

Meadow Town Council Meeting

February 13, 2024

Meadow Firehouse

7:00 p.m.

*****THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED *****

Attendance: Mayor Gary Bishop, Councilmember, Councilmember Justin Jensen, Councilmember Sunny Guild, Councilmember Channing Stott, Clerk Monica Dearden, Zane Murman, Ed Zmirchavitch, Tony Cowley, Mark Cowley, Lloyd Robison, Camille Jensen, Dennis Bond, Lynn Bond, Andee Holdaway, Allen Erickson, Glayde Edwards, Jim Talbot, Liz Stott, Lee Anderson, Andy Madsen, Devyn Madsen, Ron Burns, Cathy Burns, Laura Wood, Jeff Wood, Ranae Williams, Rex Williams, Jim Beckstrand, Tammy Beckstrand, Jess Peterson, Ray Stewart, Andrew Flake, Justin Wayment.

1. **Opening ceremonies:** Mayor Bishop welcomed all that are in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Ron opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of minutes: Town Council Meeting- January 16, 2024:** Justin motioned to approve the public hearing minutes. Sunny seconded the motion. All were in favor. Channing motioned to approve the minutes from the town council meeting. Sunny seconded. All were in favor.
3. **Declaration of conflicts with or personal interest in any agenda items:** No conflicts declared.
4. **Public Comments: Issues and/or matters to be discussed and expressed by the public. (Limited to three minutes per person.)**
 - a. Jim Talbot has heard rumors that Meadow Town may possibly sell the power system, he highly discourages that. You would be low balled on price and will pay more in the end. He urges the town to not sell.
5. **Accounting Reports**
 - a. Review and approve payments: Mayor Bishop took a moment while Monica collected her paperwork and let those in attendance know that we are again without a treasurer and Monica has been helping, along with council members. Monica went over the claims with the council. Mayor Bishop commented that the checks for CJ and Chris were prorated as of the day their notice was received and that the remainder of the treasurer pay was paid to Monica for filling in. Channing motioned to approve the payments. Sunny seconded. All were in favor.
6. **Interview, selection and swearing in for new Council member:** Mayor Bishop stated that there is a vacant Town Council seat. CJ Stott has resigned and the state has a clear process on how that seat needs to be filled. Notice of this vacancy was posted for the required 14 days and there were some people that expressed interest in filling that void. The process requires that they are interviewed in an open meeting, which will happen tonight and then a vote will be taken by the legislative body, our town council. Those who have expressed interest in this vacancy are Allen Erickson,

Lloyd Robisin, Jeff Wood and Jim Beckstrand. Each council member has prepared some questions to ask and we'll rotate the order in which answers are given and give each applicant an opportunity to answer. Mayor Bishop expressed his appreciation for the willingness to participate and help those being interviewed.

Channing- Being a member of the council we need to make decisions, not always decisions that we want to make, but for the community, how will you communicate with members of the community and ask questions so you can make a decision, not for yourself, but for the community. **Jim-** This is a very important question. First, there are a lot of residents and as the Mayor pointed out, that brings a lot of opinions. I think you need to be open, and when I say open, I mean that you need to listen to all members of the community and to those that voice an issue or concern. I think it's important to take out your emotions or feelings and know that you represent the community. I think that I've had some good experience with that through my career and opportunities I've had to serve and to listen to all opinions. **Lloyd-** I think a problem that we have is rumors and that people hear a rumor and base their opinion on rumors not knowing what the real facts are. I think that Andees letter has been helpful in getting out facts and information based on what really is and not opinions. There are so many rumors and accusations flying around that are based on opinions. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but when they go off misinformation, that needs to be discerned. **Jeff-** I think communication is also important. I would make myself available with my cell phone if people want to call and talk to me just like others have done in the past. I would talk to people and see what they think and what they'd like to see. We are a town and I'd like to see people represented equally. I do understand that it is hard to make decisions as a board and that's not always popular. I've done that many many times in the past with jobs of my own; having my own platoon of people in the army, my own businesses. It's not something you get used to, but you learn to do it. I think the upward and downward dissemination of information is important to do that. **Alan-** We're all a big family, or we all should be a big family. Like Lloyd said there is this letter that goes out, well is everything true, maybe, maybe not. Is everything that people hear true, maybe, maybe not. It's pretty hard for everybody in the community to get all the truth where it's coming from unless it's right from the horse's mouth and it's not always. I would like to personally thank everyone that is here, especially those that are new. I've been coming to meetings for a long time. There is still a lot I don't know, but I've watched the process and see how things work. I get along with everybody, I don't have any enemies, I hope. If I'm an enemy, I'm sorry, I don't want to be. I work at the station, everyone knows me, I communicate with everybody. The objective is do what's best for the town, there might be five people over here that don't like it and 100 over here that do, but it's what's best for the town. Do we always know what's best? We don't. We all make mistakes and there are going to be mistakes, but if we do our very best to do what we think is best for the town, we should be ok.

