adjustment discussion.

Chair McConnehey –

- Welcomed Council Member Bennett back to the City Council and expressed appreciation for his service.

b. Council Administrative Items

Council Members took the opportunity to take a group picture including Robert Bennett

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bennett seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent an accurate summary of what occurred at the meeting held on November 29, 2023. This document constitutes the official minutes for the West Jordan Special City Council Meeting.

Cindy M. Quick, MMC
Council Office Clerk

Approved this 20th day of December 2023