

City Council – March 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the Fountain Green city Council

Attendance – Alyson Strait, rod Hansen, Kerry Farnsworth, Kim Johnson, and Jacob Littlefield.

Presiding – Mayor Mark Coombs

Prayer – Kim Johnson

Pledge

**1. Comment/ UDOT restriping State Street.** Officer Gary Larsen stated his disagreement with restriping State Street. He feels it will be more difficult for the elderly on Main Street. He stated that when Ephraim did the two lanes with turn lane it was a “disaster”, and they went back to the two-lane model. He further felt that it would create delays and would be harder for emergency vehicles to get through. It would also make it more difficult for residents on State Street to back out of their driveways.

Alyson Strait was concerned that turning left without a turn lane was dangerous and wondered if the turn lane would decrease this danger and Gary says that he does not feel that it would.

There was a concern over the increased danger of pedestrians crossing without the turn lane. Gary Larsen suggested flags.

Gary states that he feels that our current striping has traffic under control.

Jared Jensen of Highway Patrol reiterated the same concerns about the 1 lane model with turn lane as Mr. Larsen. He is also concerned that the turn lane will be used as a passing lane for those drivers that are impatient and want to get in front of traffic.

Mayor asks the question of the other smaller towns that have switched, do they have problems with this? Mr. Jensen responds that none have switched.

Mr. Jeff Neilson retired police added to the above concerns that he is worried about farm equipment being on State Street and not having the ability of traffic to pass the tractors when they are on State Street. Mr. Neilson states that when Ephraim was using the one lane with a turning lane that they had more accidents.

Sheriff Jared Buchanan continued with his concerns. He referred to the turn lane as the “suicide lane”. He is concerned about drivers turning into the turn lane and then speeding up to merge

with traffic while still in the lane. He stated that there are more accidents with drivers coming out of the turn lane as well as that drivers pay less attention when a turn lane is available. He feels that the 1 lane model with turn lane will not slow down speeds. He is also concerned with drivers using the turning lane as a travel lane.

**Mayor asks for the striping issue to be added to the agenda for April City Council Meeting.**

**A. Approval of Minutes. Rod Hansen motions for the approval of the Public Hearing Minutes held on February 15, 2024, Alyson Strait seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

**Rod Hansen motions to accept the minutes from regular City Council meeting held on February 15, 2024 and Kerry Farnsworth seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

**Alyson Strait motions to accept the minutes from the Six County Training on Budgeting held of February 29, 2024, Kim Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

**2. Mental Health/Family (Classes) Rm. A?** Diana Fischer wants to have free of charge access to Conference Room A at the City Building to offer free classes for our community. She is hired under a grant already in place to offer parenting, relationship, and other mental health classes. She would like to offer the classes here and have us put the class information on Facebook, website, and be able to post on our information boards. Mayor instructs her to contact the office and to set up a schedule with the office. He also tells her to contact the office in order to get information in the new letter. The Mayor also said that she should reach out to Robin Cox at the elementary to get information out to the parents of the students.

**3. Review of Taxes.** Shay Morrison presented on five taxes that Fountain Green City may want to consider. We currently collect the Municipal energy Sales and Use Tax Act which is one of the five. The city or Town option sales and use tax for highways or to fund a system for public transit is on that the Council would like Shay to look at for Fountain Green. The Municipality Transient Room Tax the Mayor feels like the County takes this from Fountain Green City. Shay will follow up. The Mayor asks Shay to move forward with research into this tax. It will need an ordinance and will require a public hearing and vote. City or Town Option Funding for Botanical, Cultural, Recreational, and Zoological Organizations or Facilities tax Shay will check into this for Fountain Green as well. This would need to be voted on as well. Municipal Telecommunications License Tax Act. Rod Hansen and Alyson Strait would also like Shay to look into this in regards to it's benefits for Fountain Green City.