Sunny- What is your motivation, or why do you want to be the person who fills this important vacancy? **Jeff-** Well, My wife and I moved here in 2008 out of necessity, we hit hard times and this town really welcomed us and they've helped raise our kid and I've retired from other jobs and I think it's just time for me to give back. **Alan-** Well, be right honest with you and I think honesty is a real good thing. I wasn't sure I wanted to be on the board. I had people come to me and tell me I'd be good and I

should put my name in, but I didn't want to. But the more people talked to me, we do need people on the board, we need people that are willing to support and help. I'd like to thank the people that put their name in, I'm sure there are better candidates than me. And I'm glad there are names in. I didn't really want to be on the board, but someday my grandkids are going to own my house, I don't plan on leaving. I want to see this town run, protected, keep going. I don't want to see it destroyed. I want to keep the town going and do what's best for everybody. **Jim-** I think I have a vested interest in the community, I've been here a long time, Tammy and I have raised our family here and it's been an ideal place to take care of the goals we had as a family. I have time to serve. I think it's important to jump in and serve where we can. Tammy and I have always been and will continue to be service oriented despite the outcome of this evening. We are here to see the community grow and be the best that it can be and hopefully have some unification to bring us all back together. That would be my answer as to why I want to serve. **Lloyd-** My whole time in Meadow, I've served. This building was wired by me, donated, never took a dime for it. I served for ten years on the council, never took a dime. In terms of today's deal, that would be \$12,000 I saved the town. The ballpark lights, my project. I did the ballpark lights, I maintained them, cut the limbs down. The pavilions mine, the ballparks mine, I helped with the backstop. All my life I've served this community and I want to continue to serve. I've done it at no cost, my time, my labor, my expense- just to make Meadow a better place. I want to continue to do that.

Justin- I have a tough one and it's a topic that's been brought up in the last four meetings. I might be stepping on Sunny's toes a little bit with this one. In regards to the Meadow Town power system, what is your opinion on either selling it or keeping it in Meadow Town ownership and why? **Alan-** Well I'm going to tell you right now, I don't have an opinion, because I don't have the facts. I can't give you an answer, I don't know how much money the town made off the power bill in the past, don't know the benefits either way, so I don't have an answer for you. I don't know how to answer that without having some facts to go over. **Jim-** I would echo Alan's thoughts, I don't know until the facts are all out there for the community and the council to pursue, I can't give you an answer in that. I think that's a very important issue in this community. I'd like to be sure I had all the facts before I could cast a vote to sell or retain. **Lloyd-** I probably have all the facts. The question that came up to sell was probably in the November October board meeting about cable TV on the poles, Channing brought up selling to Dixie in that meeting. I brought up all the things that the powers done in the next meeting and different projects through the town and never once brought up selling power. The power has funded the town. It's funded water projects, it's funded the fire department, it's been the cash cow so to say. In my time on the board, I figured I could earn \$5-7,000 annually, after paying expenses, outages, plus doing about \$30,000 maintenance on the system and Dustan carried that out. Some say, I'm cheap and don't want to pay money- the streetlights on Main just got done, they are going to come in somewhere about \$30,000, if we'd gone the way some people wanted, all new stuff, you're talking \$500,000, there is probably about \$800,000 in the town electrical account, that would have depleted that. The substation transformers that went bad, \$44,000, that was unplanned for. There is a need to have some money there. This last time, it's come up, if you are aware, Lake Powell is losing a lot of water, they've cut the generation, they've also increased the rates 38% on wholesale power, our power primarily came from Lake Powell, the

hydro project which is government $\frac{3}{4}$ from there the other $\frac{1}{4}$ from the hunter plant, because of the fire in the mine, the Hunter plant got shut down. That's why the shuffle for power, that caused power rates to increase a whole bunch because we have to cover costs. We were making a little money, with a low power rate, now we have to go to the open market, that's why your rates increased. My experience in power for the last 45 years, I've been on every end of it, in town, Flowell Electric did work on the town system, I was there. I've been involved in power all my life, I know the ins and outs, the ups and downs and how things are. If that answers your question, how things are I'm the authority, hands down. **Jeff-** Well, I don't know all that. What I do know is, all of us, we are intelligent enough to cooperate and figure out what we need to do. We know how to talk with the community, and I was here at that meeting when we were talking about increasing rates and I did bring up and it's in the minutes that if we increased the rates, we are going to want to try and put that back to the people at some point. Prices of everything has gone through the roof and people are having a hard time affording things and we make decisions as a board we have to think about how it's going to affect the quality of living for people. I would think that there are people that will have a hard time affording power at some point. I think we have to take consideration before we make any kind of decisions. I haven't done the power forever or have all those numbers, but I can certainly serve with everybody on the board and figure it out.

