

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 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=B9O6X5EWnsg.

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Jeremy Spaulding led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Luke Wojciechowski, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper and Kaitlin Myers attended. Also in attendance were Interim City Manager David Everitt, Code Compliance Specialist Mona Pompili, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Transit Coordinator and Grant Writer Richard Lory, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton Jr., Police Administrative Sergeant Scott Finlayson, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and nine members of the public.

Public Comments:

Richard Lory spoke as a citizen and commented on the recent decision by Council to not include a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for elected and exempt officials in the forthcoming municipal budget. He said there were many pros and cons regarding the debated topic of pay for officials, and that it is a worthwhile discussion to have in front of the public. He requested more discussion in the coming year in public meetings to consider the many nuances of the topic. He said legislative pay is germane not only to local governments but also as it pertains to state and federal government.

Charlotte Mates spoke about the flood zone. She said she lives in a Mill Creek Pueblo condominium and she recently attempted to refinance her mortgage; she said she was denied a fixed-rate mortgage due to the location of the condominium in the flood zone. She said that during the recent 100-year flood her home was not flooded. She said she was not the only homeowner feeling concern and requested the City to keep in mind the flood zone matter so that homebuyers can get a fixed rate. She said her own rate went from about four percent last year to over nine percent. She also noted the Grand County High School soccer team just won the regional championship.

Kya Marienfeld spoke as a citizen about the City's Walnut Lane property and supported the City's efforts to develop the property for affordable housing. She stated her belief that she spoke on behalf of many local residents who are in favor of the City's ability to provide housing for the several families who live there. Marienfeld stated her intent was not to overtly criticize but to let Council know the community is watching and urged Council to do everything in its power to keep the residents in their homes. She mentioned a weeklong Go Fund Me campaign had raised more than \$5,000 from more than 80 donors. She urged Council to not give up.

Sara Melnicoff spoke about Walnut Lane and her years-long efforts to assist families who have lived there. She said that, with transparency and communication, there is nothing the community cannot do. She said the Nelsons did a lot to assist the residents. She offered her assistance.

Presentation: Grand County School District Community Coordinator Jeremy Spaulding reported on the required annual review of the Safe Routes to School program. He commented on complexities regarding the state highway bisecting downtown. He invited Council to observe conditions regarding road conditions and to visit school buildings. He brought up safety concerns regarding human-powered commutes to schools and announced a promotional event to encourage riding bikes and scooters and walking to school. He invited City public works and engineering staff to attend. He explained a reward program for students to report unsafe conditions on their school commutes. He mentioned hazardous locations. He said there was only one official safe route to school along the parkway, which was closed for construction this year. Councilmember Topper volunteered to be a liaison for Council. Councilmember Taylor stated his interest in the program and in safe routes to school.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Mayor Langianese read the National Public Works Week proclamation. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: Works Week Proclamation, Monthly Budget Report, approval of minutes for the April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$1,056,059.64. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. Councilmembers Taylor and Wojciechowski asked about a detail in the budget report. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Wojciechowski voting aye.

General Business:

Public Hearing for Pay Plan Schedule and Exempt and Elected Salaries

Presentation and Discussion: Interim City Manager Everitt briefly presented the purpose of the hearing. Mayor Langianese opened the public hearing at 6:27 p.m. There were no public comments and she closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

Adoption of Pay Plan and Exempt and Elected Salaries—Tabled

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to table **Ordinance 2024-02**: an ordinance adopting the City of Moab Pay Plan Schedule and adopting the Exempt and Elected Officials Salaries for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion to table. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Wojciechowski voting aye.

Adoption of Capital Improvement Project List—Approved

Discussion: Councilmember Myers brought up rankings of items on the list of capital improvement projects. Interim City Manager Everitt explained that the proposed resolution would fund all items on the list, and reasoned that immediate ranking is less critical. Mayor Langianese added that public engagement regarding a proposed property tax would allow City residents to provide feedback on the prioritization of projects. Myers agreed with the suggestions.

Motion: Councilmember Myers moved to approve **Resolution 12-2024**: a resolution adopting the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Project List. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion.

Discussion: Myers stated public input is critical. Taylor concurred and added some items on the list are critical. Councilmembers Topper, Wojciechowski and Knuteson-Boyd agreed that public perception and feedback are key.

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

Interim City Manager Updates:

Interim City Manager Everitt briefly reported that a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) had been awarded for planned improvements at the Swanny Park playground. He brought up a new issue involving needed repairs to the roof at the recreation and aquatic center. He added there is a leak detection project underway involving the outdoor pools, and a search for a new aquatics manager is near completion. Everitt mentioned recent celebrations for Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Wojciechowski reported on a recent planning commission meeting at which overnight accommodations at local nonprofits were discussed. He added that upcoming code amendments should consider needs of local nonprofits. He reported on meetings involving the homeless council, the housing authority, a regular meeting with the Mayor, Wabi Sabi relocation, Walnut Lane, and Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA).

Councilmember Topper reported on a meeting with the Mayor, a spring trail workday, a Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, the Arroyo Crossing groundbreaking, and a Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Act (UMTRA) tailings site tour and steering committee meeting.

Councilmember Taylor reported he met with the Mayor, attended the Arroyo Crossing groundbreaking, participated in the UMTRA tour, and worked with residents regarding Walnut Lane. He stated the events regarding the insurance problem have been out of the control of the Council. He said the Council is trying to do the right thing for the residents of Walnut Lane.

Councilmember Myers reported she attended a meeting with the Mayor, thanked other Councilmembers for attending the Arroyo Crossing groundbreaking, noted an affordable housing discussion with a representative of the Governor, participated in the UMTRA site tour, and met with constituents regarding water tanks, Walnut Lane and other topics. She expressed her commitment to do everything she can to resolve the Walnut Lane issue.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd reported on a healthcare special service district meeting, and she concurred with Councilmembers Taylor and Myers regarding efforts at Walnut Lane. She said the City provided housing to the residents for six years, and the property is still owned by the City. She added the City could compel deed restrictions on the site.

Mayor Langianese reported she received letters from local sixth graders, who requested more privacy for kids, four lane highways, more cafes and coffee shops and a shopping mall, fewer jeep trail closures, and more affordable housing and sports facilities. She added that other items requested included left turn lights and street lamps. She reported on the League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) meeting and an inspiring keynote. She said she met with the new Southeast Utah Group national park service superintendent as well as a journalist for a new local magazine, and announced the City's Victim Advocate Nathaniel Clark received the System-Based Victim Advocate of the Year award.

Councilmember Wojciechowski spoke again about the Walnut Lane situation and brought up the community response to recent flooding and fire incidents. He said the Council was trying to do everything within its power regarding Walnut Lane and he stated his appreciation to persons who have been assisting.

Executive (Closed) Session:

Motions and Votes: Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to enter a closed session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation and the sale of real property. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese convened the executive closed session at 7:00 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 7:31 p.m.

Adjournment: Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to adjourn. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder