



Parowan City Council Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

Parowan City Council Chambers

35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Mollie Halterman, Councilmember David Burton, Councilmember John Dean, Councilmember Sharon Downey, Councilmember David Harris, Councilmember Rochell Topham

City Staff Present: Dan Jessen, City Manager; Scott Burns, City Attorney; Callie Bassett, City Recorder;

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Mayor Halterman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Opening Ceremonies:** Councilmember John Dean offered the invocation. He then led the council and the public in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Declaration of Conflicts With or Personal Interest In Any Agenda Item:** No conflicts were declared.
4. **Public Comment:**

Susan Sepe said that recently the council has been in discussion to reverse the past city council's decision to assess the increase in power costs over time. She said due to the escalated power costs, the power department has lost approximately \$800,000 dollars. She asked the council if this was setting a precedent by reversing the fiscal decision of the past council and negating their decision which she said she was sure was given much discussion and concern. She discussed the effect the economy has had on the lives of individuals. She said Parowan is a small town that does not have the financial resources to be handing out electricity to consumers. Energy costs are going to rise dramatically. Consumers cannot expect the city to subsidize their power usage. She said the amount they are paying back is a percentage of their monthly power usage. She is asking this council to uphold the decision of the past council and continue to collect the monies put forward by Parowan on behalf of its power customers. She said in her opinion, the best business practice is to pay back the city for monies they have expended on behalf of its power customers.

Dan Jessen addressed the council and said he was taking off his hat as the city manager for a moment. He said this council voted to support the Parowan Ram Resolution. He says it reads, "As a community we resolve to be True Rams. As a community, we will find ways to work together and support each other. As a community, we will help educate and inform the public of our roles and responsibilities. As a community, we will look for ways to build community spirit, support our community servants, and make Parowan Strong."

Dan said in his job he deals with people at the height of emotion, and he always recognizes that when they are frustrated or mad. He said sometimes he lets them know when they have crossed the line. He told the council he has seen some truly despicable behavior these last two weeks. He said he wants to appeal to Parowan and ask what is our character? Dan explained that one of the city's employees at the library is going through the fight of her life. He said last week she was sick and they had to close the library that day because there was no one to cover for her. A citizen came in the next day and was throwing books on the floor, raising their voice, and saying, "Maybe someone should go active shooter in this place. Maybe it will be me." After finding out that our employee is very sick, the same family came in that day and said, "Good. Maybe she will die and we can get rid of her."

Dan said he does not want to work in a city if that is the way we are going to act. He said we can work through hard things, we can have disagreement, we can have disagreements with people, and we can have grudges. He encouraged everyone to work through their grudges. He asked if Parowan is a better place to live and are we an example? Or is Parowan just the cesspool that is Facebook and what it is doing to our country. He said he knows that this is not everyone. He said we can disagree better. It is healthy to disagree, to have problems and discuss things. We just need to remember we are working with human beings. He implored people to try to keep their humanity, to keep their civility, to disagree better and to respect each other and honor the resolution that is Parowan Strong.

PUBLIC HEARING to provide information and receive input regarding long term plans for restricting 200 West to one-way traffic during certain hours of the day to accommodate dropping off and picking up elementary school children. Comments are limited to three minutes.

Councilmember Topham moved to open the public hearing. Councilmember Dean seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Dan gave some background. He said this construction project has been known about for some time. However, it was a very short order of time that they knew what the plan was and when the contractors rolled in. The school reached out to the city and asked for help in trying to solve the traffic problem. The area where the kids were being dropped off was ground zero for the construction. There was not a lot of lead time, however the school was able to put out an email to explain what the new traffic pattern would be. They got the information out the best that they could in the time they were given. The school district reached out to the city to see if they could help with the traffic. They looked at the pattern used by Enoch Elementary school. They have closed one of their streets to be a one-way street during drop off and pick up hours. Parowan is going to follow this model during construction. He said they knew it was going to be a challenge in the beginning. He said the intent is to continue this until construction is finished. They could leave it a one-way street during the whole day, or just during drop off and pick up.