Mayor Bishop- What is your vision on for growth for Meadow, both short and long term? **Lloyd-** I've been here almost 53 years. In the time I've been here, everyone talks about growth, in that time there have been 74 new homes built in Meadow, that's slow growth. I think that if they open the door for everybody, that's a mistake. Slow growth is what Meadow should have. Going back to your water and power, everytime you add in as Fillmore is doing, someone has to pay the bill. In Fillmore the residents are paying the bill because they aren't bringing water into the system. They are giving them the water that they've paid for and I think that's wrong. When people come inside Meadow, they have a right to it, that's no problem, but when you start annexing things, they need to bring resources in so local residents aren't paying for someone else's project. I think growth is happening whether you realize it or not- again in the 54 years I've been here, there's 74 homes that weren't here when I moved here. Growth has happened. You just don't see it that way, that's controlled growth. There are plenty of vacant lots in town, not in mass numbers, but that's how I feel about growth. You need to control it. Inside that's not a problem, if you buy a lot in Meadow you are entitled to the resources that are here, outside, they are not. They didn't pay for any of this stuff, they are not taxed. That's how I feel. **Jeff-** Well being an appraiser for like 18 years, I do have an opinion and living here in this beautiful town, I've always thought since I moved here, you hear everyone say it's such a great place to raise your kids and we raise them up and send them to the city, and that's the last you see of them, except on a holiday or something. If it's such a great place to raise your kids, why isn't it a great place to keep them? I think that you can control growth without stifling growth and I think it's important to do both without losing your family. If family is important to you, growth should be. **Alan-** This is a good question. There has to be growth, we can't just all the sudden say we aren't going to have any growth in this town. If you don't have growth, it's just like you, if you don't grow, you're just going to shrivel up, there isn't anything left. Do I want a big city here? No, I don't want a big city here. I moved here because it was a small

town. I could have lived in Fillmore, I don't want to live in Fillmore, I wanted to live here. Lloyd said there are all these houses since he's been here, he's been here a long time, a lot longer than I've been here and I don't know how many have been built since I've been here, not a lot, but some growth. There has to be some growth, not a lot, but that's my feeling, there has to be some. **Jim-** Well, I'm a progressive guy. Growth is inevitable, but it needs to be controlled. I think that there is a real opportunity to do that, but I don't think you shut yourself off to the world with fences everywhere and say this is us and this is what we are going to be, because if you do that, you will die, you will die as a community. So, you need to have some controlled growth, studied out and appropriate. That's an amazing figure that Lloyd throws out, I'm now going to go around and count them (Lloyd- Yours is one of them Jim). I know that Lloyd, I just want to drive around and see (Lloyd- they're there) because that amazes me that there are that many new. Growth needs to happen, but it does need to be controlled. So if you're not looking for progressive people, then I'm not your guy.

Mayor Bishop asks the counsel if after this round they feel like they need another round? Sunny indicated that she had a question she would like to ask.

Sunny- We want to have four people that sit up here and do what is best for Meadow. If you aren't that person that is chosen to fill this vacancy, will you still support and work closely with this counsel and the community to add value and continue to make Meadow the best that it can be? **Jeff-** Oh, absolutely. That's why we are sitting here, to make sure that this town progresses in the right way and that we've all dreamed of. Most of us have kids here and want them to be able to stay here and supporting the counsel and supporting each other to work as a team is very important. So, that's my answer, I think we have to work together. **Alan-** I missed a couple of town meetings since you got put in, but normally I'm sitting right here, this is my seat, it's got my name on the bottom here. I've been coming to town meetings for a long time. Why? Because I want to support the town. So, yea, I'm going to continue. If you don't put me in, that's fine. I'm not going to hate everybody and say I'm not coming. I'm going to support the town and I'm going to still be here. **Jim-** Hey, I think you've got four candidates that I think could do an exceptional job. With respect to if that's not me, that's fine, I'll be supporting the town, and I have been for many years. Like I said, my wife and I are here to be supportive and do things to make the town better and so, that's what you'll get. **Lloyd-** I've been to all these meetings except for my mission, I've been involved. I've done everything I could to make the town better and usually nobody even knows what happens. I'll continue to help where I can. It's a good place to live.

Justin- This is a yes or no question, but I'd like some elaboration on it. Are you familiar with various laws and regulations that apply to municipal government? **Alan-** No. But that's something that if I'm on the board, I'm going to have to learn, but no I'm not. **Jim-** No. But I'm willing to do what I need to do to come up to speed. **Lloyd-** Yes. I've served ten years, I've pretty much, I don't know everything, things change, but I do know that laws and the rules the town needs to operate by. **Jeff-** I don't know them all, but I'm pretty familiar with a lot of code, Utah annotated code. But as far as procedural things, I'm willing to learn.

