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**Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**
Friday, January 12, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

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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.

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

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

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WELCOME, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND PRAYER/THOUGHT

Mayor Harris started the meeting at 8:31 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Charles Benson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Kraig Christensen offered a prayer.

CITY TREE POLICY

Mr. Gary Hill explained that Bountiful has a history of valuing trees, and recognizing the benefits they bring to the community. Lately the Council has had a desire to find more ways to encourage residents to plant more trees and replace trees that have been lost. Mr. Hill turned the time over to Councilmember Higginson to lead the discussion.

Councilmember Higginson explained that his desire is not to necessarily create a costly policy or program, but that perhaps one of the service organizations could spearhead a program that helps people intentionally replace trees that have been lost in recent years. He suggested working with the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA program or something similar.

The Council and staff discussed this idea and how the City might be able to provide residents with trees at a reduced cost. The entire Council was supportive of this idea and Mr. Brock Hill said he would gather information about tree purchasing, Councilmemembr Murri said he would take the idea to

1 the Bountiful Community Service Council and Councilmember Higginson said he would reach out to
2 Ogden City to get information about their free tree program. Mr. Gary Hill said that staff will work
3 together to create policy guidelines about planting locations and appropriate species of trees, etc.
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5 **PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

6 Mr. Gary Hill led a discussion about the future of the public art program.

7 He explained that one suggestion for a new mural location is on the east side of Washington
8 Park where there is a big wall of storage units. The Council supported that idea.

9 He asked if the Council was interested in setting up rotating art locations for artists to display
10 their art for sale. The Council supported that idea. Councilmember Higginson suggested they wait to
11 make any decisions on pieces until after the Council trip to St. George and see some of the art there in
12 person.

13 He asked the Council if they would like to renew the lease on “Wet Your Whistle”, a statue
14 currently installed on downtown Main Street. The Council was split on that decision, so they tabled
15 it. The current lease expires in May.

16 He asked if the Council would like the art board to start looking for more pieces to install. The
17 Council said they would like that.

18 He asked if the Council wanted to place more “Bees on Main” statues. The Council agreed
19 they would like more bees.

20 Mr. Hill thanked the Council for their feedback and said he would have the Public Art
21 Advisory Board look for art pieces to acquire and install and look into grants that are available from
22 Davis County. The current balance in the City art fund is about \$100,000.
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24 **COUNCIL TRAVEL & RSVPS**

25 Mr. Gary Hill explained that it has been challenging getting RSVPs for conferences and
26 events in a timely manner in some instances, and asked the Mayor, Council and staff to please reply
27 to emails and texts from the City Recorder as soon as they can. This will make travel planning much
28 easier for her. Mr. Hill also explained that if they register for an event and do not attend it, the City
29 still pays for that registration, so he asked them to attend if at all possible.

30 The Mayor thanked him for that reminder and admonished the Council to be considerate.
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32 **BREAK**

33 The meeting took a break from 9:47 a.m. until 10:03 a.m.
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35 **RAP TAX 2026**

36 Mr. Gary Hill gave a quick history of the RAP Tax in Bountiful and explained that if the
37 Council wants to renew it for 2026, they should put it to the voters either this November or in 2025.

38 The Council all agreed they would rather do it this year, and discussed ways they could be
39 prepared with good messaging about the projects that have benefited from RAP Tax funds, and how
40 they plan on using RAP Tax funds during the next round. The overall consensus was that funds
41 should be used mainly to do maintenance and improvement of existing parks and infrastructure that
42 are aging and could use an update. They also discussed what a redesign of Main Street might look
43 like and how to do it successfully.
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1 **UPDATES ON INTERLOCAL ISSUES (PART II)**

2 Mr. Gary Hill explained the situation with Mueller Park trailhead parking and the discussions
3 that staff has had recently with the Forest Service concerning the City taking over management of the
4 day-use lot. He asked the Council if they are happy with the plan to only take over one of the parking
5 lots, or if they have the desire to obtain management of the entire parking and picnic area. He
6 cautioned that he does not think the Forest Service will entertain the idea at this point because it is
7 such a key area for Utah recreation.

8 Most of the Councilmembers expressed their desire to manage the entire area but were okay
9 with starting with the day-use lot and then gradually taking management of the entire area.
10 Councilmember Price-Huish said she was only comfortable going as far as managing the smaller
11 parking lot. A lengthy discussion took place about how to manage the parking in the future, the issues
12 with the current concessionaire-style management, the issues with the aging infrastructure, and how
13 to negotiate with the Forest Service. Councilmember Bradshaw said she would like to see the details
14 of the contract between the Forest Service and the concessionaire. Councilmember Higginson said he
15 would like to know if the Forest Service has ever paid a municipality or a state to manage land.
16 Mr. Gary Hill said that staff would pursue the takeover of the lower lot, get information about the
17 concessionaire contract, figure out the costs of maintaining the property, and take the Council's
18 concerns about the current management to the Forest Service, as directed by the Council.

19 Mayor Harris asked about the most current Recreation District news. Councilmember
20 Bradshaw explained that she does not think the Board will vote to move forward with the bond this
21 year which means the expansion plans and pool will be put on hold for the time being. She also
22 explained that the SDRD's policies regarding figure skating are very thin, so a sub-committee is
23 working on making those more robust so that figure skating can come back to the rec center again.

24 The next interlocal topic discussed was the Bamberger Bridge. Mayor Harris explained that
25 Gary Hill, Lloyd Cheney and Richard Higginson will be meeting with UDOT on Tuesday to get more
26 information about it. The City has been told it will receive \$3.5M from Davis County for the project,
27 and more funding might be available through WFRC or from federal funding sources. Mr. Cheney
28 explained that the project could cost anywhere from \$7M to \$12M depending on the scope of the
29 design. UDOT would prefer the bridge to be removed but that is equally as expensive as keeping it.
30 UDOT has offered \$1M toward the project, and possibly more.

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32 **ADJOURN**

33 Councilmember Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember
34 Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmember Bell, Bradshaw,
35 Higginson, Murri, and Price-Huish voting "aye."

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37 The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Mayor Kendalyn Harris

City Recorder