

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman Gil Almquist at 4:00 p.m. on May 21, 2024, in the Washington County Commission Chambers, and via Zoom 111 East Tabernacle, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Commissioner Gil Almquist, Commissioner Victor Iverson, Commissioner Adam Snow, Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow and Deputy Clerk Jayanne Lewis.

County Administrator Nicholle Felshaw was excused.

**INVOCATION BY: Larry B. Shurtliff, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: James Schaffer, American Legion Post 90**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting the consideration of routine matters. If a commissioner requests that items be removed from the consent agenda, those items are placed at the beginning of the regular agenda. Other than requests to remove items, a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda is not debatable.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for April 17, 2024 through May 21, 2024
- Consideration of Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024
- Consideration of Ash Creek Special Service District Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024
- Consideration of Commission Work Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2024
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Real Property
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Personal Property
- Consideration of Application(s) for Property Tax Abatement (7)
- Consideration of Retirement of Sheriff's Office K-9
- Consideration of Execute Notice of Grant and Agreement Award re: Deobligation of NRCS Funding for EIS re: Warner Draw and Goulds Wash Drainage so Funds Can be Used in a Future Agreement

**MOTION:** **Motion by Commissioner Snow to Approve the Consent Agenda as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.**

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**MOTION:** **Motion by Commissioner Snow to amend the regular agenda by moving agenda item #3 Presentation: Recognition of K-9 Nero's Retirement to agenda**

**item #1. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.**

**2023 YEAR IN REVIEW VIDEO:**

Commissioner Snow introduced the seventh of twelve 2023 Year in Review videos, which was then shared. This video highlighted the PGA & LPGA.

**PRESENTATION: RECOGNIZING FRANK LEUCK – PLANNING COMMISSION**

Commissioner Almquist postponed the Recognition of a Planning Commissioner due to his absence.

**PRESENTATION: RECOGNITION OF K-9 NERO’S RETIREMENT**

Washington County Sheriff Brooksby informed the Commissioners that Nero is aging out of the K-9 program. Nero will be retired to his handler Deputy Shumway’s home. Sheriff Brooksby highlighted some of Nero’s stats: He joined the program in 2018, has been deployed 432 times, 185 arrests have been contributed by Nero, and 96 pounds of narcotics have been recovered.

**PRESENTATION: EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS**

Commissioner Almquist recognized Washington County IT director Andrew Yergensen for 10 years with Washington County. Commissioner Almquist also recognized IT specialist Seth Baker for 20 years with Washington County.

**PRESENTATION: WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR HIGHLIGHTS**

Legacy Park and Fair Director Susi Lafaele shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting several key points of the 2024 Washington County fair.

(See Attached PowerPoint)

**EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Sargent Darrell Cashin with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office reported there were fifteen Search and Rescue (SAR) call outs between April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 for a total of 454 hours. There have been a total of 43 SAR incidents in 2024.

(See attached report.)

**CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE REQUESTS:**

Children’s Justice Center, Furniture for Expansion (Ratification) ..... (\$46,205.00)

Fair, Paul Bunyan's Lumberjack Show (Ratification) .....	(\$12,000.00)
Emergency Services, Ballistic Helmets .....	(\$14,710.27)
Emergency Services, Axle Burn Trailers .....	(\$132,088.95)
Fair, Hotel Rooms for Concerts and Events .....	(\$16,781.98)
Greater Zion Tourism, Film Tour Sponsorship .....	(\$20,000.00)
Roads, Dyed Equipment Fuel .....	(\$24,974.03)
Center on Aging, Meals on Wheels Truck .....	(\$69,180.00)
Clerk/Auditor, Oracle Software .....	(\$237,706.92)
Clerk/Auditor, Oracle Time and Materials .....	(\$301,677.00)
Sheriff, Dual Purpose Police Dog .....	(\$15,000.00)
Sheriff, Asset Management System .....	(\$18,674.00)

*All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.*

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve the Purchase Requests as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1260-O, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 6 OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CODE TO ADDRESS TRUCK AND OTHER TRAFFIC ON KOLOB MOUNTAIN ROAD AND THE TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS**