**4. CIB Annual Survey.** Shay Morrison stated that 3 projects must be submitted to be eligible for the next round of grants. We can keep the two projects that were not awarded and come up with a third. The grant prefers that the municipalities fill out the application. Mayor states that there is no funding left. Shay states that the priority is sewer and water and is for now mostly loans that are being given but this could change for next year. Shay states that fewer municipalities are asking for this grant. The Mayor states that the grant is making smaller communities the priority. Our three projects last year were 1. Mechanical waste system 2. Recharging (was completed) 3. Planning grant. This is due June 31, 2024.

**5. Capital Improvements.** Shay stated that the Capital Improvement and Asset List for future grants is a requirement for pro-active planning. He feels that some of the communities are struggling to keep this up to date. Alyson Strait asks if we have this list and would like to see a copy. Shay mentioned that Fountain Green Does have this. Shay would like to work with staff to update to the current list and make it available so that it is more efficient. Fountain Greens list was updated within the last year.

**6. Plan and Asset List.** This subject was covered and discussed in conjunction with number 5 Capital Improvements.

**7. IT Proposal.** Mayor stated that Rock Mountain Tech has returned \$900 to fountain Green City due to issues with overbilling/charging. Jim Beagley from EPS Designs made a presentation to the City Council to bid for the IT services as well as the Web services required by Fountain Green. Mayor states that he feels that Fountain Green will save money with EPS Designs and receive better service. Rod Hansen asks the Mayor for the estimated total savings per year? Mayor states that it would be about \$2000 per year. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the renewal date for our services with Rock Mountain.

**Rod Hansen motions to change the IT and Web services to EPS Design, Kerry Farnsworth seconds. A role call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

Mayor requested that a message be sent to Rock Mountain to let them know we will be discontinuing their services and to have them go to a month-to-month billing until EPS Design can get everything needed to assume the services.

**8. DUP Remodel Update.** Mayor relayed information about the DUP remodel. He stated that the water issues, bathrooms, and collapsing wall have been fixed.

He stated that we did get a grant but is unsure about the amount of the grant but stated that it would be enough to put in heat and air-conditioning at the DUP.

Stewart Krukiewicz is going to replace the windows as the current windows are rotted and warped.

Rod Hansen stated that he has spoken with Kurt Noakes about the insurance amount that Fountain Green has received for the damages at the DUP and Mr. Noakes feels that we may be able to go back to insurance with additional information and get additional funding. Mr. Noakes is a retired insurance person and will head this action. He will require an updated software license which will cost about 3 to 5 hundred dollars. Rod recommends paying this and bringing him on to move forward with the insurance information. Rod feels that we may be able to get about \$15,000 in additional monies to put towards the DUP damages. Rod also states that paying Mr. Noakes may be appropriate as well for the work that he is doing. Mr. Noakes will submit bills to Fountain Green City and that we cover the cost of the software licensing.

**Rod Hansen motions to accept hiring and paying software licensing for Kurt Noakes to attempt to get the additional monies for repairs to the DUP building. Alyson Strait seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – and Jacob Littlefield aye.**

It is stated that the DUP is a benefit to the community. Should there be an open house when it reopens? Should we have open hours of operation for people to come in and see it?

**9. Police Report.** Officer Jared Buchanan presented this section. He stated that we had one animal cruelty case, 1 suicide case, 1 unintended death, 15 tickets issued, and 1 DUI. He feels that the increasing accuracy of the services that the Sheriff's provide for Fountain Green should be worked on as he feels that some of the services that are happening in Fountain Green are not being reported.

He spoke about the increased funding for High School Coverage in the area. Funding is still an issue though. He spoke that the jail program for inmates that are not sentenced to prison is winning awards and having decreased recidivism rates. The jail has received an Opioid response grant that allowed for the placement of a community health worker and the jail has been recognized at the Federal Level for their successes.

Alyson asked how often are deputies on the West end of town? Officer Buchanan stated he did not know the specific times, but they are there. Alyson stated that she had seen an autistic child almost get hit by a large truck that was going too fast. The issue was raised as to whether we need a lighted blinking speed monitor sign to encourage drivers to slow down there. Curt Neilson said he will get updated pricing for these signs and that he will reach out to Tom Sealy and the County Commission to get permission to place a sign. He feels that placing a solar sign would be better than one that had to be wired. Officer Buchanan stated that he will increase

his deputy's presence in the area. Rod recommended that we have a conversation with the gravel company in the area to encourage them to remind their drivers to slow down. Mayor will reach out to them.

**10. Code Enforcement/Animal Control.** There were no issues with this area. Curt Neilson covered the information about the new dog pound in Section 14. City Report/Traffic Control Report.

**11. Fire department Report.** Todd Robinson was not able to be in attendance. Alyson Strait brought up the opportunity for the fire department to get a grant that would allow them to purchase an ATV and that the applications were due on April 15, 2024. She wanted to let Mr. Robinson know that he could call Tracy Braithewaite and possibly involve Shay in the application.

**12. Jones & DeMille Invoice.**

**Alyson motions to pay the Jones & DeMille invoice. Rod Hansen seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

**13. Planning Commission Report.** Jacob Littlefield reported that the Planning Commission did 6 approvals and continued their discussion on site triangles. He reported that they had a good training brought to them from Shay Morrison. All the people that requested building permits were present at the meeting. Jacob brought up that we may need to consider having an online application process.

**14. City Report/Traffic Control Report.** Curt Neilsen reported on information in this section.

He reported that he has not had to do any recent plowing.

The water usage report is finished and submitted and on the whole we have probably used less water than previously. He has done the two samples per month from two separate sites. The Division of Drinking Water has revised our city population number to 1275.

There were 4 burials at the cemetery this past month. He stated that the roads at the cemetery need to be regrated at this time.

The new dog pound is ready for roof sheeting. He proposed that we go with guillotine style doors made of steel to reduce the risk of dangerous dog contact as well as dogs damaging the doors. He feels they will last much longer than plastic doors. The Mayor commented earlier in the meeting that the doors in the dog pound will need to have steel covers to stop the dogs

from damaging or urinating on the door. This is a cost of about \$900. Curt and the City Council discussed the need to have a fence around the dog pound to keep people and kids away from possibly dangerous dogs. City Council give Curt the go ahead to complete these needs for the dog pound.

The Sewer Master Plan needs to have week long sewer samples. Curt is unsure what the cost of this is. It needs to be done with BOD loading which is needed for mechanical headworks screen project.

The Traffic Master Plan meeting, which was scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, will not work for Rod. He would like to see if it can be scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of that same week. Curt states that we need to get this meeting set up.

Curt stated that there are two bids for the chip sealing in Fountain Green. One from Hale Sand and Gravel and one from Brown Brothers. Curt has the specific amounts and presents them to the City Council. He was wanting to get the third bid from JCI but had currently not heard from them. Curt will hold off for one week to get the third bid. If it has not come in by 1 week then he will reach out to Hales Sand and Gravel.

The position for the Cemetery mowing job has been posted. Greg Johnson will continue to assist Curt in the digging of the graves.

Dominion Gas has requested pictures of the meters to try and find the discrepancies in the City gas bills. We have sent in the pictures, but they see no obvious discrepancies. They will send a person out to check for a fee of \$25. Mayor has spoken with them and will have them reach out to Curt to set up plans to resolve this issue.

Water reads have been a problem and the mobile transceiver seems to be the problem. Mueller sent out a representative to Fountain Green and they did several test reads. The reads were more successful with the equipment owned by Mueller directly. Fountain Green will keep Mueller's loaner equipment until our replacement comes which the cost of will be covered 100% from the insurance coverage the city placed on it.

Fountain Green has received additional Christmas Decor. Jacob Littlefield will reach out to power company to add power to the poles that do not have it.

Rod Hansen asked Curt to shut off the water to an account in town that has a large past due balance and the owner is now deceased and the house vacant to decrease risk of flooding of the home. The mayor makes the comment that any past due amount will be paid when the house sells. Once the water is off then we wont turn it on until the balance has been paid.

Mayor asks Curt to clean up the gravel that has come into the parking lot.

Kerry Farnsworth told Curt to let him know if he needs assistance with the BOD testing of sewer.

