

NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2023

The North Ogden City Council convened in a Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on November 13, 2023, at the North Ogden City Office at 505 East 2600 North. The meeting was also on Zoom.

Recording can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6fclhQ/videos>.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on November 10, 2023. Notice of the annual meeting schedule was published in the Standard-Examiner on December 16, 2022.

PRESENT:	S. Neal Berube	Mayor	
	Ryan Barker	Council Member	
	Blake Cevering	Council Member	Excused
	Jay D Delpias	Council Member	
	Charlotte Ekstrom	Council Member	
	Phillip Swanson	Council Member	
STAFF PRESENT:	Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney	
	Rian Santoro	City Recorder	
	Jami Jones	Finance Director	
	Scott Hess	Planning Director	
	Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager	
	Dylan Hill	Inspector	
VISITORS:	Chris Pulver	Kevin Burns	
	Calvin Pack	Christina Watson	
	Sandy Cochran	Bob Napol	
	Brenda Ashdown	Reed Miller	
	Keith Ashdown	Susan Clements	
	Doug Anderson	Merrill Sunderlund	
	Stef Casey	Susan Kilborn (Zoom)	

Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Ekstrom offered the thought and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CALL FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Mayor Berube asked if any member of the Council had a conflict of interest to declare. No declarations were made.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Swanson motioned to approve the September 12, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Ekstrom motioned to approve the September 19, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Dalpias motioned to approve the September 26, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Swanson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER OCTOBER 3, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Barker motioned to approve the October 3, 2023, City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Swanson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF MONTGOMERY FARM SUBDIVISION

A staff memo from Public Works Inspector Hill explained he has completed the conditional inspection on Montgomery Farms Phase 1 and found the improvements to be compliant with City code and standards. The original sum of the escrow is \$783,757.48 for improvement costs, which have been released throughout the improvement process. escrow releases show a remaining \$71,250.68 will remain with the escrow agent through the one-year period after conditional acceptance by the City Council.

Council Member Swanson motioned to approve motioned to approve the Conditional Acceptance of Montgomery Farm Subdivision. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVE AGENDA

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Calvin Pack, North Ogden resident, recalled memories from his youth that led to his love of the community of North Ogden; the community is now so far spread out that it is hard to be a tight-knit community. He then read a written statement he prepared detailing his experience working with North Ogden City Public Works on the storm drain failure which led to a sinkhole on his property due to the spring runoff/flooding. The letter described the lack of communication between the City employees and the citizens.

Susan Kilborn, North Ogden resident, referenced the many election signs throughout the community and asked what happens to the signs when the election is over; she asked if candidates are responsible for collecting them or if residents should return them to candidates.

Chris Pulver, North Ogden resident, addressed Ms. Kilborn's question and asked that residents not throw away election signs; he noted he would retrieve his signs.

Keith Ashdown, North Ogden resident, stated that he is accompanied by McClane Crouch, and noted that they ride their bikes every morning at 8:00 to get to the nearby elementary school. They cross Washington Boulevard as part of their route and at the beginning of the school year, there was a Police Officer there very frequently to help people cross and to cite those who were turning illegally onto Pleasant View Drive from Washington Boulevard. The Police Officer has not been there recently, and the illegal turns have increased, which increases the danger for those trying to cross the street. He asked that enforcement in the area be increased.

Doug Anderson, North Ogden resident, presented a gift to the first responders in attendance and asked that it be delivered to the Police Department. He then asked when the Mayor and Council would be addressing a question, he asked via email yesterday. Mayor Berube stated he would respond during the period set aside for reports at the end of the meeting.

**9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE REAL ESTATE SALES
AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF PARCEL 16-049-
0057**

Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Hess summarized a real estate purchase contract between North Ogden City and Weber County for the transfer of a surplus parcel that is still in the County's ownership due to a past mapping and recording error.

Council Member Ekstrom asked staff to identify the location of the property on a map, which City Manager/Attorney Call did.

Council Member Barker motioned to approve the Real Estate Sales Agreement for the transfer of ownership of Parcel 16-049-0057. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Delpias	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF NORTH OGDEN CITY CODE TITLE 1, CHAPTER 1

City Manager/Attorney Call reported this is the first of the North Ogden Code Titles to be reviewed as part of the comprehensive update of the City Code. The administration plans to have a discussion on the proposed changes and talk about specifics as necessary so the Council can have a cleaner document for final approval in early 2024. The purpose of this agenda item is to receive guidance on any additional needed changes to the North Ogden City Code. No vote will be taken on an official ordinance at this time. Mr. Call then provided a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the Title, noting most of the changes are technical in order to bring the City Code into compliance with the State Code or to remove duplications and redundancies. He indicated that the version of the document that has been provided to the Council is in Word format in order for them to clearly see the proposed amendments. The most significant changes deal with the process of appointing employees and elected officials to the Employee Appeal Board.

11. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO AMEND THE NORTH OGDEN CITY CODE TO REFLECT THE NEW FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE STANDARDS

City Manager/Attorney Call reported the City was contacted by the local Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) office with some suggestions to amend the City's FEMA flood insurance provisions to make sure that residents can qualify for federal programs. Staff has incorporated their amendments into the attached ordinance and recommends approval.

