

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 13, 2024

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRvH7UN7JMI.

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Howard Trenholme 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, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Assistant Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Brianna Bowker, Transportation Coordinator and Grant Writer Richard Lory, Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Sustainability Intern Mel Zinge, Assistant City Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Attorney Nathan Bracken and nine members of the press and public.

Code Compliance Update: Planning Director Shurtleff presented an update on the framework of code compliance, including complaint-based, code enforcement-based and staff or agency-based responses. Shurtleff presented examples including open burning, storm drain blockage, nuisances, signage, food trucks, short-term rentals (STRs), grease traps, and business licensing concerns. He shared statistics on the most common citizen complaints, including weeds, STRs, nuisances, illegal camping, and building without a permit. He said the top code enforcement case reviews were for weeds, food trucks, sign violations, nuisances and camping. The main staff and agency concerns included grease traps, business licensing, camping, STRs and building without a permit. Shurtleff concluded by outlining the 2024 priorities for code compliance, including lighting, landscaping, camping, STRs, nuisances and signage. Councilmember Myers asked about outreach efforts. Community Development Director Black mentioned an upcoming zoning title review and mentioned food trucks and associated outreach efforts. Councilmember Taylor asked if noncompliance was due to residents being uninformed.

Public Comments:

Nick Eason spoke about the pond at Old City Park and the proposed improvements to the fencing. He said the pond hosted rare bird species. He brought up the proposed grant-funded replacement of the current chain link fence with a split-rail fence and stated his desire to maintain a 6 to 7-foot fence that would be more attractive than the current one, while maintaining protection for birds from predators and safety for children. He advocated for educational materials for the public. Mayor Langianese mentioned the Director of Parks, Recreation and Trails was working with the Department of Wildlife Resources.

Howard Trenholme mentioned his long tenure on the Travel Council with former directors who advocated for increased tourism in Grand County. He said actions of Moab City have affected the City's revenues. He said hotel occupancy rates are down and mentioned transient room taxes are designed to ensure the vibrancy of the town. He said Moab was letting down the State because hotels are not full. He said the County was not doing anything to help businesses; he brought up the proposed municipal property tax and requested the City to work with the County to boost revenues. He said the City should preserve and protect its assets.

Presentation: Moab Solutions

Mayor Langianese introduced Sara Melnicoff and said the City funds the homeless initiatives of Moab Solutions. Melnicoff presented a brief history of her group, including recycling and trash cleanup work, Friends of the Parkway, and work with homeless individuals. She mentioned work at Power Dam and said Moab Solutions has worked with law enforcement around the clock for those in need since 2012, in memory of David Morgan. Councilmember Wojciechowski thanked her for her service.

Department Updates:

Transit Update: Transit Coordinator Lory presented statistics for both the peak season fixed route and the year-round micro transit door-to-door service. He recapped the five-year graduated funding timeline and presented proposed alterations to routes and schedules for the upcoming peak season, including elimination of the college campus from the fixed route, adding earlier hours of door-to-door service, enforcing a zone map for the less-used fixed route, and more. Councilmember Topper commented on the north end micro transit service as well as the desire for bike racks on the vans. Councilmember Wojciechowski mentioned the fixed route schedule and the overall positive feedback from locals and the useful statistics. Councilmember Taylor expressed praise for an earlier start time for local workers and asked about the ratio of bookings from calls versus the phone app. Lory mentioned pitfalls of the 5:00 p.m. non-peak cutoff. Mayor Langianese brought up more advertising at hotels.

Dark Sky Update: Sustainability Director Lamm introduced Mel Zinge, the Sustainability VISTA intern. She updated Council on the upcoming municipal compliance measures for the new Dark Sky ordinance with regard to street lamps and fixtures on City buildings. She outlined the test of the retrofit of decorative fixtures on Main Street beginning February 20. She said fixtures on Main Street would be replaced between 200 and 300 South Main Street and public feedback was welcomed between February 20 and March 20, via email at sustainability@moabcity.org or by phoning the Sustainability office. Zinge presented information about light pollution management and education. She mentioned retrofit assistance in the form of up to \$200 rebates made possible by funding from the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands. The Mayor stated information about rebates is on the City website, and she praised Orchard Villa townhomes for piloting the retrofit process.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: ratification of Work Change Directive 2 for Silver Spur Construction for the Tusher Area Sewer Improvements Project, approval of minutes for the January 23, 2024, Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$650,597.79. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Knuteson-Boyd, Wojciechowski, Taylor, Topper and Myers voting aye.

City Manager Updates:

City Manager Castle mentioned the Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) tax grant cycle is open and there is a vacancy on the RAP Technical Advisory Committee. She said open enrollment for trash and recycling service closes March 1. She mentioned the downtown dispersed parking project was underway and the Kane Creek Boulevard reconstruction project would begin soon. She also mentioned ongoing cleanup of the Mill Creek chip seal work.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Myers reported on meetings of the Community Renewable Energy Agency and housing task force. She announced an upcoming conference in Moab regarding outdoor recreation, and reported on a tour of the City's infrastructure.

Councilmember Topper reported on meetings of the RAP committee and TrailMix, and stated he attended the dispersed parking open house, the Kane Creek Boulevard reconstruction open house, and the infrastructure tour.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd reported she attended the dispersed parking open house and a meeting of the Canyonlands Healthcare Special Service District.

Councilmember Wojciechowski stated he attended the dispersed parking open house and a Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Taylor reported he attended the dispersed parking open house and the Kane Creek Boulevard reconstruction open house, a Chamber of Commerce retreat, and a meeting of the Travel Council.

Mayor Langianese reported she attended meetings of the City administration, the League of Cities and Towns legislative committee, the Council on Aging, the Moab Area Project for Seniors, and the Boundary Commission. She also mentioned work on a grant for continuation planning for the tailings pile.

Executive (Closed) Session:

Motions and Votes: Councilmember Taylor moved to enter a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and the purchase, sale or lease of real property in accordance with Utah Code 52-4-205. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese convened the executive closed session at 7:38 p.m. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to end the closed session. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese ended the closed session at 8:35 p.m.

Adjournment: Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to adjourn. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder