

Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

Thursday, January 11, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

Official notice of the City Council Meeting was given by posting an agenda at City Hall and on the Bountiful City Website and the Utah Public Notice Website and by providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County Journal and Standard Examiner.

Bountiful City Council Retreat – 8:00 a.m.
Cotton Tree Inn, 1030 North 400 East, North Salt Lake, Utah

Present:	Mayor	Kendalyn Harris
	Councilmembers	Jesse Bell, Kate Bradshaw, Richard Higginson, Matt Murri, Cecilee Price-Huish
	City Manager	Gary Hill
	Asst. City Manager	Galen Rasmussen
	City Attorney	Brad Jeppsen
	City Engineer	Lloyd Cheney
	Planning Director	Francisco Astorga
	Finance Director	Tyson Beck
	Power Operations Supervisor	Jess Pearce
	Parks Director	Brock Hill
	HR Director	Shannon Cottam
	IT Director	Greg Martin
	Water Director	Kraig Christensen
	Streets Director	Charles Benson
	Police Chief	Ed Biehler
	Assistant City Engineer	Todd Christensen
	Senior Planner	Amber Corbridge
	Recording Secretary	Maranda Hilton

WELCOME, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND PRAYER/THOUGHT

Mayor Harris opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m. Councilmember Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Higginson offered a prayer.

MAYOR’S INTRODUCTION

Mayor Harris led a get-to-know-you activity.

OVERVIEW OF POLICY PRIORITIES

Mr. Gary Hill presented the current Policy Priorities document to the staff and the Council, and the Mayor led a discussion of each section. This document helps the Mayor, Council and staff know where to best focus their efforts and is also used when deciding where to allocate money in the budget each year.

1 Councilmember Price-Huish suggested moving “Creative redevelopment” from under
2 “Proactive, Compatible Economic Development” in Tier 2 to “Sustainable Future Bountiful” in Tier
3 1, because she felt it fit with the General Plan update that is going on right now. The rest of the
4 Council agreed, and it was moved to Tier 1.

5 No other changes were made to the document. It was suggested by Mr. Gary Hill that how to
6 communicate information to residents effectively could be a topic of discussion at a future meeting.
7

8 **REVIEW OF 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

9 Mr. Gary Hill had the Council and department heads talk about the big accomplishments and
10 successes they saw in 2023.

11 In 2023, the City built Washington Park which included a skate park, bonded for and began
12 building a City-owned fiber internet network, completed 16 miles of new trails, completed Eagle
13 Ridge Drive, installed several public art projects, planted 30 new trees, purchased DeBoer’s shoe
14 store on Main Street for redevelopment, made progress on the General Plan update, successfully
15 maneuvered some big staffing changes, consolidated the Finance and Treasury Departments, initiated
16 credit card processing fees for increased revenue, helped the South Davis Recreation District
17 strengthen their financial position, had a record year of snow removal, made repairs at the golf
18 course, rehabilitated Calder Well, replaced the traffic signal at 2600 South and 200 West,
19 implemented changes to Cemetery policies to extend its longevity, built pickleball courts at Cheese
20 Park, installed three bridges in Mueller Park, built a trailhead at North Canyon, hosted another
21 successful season of the Bountiful Farmers’ Market, offered support for 14 community events,
22 supported 459 park bowery reservations, resolved 1,072 code enforcement cases, implemented cost-
23 saving and efficiency measures in the water system, changed to a county-wide dispatch/police
24 reporting system, planned and held several City employee trainings and events, upgraded the City
25 financial software system, paved/treated 21.9 miles of road, began a recycling program, held a six-
26 year streak of “no lost time accidents” at the Power department, resolved 90 power outages,
27 successfully navigated supply-chain issues to keep sufficient inventory, continued the street light
28 replacement and powerline maintenance programs, distributed RAP tax grants, and raised funds for
29 the City’s free concert series, in addition to many other things.
30

31 **BREAK**

32 The meeting took a break from 11:47 a.m. until 12:08 p.m.

33 Ms. Amber Corbridge and Mr. Todd Christensen from the Planning Department arrived at
34 12:01 p.m.
35

36 **BUDGET AND STAFFING**

37 Mr. Gary Hill led a discussion about the most pertinent staffing issues for the City. He
38 explained that one of the main issues for staffing has been finding employees that live close enough
39 to Bountiful to be employed in positions that require them to be on-call. There has also been a
40 decrease in the workforce population which puts pressure on wages.