Council Member Ekstrom motioned to amend the North Ogden City Code to reflect the new Federal Flood Insurance Standards. Council Member Dalpias seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

12. COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

a. COUNCIL MEMBER BARKER – POLICE

Council Member Barker reported the Police Department is looking for crossing guards and those interested should contact Chief Quinney. The winter parking ordinance starts tomorrow, and he summarized the on-street parking restrictions that residents should follow to avoid being cited. Finally, he announced the Police Department has a collection box in their lobby where people can drop off unused or expired medications for proper disposal.

b. COUNCIL MEMBER ECKSTROM - PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor Berube asked Council Member Ekstrom to address the numerous comments on social media in recent days regarding potholes throughout the City and the best way for residents to go about getting those potholes on the City's list for repairs.

Council Member Eckstrom stated that North Ogden, along with many other cities in the area, are dealing with extensive road damage during the winter conditions of 2022-2023; certain types of potholes can be easily repaired in-house, but others must be outsourced and the contractors that can perform that work are very busy and cannot respond immediately. The Public Works Department is hoping to be able to get those damages repaired as soon as possible. She then reported on the status of a few ongoing projects being managed by the Department.

Mayor Berube then asked Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Espinoza to address Calvin Pack's comments made during the first public comment period of the meeting. Mr. Espinoza stated that the City is lining the pipe near Mr. Pack's property; it is a metal corrugated pipe, and it was broken by a large tree root that caused an extensive backup and erosion, resulting in a large sinkhole. The reason the City is lining the pipe is to remove the joints and make it seamless from beginning to end; this should provide for easier maintenance and will prevent similar situations in the future. He stated the work can be done over the winter.

Mayor Berube invited additional input from Mr. Pack. Mr. Pack thanked Mr. Espinoza for his explanation, but noted that his concern is mostly related to the lack of communication between City employees and the public; when someone calls City officials, they should be able to receive an answer, but this is the answer he has been trying to get since September.

The Mayor, Council, and Mr. Espinoza engaged in a high-level discussion about the best methods for communicating with residents about projects that impact them.

c. COUNCIL MEMBER BARKER – PARKS AND RECREATION

Council Member Barker reviewed the schedule of upcoming special events in the community, as well as progress on winterizing City properties and the North Shore Aquatic Center. He also provided a report related to his assignment to the Mosquito Abatement District; in 2022 there were over 1,400 calls for service, but in 2023 there were just 700. This is evidence of the effectiveness of the work performed by the District in response to flooding issues throughout the County.

d. CITY ATTORNEY/CITY MANAGER JON CALL – CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mayor Berube noted the Council has received recommendations from the Citizens' Budget Subcommittee regarding the need to avoid regular budget amendments in the City. He stated that he agrees with that suggestion in theory, but there have been needs that have arisen over the past Fiscal Year (FY) – particularly capital projects, and staffing needs – that have warranted budget amendments. This led to a general discussion among the Mayor, Council, and Mr. Call about the top priority of the City, which is to keep citizens safe.

Mr. Call then discussed high-priority capital projects in the community, including the pond/park on 2550 North; pickleball courts and playground at Lomond View Park; ongoing work on the Public Safety Building; 2750 North trailhead improvements; and lighting and sound at the Barker Park amphitheater. There was a brief discussion among the Mayor, Council, and Mr. Call regarding the scope and timing of some of the capital projects Mr. Call listed.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brenda Ashdown, North Ogden resident, asked that someone describe the purpose of the meeting scheduled for tomorrow night. Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Hess stated that the purpose of the meeting is for the City's consultant working on the South Town Center project area plan to gather public input regarding the community's ideas for the redevelopment of that area of the City. Mayor Berube noted that no money has been allocated to that project area and the City is still in the planning and information gathering state; however, Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds must be allocated by the end of the year, and this is one of the areas that could receive some of that funding.

Ms. Ashdown thanked Mr. Call for his discussion of capital projects. She then noted that she had an issue in her back pasture today; two buck deer were fighting, and one was injured, and she was unsure who to call in that situation. Mayor Berube advised her to call the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for the State of Utah. Ms. Ashdown then reported there is a mattress at the recycling dumpsters, and she suggested that the recycling bins be removed with notice that they are no longer available because citizens cannot use them properly. She feels strongly about recycling, but part of the reason that the City no longer offers curbside recycling is that people placed garbage in their binds and contaminated the recycling stream. She then noted that she appreciates the Police Officers in the community, but she does not believe that parking on the grass at the elementary school during the Halloween parade was appropriate. She thanked Mr. Hess for the information about tomorrow's meeting; the meeting was advertised on the City's Facebook page, but it is not listed on the City's calendar on the North Ogden website. She concluded by referencing the City's sign ordinances; she is having a hard time with all the temporary flag signs on Washington Boulevard, and she asked if those are addressed in the City's sign ordinances.