Councilmember Topham feels that this is a much safer option and she feels that it is going well. Dan said that he knows this is an impact to people who live on that street. They recognize this. Chief Adams said he feels that it is going well. He said it was a rough first week, but this is hands down much safer. Some people just want to cheat the system and follow the rules and want their children to cross the road. Councilmember Burton had a concern about being one-way only part of the time. He said if it is one way consistently, people will get used to it. Dan said he feels it is important to open the road up to two traffic outside of school hours.

Councilmember Topham said she would like to see the road closed to one-way traffic for 2 blocks. Chief Adams said in Enoch the people that live on that street and hated and were fighting it, the love it now because there are less traffic going past their homes. It is impactful during drop off and pick up. He said if they tried to close it and open it during the day, people will not get used to it. He thinks it would be better during the school day. Councilmember Dean said it is a learning process. He said it looked like it worked well.

Principal Trevor Heaton, Parowan Elementary, said he has been out there every day. People have been very supportive. There have been those who have had complaints, but they were able to talk people through them. He said this is so much safer. He said what he has noticed is that it has gotten smoother. He said drop off is great. No congestion. At 2:20 there is congestion. At 2:35 there is a lot of space. He said he thinks as people start to figure this out – if they wait five minutes there is more space

to pick up their kids. He suggested putting a speed limit sign. These are his observation. They now have flaggers on 100 N. when they open the gates.

Dan said the loading zone is separating the kids from student drivers and construction and makes it very safe. Dan asked if there is going to be a fence to separate the high school parking. Mr. Heaton said they want to have fencing all the way around.

Michael something. He said those flaggers better be certified. He said this traffic study should have been done by a certified traffic engineer and information should have been put out long before the change was made. He said he wants to keep the kids safe. He said speed limit signs are not expensive. He is trying to look out for everyone. He said this needed to be designed better from the start. He said he wants to know why UDOT was not contacted.

Tim Bishop said he lives on the corner of 200 W and 200 N. He said the first week was a disaster, but he is glad that everyone is aware. He has lived there for 18 years. People were pulling into their yards to park. He said there are three problems - going one way, backing up at the same time, people parking on the wrong side of the road and running across the street. He said he has a small problem with the way this plan was implemented. He said this meeting is happening after the fact. He thinks the idea of making the road one-way all day. He said if you close two streets there will be problems. He is concerned of the safety of the kids.

Mr. Heaton said when they moved the bus zone, that opened additional parking spots. There are more places to pull in than before the construction started. He said he will investigate how many kids are being dropped off and picked up.

Councilmember Topham moved to close the public hearing. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CONSENT MEETING:

5. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes from February 22, 2024
6. Approval of Warrant Register for March 14, 2024
7. Approval of Warrant Register for April 25, 2024
8. Approval of February 2024 Financial Report

Councilmember Burton moved to approve items listed as 5 – 8 on the agenda. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ACTION MEETING:

9. Approval of Background Check Policy:

Mayor Halterman said this was discussed in the last work meeting.

Councilmember Downey moved to approve the background check policy, action meeting item 9. Councilmember Dean seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

10. Approve Haslem-Anderson Annexation – Ordinance 2024-08

Dan said this needed to be tabled. They have not received a fully executed annexation agreement. It would not be appropriate to move forward without that. He said the city needs to have its ducks in a row.

Councilmember Burton moved to table item #10. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

11. Approval of Privacy Policy Statement

This statement is necessary to be compliant with state requirements.

Councilmember Burton said he does not think it is necessary to include social security numbers on our utility service agreements. He said other towns are not doing that. Dan suggested this be brought forward as a talking point at one of the next meetings.

Councilmember Downey moved to approve the privacy policy statement. Councilmember Topham seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

12. Approval of Appointment of New Public Works Director

The mayor introduced Aldo Biasi as the new public works director. Aldo thanked the hiring committee for this opportunity. He said it was a hard decision to leave his job and come here, but he believes in what Parowan can be. He said he will stand before the council and bring problems to them, but he will also bring solutions.

Dan said there will be a transition between Kelly Stones and Aldo.

Councilmember Burton moved to appoint Aldo Biasi as the new public works director. Councilmember Topham seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

13. PCA – Under Collection and Ongoing Management

PCA Under Collection:

Councilmember Harris posed the question: Would forgiving the under collection for the electric department put the city in financial difficulty? There was an in-depth discussion by the council on the PCA and whether to continue collecting the under collection (or not) from the months the electricity costs spiked so high and cost the city so much. They discussed following the PCA spreadsheet instead of having the Power Board decide the rate; needed cash reserves to provide operating expenses, provide good service to consumers, and in case of catastrophic loss; paying off debt service; the necessity of doing a cash reserve study and having a cash reserve policy; deciding what makes the city healthy; and getting a recommendation from UFS.

After the discussion, Councilmember Dean moved to table this item until they can figure this out. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dean amended his motion to table the PCA under-collection decision contingent upon a study of the PCA under-collection. Councilmember Topham seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PCA Ongoing Management:

Dan said the other thing the council needed to discuss was whether the council wanted to make all the decisions regarding the PCA on an ongoing basis, at whatever periodic timetable they decide, or whether to have that role be done by the power board. He said the previous council said to have the power board make those judgement calls on an ongoing basis. He said Councilmember Harris wanted to discuss whether that should be done by the council or by the power board, unless the council wanted to say the power board can do it if they follow the PCA. Dan asked how the council would like to manage the PCA moving forward.

Jeremy suggested the power board follow the spreadsheet currently, and then once the cash reserve policy is in place, the council can decide on the under collection.

Councilmember Burton moved to follow the PCA spreadsheet and let it dictate the rate that is set. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion.

WORK MEETING:

14. UAMPS Update from CEO Mason Baker:

Mr. Baker gave a very informative presentation on an overview of UAMPS, who they are, what they do, and what projects they are involved in. There was a good discussion between Mr. Baker and the council.

15. Discussion Regarding RFP for the Breakwater:

Dan said the city would like to put out an RFP to select a private vendor to partner with for extraction of sand, gravel, rock, trees, and everything else that goes into the breakwater. The vendor would be required to take out ***all*** the material. The city's primary purpose there is flood mitigation.

Dan presented several options to the council:

Option A = Find a single partner who wants to go in and mine the material out within certain hours while also mitigating the dust. Residents would still be able to remove material, as long as it is not material processed by the vendor.

Option B = There would be a chain put across the entrance, there would be signage, and people would need to get a permit to go in and mine the material. There would be formal rules set up, and a more formal system.

Councilmember Burton said it is important to understand that this will be ongoing process every year.

Option C = The city would have to figure out a way to finance this, take care of it, sell the material, and find how to store the material that is not sold.

An RFP will be put out and the agreement will be brought to the council for approval.

16. Reports, Updates, Old Business Follow Up: Elected Officials and Staff

Planning and Zoning Chairman Larry Zajac addressed the council. He said there is an opportunity for training coming up. The Utah Branch of the American Planner's Association will have training on May 8-10th in Cedar City. It is \$50 per person. He said this will be a very beneficial training. He asked who would commit to the training. The \$50 registration deadline was that night. After that there was a late fee.

Councilmember Burton reported that the opening date goal for the pool is Memorial Weekend. Dan said they have hired a new pool manager. Last year's manager Kirstin McCoy will serve as support staff. Councilmember Burton said there are some things that need to be done to get the pool open, but it looks much better than last year. He reported that the recharge project is moving forward. They meet bi-monthly. They reviewed a lot of the design and the direction for moving the route. He said he is excited that it is moving forward. He said this is so important to the city. Dan said the pumpers got another grant for \$1M, so they have around \$3M which is very exciting.

Councilmember Downey reported she attended the power board meeting. They discussed most of what they discussed about the PCA that they discussed during this meeting. She gave a shout out to

Brad Remund who is getting ready to retire. Brad addressed the council and said it is a scary time but an exciting time, but he appreciated being able to work for the city and all the city has done for him.