County Public Works Director Todd Edwards explained a previous update to the Washington County Ordinance did not specifically address transporting live animals and weight restrictions. This change will address that issue.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-1260-O, An Ordinance Amending Title 6 of the Washington County Code to Address Truck and Other Traffic on Kolob Mountain Road and the Transport of Live Animals. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1261-O, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE DEDICATION FOR THE 175 EAST ROADWAY BY NEW HARMONY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH**

Mr. Edwards stated this road dedication was initiated by the property owners to extend an existing dirt road for future road plans.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-1261-O, An Ordinance Approving the Dedication for the 175 East Roadway by New Harmony in Washington County, Utah. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1262-O, AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN PORTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 124 S. SILVER VALLEY ROAD FROM THE RA-1, OSC-20, AND A-20 ZONES, TO THE A-20 ZONE (AGRICULTURAL 20 ACRE MINIMUM), WITH THE AEO ZONE (AGRICULTURE ESTATE OVERLAY) ON PARCEL 1, AND THE A-20 ZONE ON PARCEL 2, HEREINAFTER FULLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE (APPLICANTS DOUGLAS AND AILEEN HOWARD)**

Community Development Director Scott Messel informed that this rezone would combine several smaller parcels into 2 large parcels.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-1262-O, An Ordinance Rezoning a Certain Portion of Washington County Located at Approximately 124 S. Silver Valley Road from the RA-1, OSC-20 and A-20 Zones, to the A-20 Zone (Agricultural 20 Acre Minimum), with the AEO Zone (Agriculture Estate Overlay) on Parcel 1, and the A-20 Zone on Parcel 2, Hereinafter Fully Described in This Ordinance (Applicants Douglas and Aileen Howard). Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3301, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Messel explained that with Frank Leuck stepping down, it created a vacancy on the Planning Commission to fill the rest of his term. It is proposed that Bryan Simonson be appointed to fill the remainder of his term, to expire on January 31, 2026.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3301, A Resolution Appointing a Washington County Planning Commissioner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3302, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND BOWEN, COLLINS & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE WARNER DRAW WATERSHED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT, EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION PERIOD SERVICES BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE DESIGN ANALYSIS**

Mr. Edwards stated this is a request that Washington County is administering for Hurricane City and the State of Utah. It is for a dam rehabilitation. There have been some updates from the previous approved item. This item updates the scope of work being done to rebuild the dam. It carries no cost to county.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3302, A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Agreement Between Washington County and Bowen, Collins & Associates, Inc. For the Warner Draw Watershed Environmental Assessment Project, Expanding the Scope of Services for Additional Construction Period Services Based on the Results of the Design Analysis. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3303, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE STATE OF UTAH MASTER AGREEMENT AND PARTICIPATING ADDENDUM, AND THE RELATED ORACLE AMERICA, INC. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT, AND THE ORACLE NETSUITE FOR GOVERNMENT CLOUD SERVICE AGREEMENT, PROVIDING THE COUNTY ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SOFTWARE AND CLOUD SERVICES**

Clerk/Auditor Ryan Sullivan shared that Washington County's current software is aging. After reviewing multiple options it was determined Oracle to be the best fit.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3303, A Resolution Accepting the Master Agreement and Participating Addendum, and the Related Oracle America, INC. Professional Service Agreement, and the Oracle NetSuite for Government Cloud Service Agreement, Providing the County Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software and Cloud Services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3304, A RESOLUTION RENEWING AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT FOR TOURISM SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AND CONTENT CREATION WITH CHRISTOPHER JONES**

Sara Otto indicated last year Greater Zion has found great success contracting with Christopher Jones in all aspects of social media. Greater Zion is requesting to renew Christopher's contract.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3304, A Resolution Renewing an Independent Contractor Agreement for Tourism Social Media Marketing and Content Creation with Christopher Jones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3305, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO COLLECT DATA AND MONITOR CONDITIONS OF TRAILS IN THE RED CLIFFS DESERT RESERVE**

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Director Cameron Rognan described how there has been a good relationship with Southern Utah University to study and monitor the trails within the Red Cliffs Desert reserve. The partnership has gone back several years and with updates it was requested a Memorandum of Understanding be created.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3305, A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between Washington County and Southern Utah University for Cooperative Efforts to Collect Data and Monitor Conditions of Trails in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3306, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A BOARD MEMBER TO THE NORTHWESTERN SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT**

Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow informed the Commission that there was a vacancy on the Northwestern SSD board. It is recommended Mark Cain be appointed to fill the vacancy with a term ending December 31, 2025.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3306, A Resolution Appointing a Board Member to the Northwestern Special Service District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3307, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT THAT WILL SERVE THE NEW WASHINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Mr. Snow explained this easement would allow Dixie power to install lines necessary to provide electricity to the new solid waste building.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3307, A Resolution Approving an Electric Line Easement that Will Serve the New Washington County Solid Waste District Administration Building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3308, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNITED WE PLEDGE REGARDING THE COUNTY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY WEEK, CONSTITUTION MONTH, AND BILL OF RIGHTS MONTH**

Devin Snow explained that this memorandum of understanding would confirm the county's continued collaboration with United We Pledge for the Liberty Week, Constitution Month and Bill of Rights Month events.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3308, A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with United We Pledge Regarding the County's Continued Support for Liberty Week, Constitution Month, and Bill of Rights Month. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3309, A RESOLUTION CREATING A PLANNING BOARD FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY'S AMERICA250 CELEBRATION**

Commissioner Iverson shared that many counties and cities across the nation are beginning to plan and celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This resolution would create a board for planning Washington County's events and celebration.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3309, A Resolution Creating a Planning Board for Washington County's America250 Celebration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-3310, A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AN APPLICATION BY THE SHIVWITS BAND OF PAIUTES FOR A TRUST LAND ACQUISITION IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Mr. Snow explained that this resolution would be a sign of support for the Shivwits Band of Paiutes' fee-to-trust application for land in Washington County.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2024-3310, A Resolution of Support for an Application by the Shivwits Band of Paiutes for a Trust Land Acquisition in Washington County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Almquist, Iverson, and Snow voting aye.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 05:28 p.m.

  
JAYANNE LEWIS  
DEPUTY CLERK

  
GIL ALMQUIST  
COMMISSION CHAIR

## SAR Incident Synopsis

for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 through May 21<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Sheriff Brooksby,**

**Below is the SAR Report from April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 through May 21<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **May 2024 Report**

**Total calls this report – 15**

**Total Man Hours this report – 454**

**Total SAR Incidents 2024 – 43**

### **Rescued Subjects**

**In County Residence – 3**

**Out of County (Utah) Residence - 5**

**Out of Utah – 10**

**International – 1**

### **04/17/2024 @ 1015, Injured Hiker – Hell Hole Canyon, Red Mountain - Man Hours – 56**

**Search and Rescue responded to a report of an injured hiker. The 57 year old female had a possible broken ankle. SAR and EMS hiked in and assessed the victim. Her ankle was stabilized. A UTV went in and got as close as possible. The victim was placed in a wheeled Stokes and carried back to the UTV. She was brought back to the IC and released to the ambulance for transport.**

### **04/17/2024 @ 1440, Injured Mountain Biker, Gooseberry Mesa – Man Hours – 20**

**SAR responded to an injured 54 year old male. The male was Mountain Biking and had crashed. He was in a boulder field which made access difficult. Due to the possible serious injuries, the DPS Helicopter was called to assist in the rescue. They located the victim, hoisted him up and flew him back to the IC. The male was placed in an ambulance and taken to SGRH.**

**04/18/2024 @ 0045, Injured Hiker, The Subway, Zion – Man Hours – 14**

SAR responded to a hiker that fell and broke her arm at the south end of the Subway. The 23 year old female stated she was alone and needed help. SAR got to the Left Fork Trail and found the female had been hiked out by one of her friends. She was taken to SGRH by personal vehicle.

**04/20/2024 @ 1320, UTV Accident – Sand Mountain – Man Hours – 24**

SAR responded to a report of a male involved in a side by side rollover on Sand Mountain. A bystander began transporting the male to the ambulance waiting at the staging area. Search and rescue units intercepted the transport and escorted the male to the ambulance that was waiting at the staging area. All SAR units were accounted for and cleared.

