

Francis City Council Meeting
Thursday, August 24th, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
2319 So. Spring Hollow Rd. Francis Utah

The meeting will be streamed via Francis City YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-9wahpEELShvGQZShXGIXg>
You can also comment by email to comments@francisutah.org

Council: Mayor Jeremie Forman, Councilmembers Shana Fryer, Sam Hunter, Clayton Querry and Clint Summers

Staff: City Recorder Suzanne Gillett

Others Attending Council Meeting: Tadd Louder, Julie Black, Nancy Kirkham, David Ure, Shayne Scott, and Riley Atkinson

Welcome, Call to Order, and Pledge of Allegiance---Mayor Forman asked Councilmember Fryer to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Consent Agenda---None

2. Public Comment---None

3. Public Hearing---None

4. Discussion, Updates and Approval on Potential Action Items---

A. Discussion and Possible Acceptance of the Interlocal Agreement with Summit County regarding EMS Services--- The Mayor gave a brief background of the ongoing discussion of the EMS situation and everything that has gone on.

Tonight they are talking about how to go forward with the EMS services. The County would like the Districts to have an Interlocal Agreement, so they are all working together.

The Mayor turned the time over to Shayne Scott—Shayne stated that he appreciated the Mayor and Council for allowing him to come. He introduced himself and explained that he was the new County Manager, and he shared his background and where he came from.

Shayne explained that there was a bill from the State Legislature that came out that discussed that Cities and Counties both have to be accountable for this service. One of the key parts is for the County to provide County funds for basic services to provide an ambulance in North Summit, South Summit and in Park City. If the Cities don't think the County is giving enough, then they can pitch in and take care of the rest of their Fire Service District needs.

Shayne stated that he forwarded an Interlocal Agreement to the Mayor, and they need to get that signed.

North Summit has already expressed an interest in taking that on and he feels there are still some questions with South Summit Fire District. He stated that they could also contract with the Park City Fire Service District. He is hoping that they have a district which is local to the City. He feels there is a lot of power and benefits to that.

Shayne felt the Mayor explained what brought us to this point. There was a study done, but they are going away from that study. Another thought was, maybe the paramedic rescue could still be run by Park City Fire District. He thinks the paramedic rescue would come out of Wanship.

Dave Ure asked Shayne to explain the million dollars. Shayne explained that was the cost of an ambulance staffed. Plus it would be fund for the cost of paramedics. He explained that it is a huge increase to the County, but they would like to take it on.

Dave wanted him to go a little farther in the details, but Shayne said he didn't have a lot of those specific numbers. He did say they were going to phase things in. 24/7 personnel and to fund all of the basic services. If they need more than one ambulance the district would need to provide that. A million dollars doesn't get as much as you think it would these days. This way they don't have to hire an EMS Director, they have the Fire Chief.

The Mayor asked if Council had any questions and there were none. The Mayor explained that he, Dave Ure, and Mayor McCormick have gone over things in the agreement.

Dave Ure feels that this has been a long, long process and he feels that the City is going to take the brunt of this. He explained that he, Shanye, and Mayor McCormick met this morning to go over things and he explained some of the items that they took out of the agreement. There is still three or four more things at least on the Fire District side that he would like to see taken care of.

Dave was told last night that he wasn't speaking enough with his Commission, which he can't do. He feels this process they are working on is the best way to go. He explained it may be the most economical way to take care of things. He explained that Park City is completely different than the east side. He explained what the differences were and why. He doesn't feel that anyone can be blamed, but he feels that we need to be more independent ourselves. He feels there is lots of room for improvement if we can control the destiny. He feels the study was messed up because they were keeping the EMS and Firefighters separate instead of working together. He feels they are at least a year away before he feels that they can be independent. If we fail it will stop here and that should be the natural way that everything should be and that is what they are trying to put in place here.

He would suggest that they have a contract in front of them and they haven't read it and neither has the attorney, but he would strongly encourage them to put forth the effort to read this and if you have questions get with Mayor McCormick, you would be foolish as heck to sign this

tonight. There are things in there that he doesn't understand about the Cities. He just wants to highly encourage them to study it and read it.

Dave said there is no way to go around not having to raise taxes to do this. There is just no way. He explained that a couple of big insurance companies have pulled out of California and one of them has pulled out of Utah. Insurance companies are going crazy, and he feels that if we don't get on top of things we could be in trouble.

There is not any real right answer, but the wrong answer is doing nothing. We cannot bypass this; we are trying to get to the table.

Shayne explained he didn't disagree with anything Dave said. He wanted to know when our next meeting was and that there were a few more changes that they wanted to make before anything is signed and adopted. He said he could possibly get the changes to them tomorrow.

The Mayor told him our next meeting is September 14th. Dave thanked the Council for having this special meeting tonight for accommodating them and the County.