41 Each department head gave an account of their current staffing situation and the issues they
42 face.

43 Mr. Gary Hill explained that there will likely need to be some changes in the upcoming
44 budget for higher Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and higher wages in some departments. He
45 asked if the Council supported that action, even if it likely means a property tax increase sooner than
46 previously anticipated. The Council voiced their support for taking care of and retaining City

1 employees and asked that budget projections and all information be disseminated to them as early as
2 possible so they can understand it before the budget process begins in April.

3
4 **LUNCH**

5 The meeting took a lunch break from 12:52 p.m. until 1:21 p.m.
6

7 **TRAILS MASTER PLAN AND TRAIL NAMES**

8 Mr. Brock Hill presented the Trails Implementation Plan in its current state and explained that
9 it is a living document and is being updated constantly. He went over the map of trails and showed
10 the 16 miles of trails that were completed in 2023. He talked about the next steps in the
11 implementation plan and the balance of funds that remain. He explained that approximately \$2M has
12 been spent so far, and about \$2.7M is expected to be spent next year, so new sources of funding will
13 need to be found as progress continues and the bond balance is used.

14 Mr. Brock Hill and Ms. Amber Corbridge presented photos of some of the new trails,
15 trailheads and improvements that were made during 2023.

16 Mr. Brock Hill and Mr. Todd Christensen talked about what the next steps will be on the
17 implementation plan.

18 Ms. Amber Corbridge presented the names that the Trails Advisory Committee came up with
19 for the new trails. The Council discussed each of the names and decided to approve most of them but
20 asked that Ms. Corbridge bring the Elephant Rock downhill trail (304 & 305), the Holbrook
21 Connector trail (700), the “Razorback” trails (406 & 307), and all the hubs and bridges back to the
22 Council for further discussion at a Council work session.
23

24 **BREAK**

25 The meeting took a break from 2:44 p.m. until 2:55 p.m.
26

27 **GENERAL PLAN – NEXT STEPS**

28 Mr. Gary Hill led a discussion about the next steps for the General Plan update project. He
29 explained that the draft of the plan they received from the contractor, Logan Simpson, was organized
30 as a strategic plan instead of as a general plan. He explained that fixing this issue will help the
31 finished product be more useful to the City now and in the future. He suggested that staff bring it
32 back to work sessions to get the Council’s feedback so that it can be completed by the end of March.

33 Councilmember Bradshaw voiced her concern about releasing a future land use map to the
34 public before the legislative session was over. Mr. Gary Hill and Mr. Francisco Astorga assured her
35 that they would not release anything until the legislative session concluded.

36 The entire Council agreed that bringing it to work sessions as frequently as possible over the
37 next three months would be beneficial.

38 Mr. Astorga went through the structure of the plan and what else they would need the Council
39 to weigh in on. Councilmembers gave suggestions about the layout and discussed whether or not
40 they felt the plan should go back to the Steering Committee and the Planning Commission before
41 approval. They did not come to an agreement about the Steering Committee but did agree that it
42 would not go back to the Planning Commission until after the legislative session was concluded.
43

44 **UPDATES ON INTERLOCAL ISSUES (PART I)**

45 Councilmember Bradshaw gave an update about the meeting she attended with State
46 Representative Ray Ward who is proposing a by-right zoning bill for the upcoming legislative

1 session. The bill would require all residential zones to automatically be eight units to the acre in
2 density. She expressed her concern about his unwillingness to make concessions on the issue even
3 though they did their best to show him the problems that requirement would create for the City

4 Mr. Gary Hill gave a short update about the ongoing library project. He explained that the
5 County Library Board approved Bountiful's proposal to build the new library on our City Hall
6 Campus, but the County Commissioners are still trying to find land closer to North Salt Lake, so the
7 project is not progressing at this point.

8 Mayor Harris explained that Davis County will be required to provide "Code Blue" shelters
9 for homeless persons next winter when temperatures drop to a certain level. This year, during Code
10 Blue periods, the City is not allowed to enforce camping ordinances. Mayor Harris explained that
11 she and the other members of the homelessness task force are working on how to solve this problem,
12 but they are currently split on whether to just use tents/temporary shelters, or to purchase Fremont
13 Elementary in Sunset, Utah and ask for state funds to run it as a permanent shelter.

14
15 **ADJOURN**

16 The meeting ended at 4:22 p.m.

Mayor Kendalyn Harris

City Recorder