Doug Anderson, North Ogden resident, thanked the City for scheduling the annual leaf pickup in the community, this is a great service to residents. He then noted he had called the City a few times about the intersection at 1900 North and 500 East to request to fill a pothole; he did not receive a response. He learned of the link on the City's website to submit a fix-it request and once he submitted his request in that format, the pothole was repaired very quickly. He stated it is important to get the word out to residents about the option of requesting a response from the City through the website. Additional work has been done in that area that has improved the road beyond the area where the pothole was located. He then noted that one of the challenges the City has had is communicating with 22,000 residents; when the citizen's budget subcommittee did their work, they felt it important to provide a report back to the citizens. He asked that a blurb be included in the next Connection Magazine about the work that was done by the subcommittee and to provide a link to more detailed information on the City's website. He also discussed the recycling dumpster mentioned by Ms. Ashdown; he suggested installing a camera at the dumpster site to catch people who are placing things that are not allowed in the recycling bins. Ms. Ashdown stated there is a camera at the site. Mr. Anderson asked if the City is using the footage collected by the cameras to deter that activity. Mayor Berube answered yes. Mr. Anderson then referenced agenda item nine dealing with updates to the City Code; he asked if the City Code document would include links to the section of the State Code that is being

referred to. Mayor Berube answered yes. Mr. Anderson also suggested that the documentation included in Council packets for future discussion of code amendments also include an explanation of the items that are being removed from the City Code.

Chris Pulver, North Ogden resident, stated he just graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy, and they discussed the reason that first responders do not adhere to idle-free policies and that is because if they shut their vehicles off, their computers will shut down. He added that police agencies throughout the State are still recruiting employees from other agencies, and it is important for North Ogden to be aware this is happening. He also agreed that communication between the City and the residents is important, and he is supportive of finding new ways to improve communication. He then noted he came across a person who is passionate about waste management and he will be talking to him more about his ideas about recycling.

Mayor Berube referenced Mr. Pulver's comments about the impact that 'head hunting' between police agencies has on a city's budget; not only has the City dealt with inflation that has impacted all residents, but inflation is compounded when it is necessary to increase wages for employees to prevent them from being recruited by other entities. He reiterated the City's number one objective is to keep residents safe.

Kevin Burns, North Ogden resident, stated it is wonderful that the City is doing what it can to take care of its Police Officers, but one thing that many cities are not doing is addressing mental health issues that Officers deal with. He stated he attended a training last week hosted by the Department of Justice and one of the statistics they report is that Officers are more likely to die by suicide than they are in a shooting, car accident, or any other health problem combined. Last year the nation lost 67 Officers to shootings, but over 160 to suicide. In Los Angeles County, last week, four Officers committed suicide. He thanked the City for paying its Officers a fair salary but encouraged the City to also look into mental health support resources that can be provided to Officers to make sure they have access to the tools they need to combat the dark issues they are dealing with. Mayor Berube noted that the State of Utah issued a mandate requiring annual mental health evaluations for Officers. There is also a group in the community that meets regularly to discuss licensed clinical social work or counseling for Police Officers. The City does not broadcast the support services made available to first responders, but that support and resources beyond the standard EAP are being offered. Mr. Burns stated that the City does not need to broadcast that information, but it is important to discuss it more openly because there is such a stigma with mental health issues, particularly for law enforcement officers. Mayor Berube stated he believes that mental health has been a focus of Chief Quinney; the City can offer help, but it must be accepted by the person who needs it. He stated he feels the issue is being addressed very openly and he believes that North Ogden takes care of its team of employees.

Susan Clements, North Ogden resident, discussed the upcoming North Ogden Historical Museum Holiday Open House event, which will be held November 30 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., December 1 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., and December 2 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. All Council Members, employees, and residents are invited to attend. She has been scanning many historical pictures of residents of the community and it has been a wonderful experience. The City's history is very rich, and the Museum has many displays that commemorate that history.

14. COUNCIL/MAYOR/STAFF COMMENTS

Council Member Swanson referenced Mr. Anderson's request for a reference to the items that are being removed from the City Code and he noted that the documentation provided by City Manager/Attorney Call does include those strikethroughs.

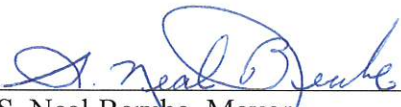
Council Member Dalpiaz complimented Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Espinoza for being a great leader of his Department. He cited a book called Extreme Ownership and Mr. Espinoza is an example of an individual who takes ownership of issues that have occurred in the area of the City that he leads. He stated that Mr. Espinoza provided Mr. Pack with a thorough explanation of what occurred with the pipe near his property, but he did not make excuses or shift blame to anyone else. He then noted that he has been concerned about the status of the pothole budget given that 60 percent of the funding allocated for the entire year has already been spent; if the Council needs to increase that budget, he is supportive of doing so. He then stated that he has heard from residents on 1700 North who are grateful to the City for fixing the culverts on the street and he wanted to pass that on to the staff.

Mayor Berube asked the Council to consider if they still want to accept comments submitted online during a City Council meeting. He understands that some people are not able to attend, and it is convenient to join electronically, but some input should not be tolerated. He then thanked the staff and Council for their dedication to the City.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Ekstrom motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.


S. Neal Berube, Mayor


Rian Santoro
City Recorder



1/2/2024

Date Approved