**04/23/2024 @ 1510, Rolled Vehicle – Toquerville Falls – Man Hours – 26**

SAR responded to a rolled vehicle up Toquerville Falls. A 31 year old female had minor scraps and bruises. She claimed another vehicle came by and she got too close to the edge. She was checked by EMS and refused transport. Her vehicle was recovered and she left with the wrecker.

**04/25/2025 @ 1530, UTV Accident – Sand Mountain – Man Hours – 30**

SAR responded to Sand Mountain on a report of a side by side rollover. The 32 year old male patient reported a hand injury. IC was established at the Water Tanks. SAR personnel responded to the patient location. The patient was loaded in a side by side and returned to the IC where he was evaluated in the ambulance and transported to the hospital. All SAR units were accounted for and cleared the scene.

**04/26/2025 @ 1640, Lost Hikers – Babylon Arch – Man Hours – 24**

SAR responded to a lost hiker in the Babylon area. SAR members hiked in to locate the lost 48 year old female. SAR located the individual and transported her to the trail head. No injuries were reported and all SAR members were accounted for.

**04/29/2024 @ 1600, UTV Accident – Sand Mountain – Man Hours – 32**

SAR responded to a 4Wheeler accident on Sand Mountain. The report showed a 40 year old male that crashed and hit his head. Life Flight was requested due to the nature of the injuries. SAR assisted with assessing male and loading him into the helicopter. Male was transported to the hospital by Life Flight for treatment.

**04/30/2024 @ 1243, Ill Mountain Biker – Bear-Claw Poppy Trail – Man Hours – 28**

SAR responded to a heat related emergency involving a 69 year old male mountain biker on Bear Claw Poppy Trail. IC was established at the Lower Bear Claw Poppy Trail head. SAR units responded to the GPS coordinates retrieved from the patients phone. SAR units located the patient and evaluated him medically. He was then loaded in a Jeep and transported back to IC where he was evaluated in an ambulance. He declined medical transport. All SAR units were accounted for and cleared the scene.

**05/04/2024 @ 1255, Stranded Tubers – Virgin River, Virgin Area – Man Hours – 12**

SAR responded to two females that fell off their tubes. They stated they were stranded in the river holding onto a tree. One of them was having a hard time holding on. While SAR was en route, some other people tubing pulled the victims from the water. A SAR Deputy canceled the call, but continued to the scene to make sure everyone was out and safe.

**05/04/2024 @ 1423, Drowning – Sand Hollow Reservoir – Man Hours – 42**

SAR responded to a report of an 18 year old male that went underwater between the shore and the island. A surface search was underway by Utah State Parks. SAR Public Safety Divers arrived and launched an underwater drone. Three divers were sent in to located the subject. He was found at 1602 hours. An underwater investigation was done and the subject was recovered. Utah State Parks took the death investigation. All SAR were accounted for and cleared.

**05/12/2024 @ 1444, Overdue Hikers – Water Canyon – Man Hours – 14**

SAR responded to a 26 year old female that got separated from her group and was overdue. As SAR was arriving, the female was located. The incident was closed out and SAR released.

**05/13/2024 @ 1536, Stranded Hiker – Cedar Pockets – Man Hours – 32**

SAR responded to a 68 year old female that was stranded on a hillside in Cedar Pockets. EMS was giving her medical treatment and keeping her shaded while SAR was en route. SAR members arrived, set up a dual rope system, and sent down a Stokes. The subject was placed in the Stokes and raised up to the top. She was taken by EMS to SGRH for treatment.

**05/13/2024 @ 1943, Lost Hikers – Eagle Crags – Man Hours – 64**

SAR responded to two lost hikers on Eagle Crags. The 60 year old male and 51 year old female were off trail and not prepared to spent the night. DPS Star 8 was called to assist in locating and rescuing the subjects. SAR members had obtained a general location of the subjects. Star 8 flew in and located them. They both were hoisted into the helicopter and flown back to the IC. They were checked by SAR EMS and released.

**05/17/2025 @ 1907, Overdue Tubers – Virgin River, Washington – Man Hours – 36**

SAR responded to Sullivan Soccer Park on a report of a 58 year old male and a 20 year old female who had gone missing while tubing down the Virgin River. The subjects were located still floating down the river near Confluence Park in St. George and were determined to be fine. All SAR members were accounted for and cleared.