Mayor asked for list of all Fountain Green City power meters as the County will assume billing for the Sanpete County Landfill and Sanpete County Fire District charges through the rocky Mountain Power bill. Mayor wants to confirm that all City owned meters will not pay these fees. If you are a land owner that has an additional meter from you main home Todd will have papers to opt out on those specific meters.

**15. City Bills.** Alyson and Rod like the comparisons that Michelle presented in the bills. The comment was made that the gas bill at the shop is still not correct. This was discussed in number 14. City Report/Traffic Control Report by Curt Neilsen.

**Rod Hansen makes the motion to pay the City bills. Jacob Littlefield seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.**

**16. Miscellaneous.**

Kerry Farnsworth nothing.

Alyson Strait There is a new Miss Fountain Green which is Paeton Johnson. Her attendants are Sage Ivory and Mckinlee Roach. Shaelynne did a wonderful job with the pageant.

May Day for the elementary school is on May 16<sup>th</sup> which is City Council night. Should we move Council night to another night as most of the Council will be attending the May Day celebrations? Mayor says that we need to have two meetings before Council Meeting so the meeting date must be moved. Council agrees to moving the May Council Meeting to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 with the following schedule: Start at 5:30 pm for the work meeting, then the public hearing, and then finally City Council Meeting.

Rod Hansen asked when UP&L is to move the power Mayor has a meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> with them and the Mayor has a list and has been communicating with them.

Kim Johnson nothing.

Jacob Littlefield nothing.

Mayor reminds that information for the second quarter newsletter needs to be into Michelle as soon as possible in order to get that communication out.

The dog clinic will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The May Clean-up is on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Need volunteers to pick up items from the elderly. Rod Hansen volunteers for this. There will be dumpsters up at the shop.

The Little Miss Lamb Day information needs to be in the newsletter so Shaelynne Paulson will have that information.

Mayor asked Council if they would like to have the Budget work meeting on April 25, 2024 in order to make City Council night shorter and allow for more focus on budget issues. So the budget work meeting of the City Council will be held on April 25, 2024. Budget has several things that must be changed and revised including the issue of the fire and landfill being moved to the power bills. Mayor will provide citizens with the County Commissioners information if there are any citizen complaints. Michelle has sent out the budget worksheets to the council and the Council should look at them.

Reminds that all billing for fire and landfill will be removed from City bills as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Need to follow up on this decision to allow for the scheduling and clarification of the dates

Mayor brought up the IWorx program. Curt Neilsen states that he feels that it would be helpful to him. Planning and Zoning will use it if we purchase it but feel that it has more features than what they would realistically use. Code enforcement and animal control officer feel that it would be helpful to her to track licensing and payment. There is some concern over the \$2400 for the community portion and the \$2100 animal portion that are billed yearly. Most of the council feel that this is excessive. The question is raised if there is another option. One option proposed by Rod Hansen is for Amy to write a ticket and then make the resident responsible for coming into the City and provided the proof needed to remove the ticket. Council expresses that this may be the best option.

Alyson Strait stated that she would like the quarterly newsletter to contain information for the clarification of burning, ATV rules with link to website for kid and adult ATV classes that are required by the state now, a reminder to not ride in the bar pits (ride on the road) or creeks, and that riding ATVs in the school, church, or park property is prohibited. It was proposed that small signs be placed where the city does not want riding to occur.

One member of the Planning Commission has retired from the committee and Laura Beagley was asked to contact Matt Brown to ask if he is still interested in being a member of the Planning Commission as he is the next name on the list.



Rod Hansen motions to move to Executive Session. Alyson Strait seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.

Rod Hansen motions to leave executive session at 10:00 p.m. Alyson Strait seconds the motion. A roll call vote is taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.

Rod Hansen motions to leave the general session of City Council at 10:01 p.m. Jacob Littlefield seconds the motion. A roll call vote is taken: Alyson Strait aye – Rod Hansen aye – Kerry Farnsworth aye – Kim Johnson aye – Jacob Littlefield aye.

Meeting adjourns at 10:01 p.m.

  
Laura Beagley, Deputy Recorder