Councilmember Dean reported that he went to the ULCT conference and he learned a lot. He attended the councils' budget meeting yesterday. He will also attend the next budget meeting on Tuesday. He said he talked with Justin and the parks and cemetery are looking beautiful. Councilmember Topham thank Councilmember Dean for his positivity on social media. She told him to keep up the good work. Dan thanked Councilmember Dean for cooking breakfast for the public works department, and Sharon for bringing in treats to the office. He said those things go a long way.

Councilmember Harris reported that he had a Power Board meeting where they discussed the PCA.

Councilmember Topham reported on the new theater board: Jenifer Terry, President; Aubry Tuttle, VP; Cami Cox, Secretary. They are working on getting a schedule of meetings for the year. Jenifer has booked the theater for the summer for the children's theater. The theater board would like to raise the fees for renting the theater. They will discuss it and bring it to the council. Councilmember Topham said she attended planning and zoning for Councilmember Burton. They approved a conditional use permit for Rasmussen Rentals, contingent on removing the shipping containers. The council said they have been removed. They also discussed who should be on the Parowan Land Use Authority. Dan said it looks like they will have a three-person committee involving staff and planning and zoning members. She said the Master Transportation Plan Open House will be April 30th at 6:00 p.m., and she thanked the Police Department for all their help with the new drop off/pick up system at the elementary school.

Mayor Halterman mentioned that Arbor Day is Monday, April 29th at 12:30 p.m. Councilmember Dean said the schools will be coming over in shifts, and they will be planting a few new trees.

Dan Jessen reported that they had all the budget hearings with the department heads, and they had budget work meeting. There will be another work meeting next Tuesday. The tentative budget will be compiled and ready for the public to look at. He said 600 West is closed to crossing at the flood channel. They continue to work at improving the flood channel. He reported on the pickleball courts. They are looking at installing a new city water pipe, and then doing some grading. He reported on the bike park. They have been working with Mayor Robinson of Paragonah to finalize design work. When that is done, they will have a surveyor go out and stake it, and then they will start building. Dan said he hopes the community will be supportive of the library and the library staff. There are new temporary hours. They are going to hire an additional staff member to help cover the library hours. He thinks this is where our community can shine. Dan said they have put out for bids to do work on the emergency egress door on the north side of the office building. There is money in this year's budget for that project.

Mayor Halterman reported that the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m. at the library flag pole. This is sponsored by the area Interfaith Committee. She said it is a wonderful event. She said they are preparing for the Master Transportation Plan Open House. She said the plan is in draft form and the open house is the time for the public to come in and comment. Dan said there is an existing plan in place, it is being modified, tweaked, and updated. It will impact people. He said if there is a real concern, they want to hear it before it is adopted. Jones and DeMille will be there with information and maps. Mayor Halterman reported that *Thrillshare* turned out to be more expensive than the city wants to spend, so they will go back to the drawing board. She said there are positive ways to utilize social media. She reported on the sidewalk on 200 South from Maple Springs and Stillwater. They had a meeting with public works, UDOT, and some of the property owners. They worked through a process, and they think they are going to be able to do that sidewalk. They are making positive

progress. She also spent some time talking with the Anna, the new rec coordinator. They sent Marshall/Evans out to look at the scoreboards. They have not been working for a long time.

Staff: None

17. Closed Session: The Council may consider a motion to enter a closed session for specific purposes allowed under the Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code § 52-4-205), including the following: to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; the purchase, exchange, lease, or sale of real property; pending or imminent litigation; for attorney-client communications (Utah Code § 78B-1-137); or any other lawful purpose.

Councilmember Burton moved to go into closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease, or sale of real property and discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Burton	X		
Councilmember Dean	X		
Councilmember Downey	X		
Councilmember Harris	X		
Councilmember Topham	X		

All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The council moved into closed session at 8:52 p.m.

Present in the closed session: Mayor Mollie Halterman, Councilmember David Burton, Councilmember John Dean, Councilmember Sharon Downey, Councilmember David Harris, Councilmember Rochell Topham, Dan Jessen, Scott Burns, Callie Bassett, Jeremy Franklin

There council only discussed the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. They were not ready to discuss the real estate deal.

18. Adjournment

Councilmember Topham moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.



Mollie Halterman, Mayor



Callie Bassett, City Recorder

Date Approved: 5/23/2024