

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 23, 2024**

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn) and video is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKGLDHEnCRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKGLDHEnCRA).

***Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:***

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Councilmembers Topper and Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Luke Wojciechowski, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper and Kaitlin Myers attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Carly Castle, Chief Operating Officer David Everitt, Planning Director Cory Shurtleff, Community Development Director Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Police Chief Lex Bell, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Assistant Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Brianna Bowker, Transportation Coordinator and Grant Writer Richard Lory, Attorney Lisa Watts-Baskin and five members of the press and public.

***Public Comments:***

Jean West referred to her letter requesting the City apologize to a former employee. David Olsen spoke about a Mill Creek and Pack Creek bid and standards regarding competition, fairness and transparency. He said his brother bid on the project and no rankings were provided as expected. He stated he made a records request and wants the City to upgrade its purchasing policy to reflect state standards. Olsen said he applied for the Parks and Recreation director's position and he spoke about the hiring process.

***Consent Agenda:***

Councilmember Topper moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: appointment of Councilmember Taylor as the 2024 Mayor Pro Tem, appointment of Councilmember Topper as the Council Member to Review the City's Bills in 2024, appointment of Councilmember Myers as the Community Renewable Energy Act Board Member, ratification of City Council board and committee assignments, approval of minutes for the December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting and the January 11 and 12, 2024, Special Meetings, and approval of Bills Against the City of Moab in the Amount of \$1,784,430.76.

***Department Update:***

Police Chief Bell reviewed police department trainings accomplished and planned.

***Public Hearings:***

Mayor Langianese opened a public hearing regarding the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** at 6:23 p.m. She stated the purpose of this public hearing is to provide citizens with pertinent information about the Community Development Block Grant program and to allow for discussion of possible applications for the 2024 funding cycle. The grant money must be spent on projects benefiting primarily low and moderate-income persons. The City of Moab was preapproved as a low to moderate income (LMI) community, as such, any project that benefits the whole community satisfies this requirement. The Southeast Utah Association of Local Governments, in which the City of Moab is a member, is expecting to receive \$1,056,986 in this new program year. All eligible activities that can be accomplished under this program are identified in the CDBG Application Policies and Procedures Manual and interested persons can review it at any time. Eligible activities include but are not limited to: construction of public works and facilities, e.g., water and sewer lines, fire stations, acquisition of real property, or the provision of public services such as food banks or homeless shelters. In the past, the City of Moab received a CDBG award during the 2019 budget cycle, in the amount of \$74,000, to install a wheelchair lift for the Center Street Gym. The City of Moab has handed out its capital investment plan as part of the regional "Consolidated Plan". This list shows which projects the City has identified as being

needed in the community. We will now open the hearing for City staff and the public to present projects, provide comments, or to ask questions. If you wish to speak, please identify yourself by name. The Recorder will include your names in the minutes, and we would like to specifically respond to your questions and suggestions during the hearing.

Olivia Bohn asked a question about the Center Street Gym project. Mayor Langianese clarified that the Center Street Gym previously received funding for a project.

Jean West stated there is no City program for disabled children, and said she was denied three times by the City when she requested a facility for her daughter and her peers. She requested a clubhouse.

Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Bowker presented data for a bid to upgrade the Swanny Park playground to an all-abilities playground as identified in the Parks Master Plan. She requested \$200,000 toward the estimated \$780,000 project cost.

Mayor Langianese closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Mayor Langianese opened a public hearing regarding **Resolution 03-2024**: a resolution amending the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget at 6:33 p.m. Chief Operating Officer Everitt presented background regarding the budget amendment. He said it included unforeseen expenses greater than \$50,000, as well as an accurate reflection of revenues and expenses, and mid-year decisions by Council. He listed approximately \$500,000 in interest income and police department grant revenues of approximately \$50,000. He noted new expenses including subscriptions such as for software, property abatement on Mountain View Drive, and purchase of a street broom machine. He also noted police vehicle leases would move from the capital projects portion of the budget to general fund line items. He said the budget would be balanced with \$1.2 million from the general fund. He concluded by stating that 85 percent of the expenditures were one-time costs.

Olivia Bohn asked about the Kane Creek Reconstruction Project and if the street would be widened.

Bill Agee asked about the added value of City expenditures. He said there is a misunderstanding about capital projects and noted his view of the downtown dispersed parking project as a restriping task.

Mayor Langianese closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

### ***General Business:***

#### ***Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendments—Approved***

**Motion:** Councilmember Topper moved to approve **Resolution 03-2024**: a resolution amending the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilmember Wojciechowski stated the recruiting expense was shocking. He brought up retention incentives. He said he was pleased with the new employees but wants to bring up longevity bonuses and turnover expense and requested future discussion. City Manager Castle said if a recruited employee leaves within 12 months, the City receives a refund of the recruiting expense, and highlighted the value of recruitment services. Councilmember Taylor concurred with Wojciechowski regarding recruitment costs. He also brought up longevity and wants to revisit the budget amendment. City Manager Castle explained merit and longevity pay are discretionary and stated the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is more important. She said it was hard to balance the budget last year and a larger COLA was given to all employees. She said merit would be revisited if revenues were greater than expected, and that merit increases reflect a \$600,000 ongoing expense. Mayor Langianese said compensation would be discussed in the coming month. Councilmember Myers asked about alternative benefits to merit pay. She said she appreciated the citizen comment regarding how the City spends money. Councilmember Wojciechowski said he appreciates the new City website and hopes for transparency.