The board had no more questions and proceeded to a roll call vote to fill the vacant seat.

Channing stated that the person he was going to choose has been an overwhelming support in the community. This is not only his vote, but I feel like it is the majority of the community. Sunny wanted to thank everyone that was there and those that reached out, her phone was blowing up yesterday and some stopped by her house. This shows the faith you have in her and the community and also how much people care about the community and she appreciated all of the input. It was not taken lightly and this process tonight was very helpful. Her vote comes from input from the community and where she feels we need to go. Justin wondered if he needed to vote because there were already two for the same candidate. Mayor Bishop said, yes please. Justin stated this was hard, because he knows everyone, trying to choose between friends and neighbors and it's a difficult decision.

Channing Stott- Jim Beckstrand
Sunny Guild- Jim Beckstrand
Justin Jensen- Lloyd Robison

Mayor Bishop echoed a thank you to all four. This took people out of their comfort zone and took courage and strength to come in front of the town to answer questions. He also thanked the board for taking the process seriously, weighing things out and engaging with the community for discussion. Jim Beckstrand will fill the remaining term for CJ Stott which is 22 months.

Mayor Bishop asked Monica to swear Jim in and after this was done invited him to join the council at the table and participate in the remainder of the meeting.

7. **Discussion of Treasure & Sexton vacancies:** Mayor Bishop let the council know that the treasurer position and the sexton position are vacant. Each member has draft copies of the job description. Channing is wondering why these are open, does something need to change? Monica & Mayor Bishop did not feel like this was the reason for the vacancies. Justin wondered if there were no applicants, could the positions be open to people residing out of Meadow. This could be done, but would require an ordinance change. In discussion about the sexton job it was stated that the job takes a lot of time commitment. Mayor Bishop has asked for some sprinkler system bids and we can see where those come in at. Channing wonders, at the risk of being run out of town, if maybe replacing the grass with nice gravel would be something to consider. Lynn agreed with Channing that may be something to look into. The council decided to open the positions and see where that goes.
8. **Water Department:** No business
9. **Electrical Department:** Sunny reported that the Main Street light project has been completed by Dixie Power. This was something that Dustan set up and it would be great to thank him when you see him.
10. **Road Department:** Justin reported that the snowplow needs some work, specifically exhaust and safety work. The question is, do we take it out of town and risk having a storm and needing it. Justin has not been able to get the other truck started, so that isn't an option. He will keep trying.

- 11. Parks and Cemetery:** Mayor Bishop asked Jim Beckstrand to oversee the Parks and Cemetery department. Jim shared that he has served in this capacity before, but it's been a few years. The discussion about snow removal at the cemetery was continued. Justin wondered if possibly in the winter months the cemetery mower could be moved to the town garage and a plow be added to the four-wheeler and it could be stored in the mowers spot at the cemetery shed? Justin will look into a plow.
- 12. Fire Department:** The Fire Department has a new truck that should serve them well that was paid for by the county.
- 13. Planning and Zoning:** No meeting has been held yet this month, it is scheduled for the 20th. Andrew reported that Jess Peterson with Six Counties has been helping with a draft ordinance for short and long term rentals and the commission will be going over that and discussing it.
- 14. Building permits:** No business
- 15. Administrative**
- a. Mayor ProTem: Mayor Bishop would like to appoint Channing as the Mayor Pro-Tem. The council members support that decision.
 - b. President Millard Fillmore Library donation: The Library has reached out to ask for the yearly donation from Meadow Town of \$240. Camille Jensen is the representative from Meadow on the Library board and she shared some of the fun things that the library has to offer. Jim motioned to donate the \$240 to the library. Channing seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 16. Annual Open Meetings Training- Justin Wayment, Legal counsel:** Justin went through the annual public meetings training that is required from Utah State code 54-4-102. This discussion included; what constitutes a quorum, the definition of a meeting, when and how discussions can take place outside a meeting with counsel members, forms of communication, closed meeting procedures, agendas, meeting notice and posting requirements, roll call votes, and the recording and documenting of meetings.
- 17. Other business:** None
- 18. Closed Session (UCA 52-4-205 & 205) to discuss one or more of the following (if necessary):** The character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual; collective bargaining; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares; the sale of real property, including any form of water rights or water shares; deployment of security personnel, devices or systems; investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; contract negotiations, the disclosure of which would be detrimental to the city's bargaining position.
- 19. Any action necessary as a result of the Closed Session:** None
- 20. Adjourn:** Channing motioned to adjourn the meeting. Justin seconded that motion. All were in favor.

Monica Dearden
Meadow Town Clerk