The Mayor's concerns were like Dave mentioned, we would be signing a blank check not knowing how things were going to be controlled. He was also concerned about the commitment to provide the two ambulances with one being a suburban. He doesn't feel that a suburban would be functional. Also the million dollars for basic things then the increasing of money annually. On page 6 item #3 there was some concern about the wording and how that might work and how the money would be distributed. Page 10 again the same issue of a blank check. There are a few concerns that he has with some of it. He would not be prepared to adopt this agreement tonight. He will say for our Council we have to be ready to move on at some point. By January we will be held accountable for things one way or another. His concern or goal working through this process is that he doesn't care about the politics in any of this, he is just concerned with the level of service for our residents.

Councilmember Fryer asked about the fleet of ambulances, is that the current ambulance we have or is this an extra two. Shayne said you will get two and next year one would be cycled out. The ambulances purchased in the first three years and after that it will be up to the fire service district. Almost half of the allotted budget for the South Summit Fire District to come up with. She asked how long an ambulance lasts. She was told three to five years.

Dave explained that if we can get to a higher standard, it would be better.

Councilmember Querry said he didn't feel one ambulance was basic service, but what he is saying the District will have to fund that second ambulance.

Dave again explained that the liability isn't going to flow down to them. He explained his thoughts on things. He feels that the Cities and County are getting along now because they are sitting down and talking about things now.

Councilmember Querry is curious in respect to this agreement. Are they talking about cross training and being a volunteer or are they going to start hiring people or what? Julie explained that they will still have the volunteer structure for about 20 years. She feels that they need to hire the 6 EMTs/Fire. The volunteers are not going away.

Julie said they figured for them to hire good EMTs is that you will have to pay \$20 to \$25 an hour if you can get them.

The Mayor has brought up the same issues in COG meetings.

Julie explained that the challenging issue is the time it takes to get places.

The Mayor explained that some cost savings are being thought about like part time employees.

Tadd's question is saying it takes 1.4 million to put this all into place and we don't have that and at the end of the day where are we. Why would we go away from anything different than 1.4 million? Because Park City and North Summit have already had the time to get up and going and South Summit hasn't. Shayne tried to explain it. Tadd said they had the administration side in place so a million would work South Summit doesn't have that. We are starting our feet on the ground \$400,000 in the whole. Shayne thinks where we are today is where North Summit was two years ago. He explained his thoughts and he thinks the numbers are good.

The Mayor said don't take this the wrong way, so if Francis says if we do this, we turn everything over to the District and then we can rely on the District to provide that service. This would give a voice on the service.

Tadd said as a Fire District they are limited with what they can do. The Mayor said if the Fire District is banking on just a million dollars, then it works anyway. The Mayor explained that they are operating on the fact that they already have \$700,000 then they would have a million added to that.

Dave feels the real way of doing it is the buck starting with the Fire District. He is not afraid of going to the legislature. He just has the faith that they can work this through.

Councilmember Hunter said they are operating on \$728,000. We have been running on that. Councilmember Querry said they haven't been paying the EMTs. Tadd said you will come up with over \$800,000 in wages. You can't provide that service with 6 people for a million dollars. So you are forced with tax increase and tax increase. He likes Daves ideas, but without a guarantee he is not comfortable with it.

The Mayor said let's not forget Summit Counties money is still your money as individuals we are paying it through taxes.

Attorney Christopherson explained the money that goes into 911 services helps fund this as well.

Tadd just wants to make sure we have the maximum amount that we have and that the money the county provides makes up for that.

The Mayor said there is no perfect answer to this. Someone has to take over and do it.

Councilmember Hunter said legally the State says we have to do this by January 2024. He was told yes. He explained his understanding again to make sure he was understanding everything correctly. He feels we should be in a better position to control our City. He would like to see a spreadsheet of how they figure funds. He feels the process put forth is a good way to go.

Councilmember Query would like South Summit Fire Service District to be here.

Councilmember Summers feels that he needs to look into it. He wants to talk with the townspeople and see if it makes sense to them.

Councilmember Query explained to Councilmember Hunter exactly what is going on right now with the South Summit Fire Service District.

Council discussed what is currently going on and shared their feelings.

Attorney Christopherson said it wasn't this District that forced the issue, it was the Legislature.

The Mayor said his position is something that should be operated by the County and not South, North Summit or Park City.

Attorney Christopherson said you have this division, and they don't want to subsidize the other Cities.

Councilmembers opinion is that if it was Summit County it would be Park City in charge of everything and not the County.

The Mayor feels the next best thing is working with this.

The attorney wanted to know how long the temporary contract with Park City is.

The County is going to send a revised version and then the Mayor will send it to all the Council.

5. Council Business

A. Council Reports---None

B. Planner Reports---None

C. Engineer Reports---None

D. Mayor Reports---None

6. (As Needed) Closed Executive Session to Discuss Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation, Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Property and/or the Character, Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

7. Meeting Adjourned--- *Councilmember Hunter motioned to adjourn Councilmember Fryer seconded the motion. The Mayor and all Councilmembers voted in favor; motion passed.*

Mayor Jeremie Forman

City Recorder Suzanne Gillett