**Vote;** The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Taylor, Myers, Wojciechowski, Knuteson-Boyd and Topper voting aye.

#### ***South Place Minor Subdivision—Approved***

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Myers moved to approve **Resolution 02-2024**: a resolution approving the South Place Minor Subdivision of property located at 943 South Main Street, Moab, Utah 84532. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***On-Call Engineering Services—Approved***

**Presentation and Discussion:** Community Development Director Black introduced the need for on-call engineering services until the City Engineer position is filled. He said there are actions requiring a licensed professional engineer, such as crosswalk design, that the assistant engineers cannot resolve.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to approve a task order with Civil Science, Inc. for On-Call Engineering Services in the amount of \$132,300 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Taylor, Myers, Wojciechowski, Knuteson-Boyd and Topper voting aye.

### ***Dispersed Parking Construction Phase Engineering and Inspection Services—Approved***

**Presentation and Discussion:** Community Development Director Black announced a \$900,000 cost savings for the project due to a shortened construction schedule and a negotiation with the contractor for crew housing, resulting in another \$199,000 savings. He said the in-house inspector was moved to the Kane Creek Reconstruction for a cost reduction of approximately \$450,000. He also mentioned a \$600,000 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant for the downtown parking improvements.

Councilmember Taylor thanked Black for the news about the cost savings. Councilmember Myers congratulated staff on the grant and budget work. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd asked about timeline.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Taylor moved to approve a task order with Civil Science, Inc. for the Downtown Dispersed Parking Construction Phase Engineering and Inspection Services in the amount of \$329,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement. Councilmember Myers seconded the motion. Community Development Director Black announced a correction to the amount. Councilmember Taylor amended his motion and moved to approve a task order with Civil Science, Inc. for the Downtown Dispersed Parking Construction Phase Engineering and Inspection Services in the amount of \$240,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement. Councilmember Myers seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Taylor, Myers, Wojciechowski, Knuteson-Boyd and Topper voting aye.

### ***Zoning Title Update Consultant—Approved***

**Presentation and Discussion:** Community Development Director Black introduced the municipal code update, formally known as the zoning title update. He said it would commence in February, to be completed by the end of 2024.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve the professional services agreement with Kendig Keast Collaborative, for the Zoning Title Update for a total of \$109,859 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Taylor, Myers, Wojciechowski, Knuteson-Boyd and Topper voting aye.

### ***City Manager Updates:***

City Manager Castle announced open house events for the Downtown Dispersed Parking construction schedule and the Kane Creek Boulevard Reconstruction. She said the Tusher Street water and sewer project would continue through April, and praised residents on 200 South for their patience and cooperation. She touched on the current legislative session and bills affecting municipalities. She said Council would receive an update from the lobbyist and the session was being closely monitored. She mentioned weekly updates by the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) legislative committee. She briefly touched on the April launch of the proposed property tax public engagement plan.

### ***Mayor and Council Reports:***

Councilmember Taylor spoke about the value of the strategic planning retreat and praised staff. He reported on an Airport Board meeting and an upcoming open house with Contour Air and Redtail Aviation. He also reported on an Emergency Medical Services board meeting and noted the burden of calls to Green River. He said he attended roundtables for Building a Better Tomorrow.

Councilmember Myers reported on meetings with the Housing Task Force, the Mayor, the ULCT legislative committee, the Moab Area Project for Seniors (MAPS 2.0), a field trip with Renauld Muselier, the President of the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur from France, and a session entitled Trail to Tomorrow.

Councilmember Wojciechowski reported on the strategic planning retreat and spoke about a meeting with the Homeless Council. He mentioned a plan for a warming center and perhaps a cooling center for unhoused persons during extreme weather. He reported on meetings of the Moab Area Watershed Partnership, and announced an upcoming community water workshop regarding infrastructure.

Councilmember Topper spoke about his onboarding process, meeting with the Mayor, and the strategic planning retreat. He reported on meetings of TrailMix, the solid waste board, the tailings pile steering committee, and the recent open house of the Moab Recreation and Aquatics Center.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd corrected the committee assignment list by stating she was a regular trustee of the Museum Board. She spoke about the strategic planning retreat, and thanked staff for their work and noted the need expressed for a new dump truck. She reported on a meeting of the housing authority and noted concern about long waitlists at public housing facilities. She said the housing authority received a \$1.5 million grant from the Olene Walker fund.

Mayor Langianese reported on a meeting with the County regarding dispatch services. She also noted meetings with the healthcare special service district, MAPS 2.0, the tailings pile steering committee, and said she met with the new acting superintendent of the region's national parks. She announced an award received by local park ranger Steve Young.

***Executive (Closed) Session:***

***Motions and Votes:*** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to enter a closed strategy session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese convened the executive closed session at 7:49 p.m. Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to end the closed session. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese ended the closed session at 8:21 p.m.

***Adjournment:*** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to adjourn. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder