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PROVO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Agenda

5:30 PM, Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Council Chambers

Hybrid meeting: 445 W. Center Street, Provo, UT 84601 or

<https://www.youtube.com/provocitycouncil>

Roll Call

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION WERE PRESENT:

Councilor Becky Bogdin

Councilor Gary Garrett

Councilor Travis Hoban

Councilor Rachel Whipple

Chief Administrative Officer Scott Henderson

Council Executive Director Justin Harrison

Councilor Craig Christensen

Councilor George Handley

Councilor Katrice MacKay

Mayor Michelle Kaufusi

City Attorney Brian Jones

City Recorder Heidi Allman

Conducting: Chair Katrice MacKay

Prayer – Abby Crookston

Pledge of Allegiance – Chair MacKay

Public Comment

Chair MacKay read the public comment preamble and opened the public comment period. With no public comments, she closed public comment.

Presentations, Proclamations, and Awards

1 Provo City Employee of the Month Award - March 2024 [0:02:57](#)

Mayor Kaufusi shared the exciting opportunity to recognize another employee who has demonstrated exceptional care in our exceptional community. She turned the time over to Chief Beebe.

Chief Beebe welcomed Doris Grant to the front. Chief Beebe praised Doris as a distinguished leader within the Provo Police Department, where she has served for 33 years. Highlighting her extraordinary sense of duty, Chief Beebe noted that Doris, responsible for managing evidence, has never lost a single piece in her tenure. While the state mandates annual audits, Doris conducts them monthly, highlighting her dedication. Her leadership style is quiet yet impactful, and she is highly respected and loved by her staff. He also emphasized Doris's honor, integrity, selflessness, and personal courage. Captain Walcott's nomination further lauded her for her commitment, problem-solving abilities, professionalism, and embodiment of the "Provo way." Chief Beebe concluded by expressing his honor in presenting Doris with the award.

2 Swearing in of new Firefighters (24-008) [0:07:55](#)

Chief Headman presented. Chief Headman highlighted the importance of hiring the right people. He praised the new recruits, who have completed an intensive eight-week training camp, enhancing their existing firefighter and EMT skills to meet Provo Fire Department's standards. These firefighters will now enter a probationary year, working closely with experienced crews and continuing their training. Chief Headman advised them to maintain their current passion throughout their careers, emphasizing the rewarding nature of the profession and the importance of loving their work. He read a brief biography of each new firefighter and invited a loved one to pin their badge on. The firefighters recognized were Bryce Hardy, Zac Mortimer, and Hayden Andersen.

Heidi Allman, City Recorder, gave the oath of office to the group.

3 BYU Geospatial Services Class Report of Provo City Tree Cover (24-008) [0:18:39](#)

Teresa Gomez, head of BYU's geospatial services and training lab, presented the project. She said her class of BYU students performed some impressive map analysis to get a baseline for our tree canopy coverage across the city, which was a crucial missing piece of the Conservation and Resiliency Plan. The Mayor's Sustainability Committee, which includes Councilors Handley and Whipple, suggested giving them a few minutes in a Council Meeting to share their data and give the Council the opportunity to thank them publicly. Ms. Gomez expressed pride in both the opportunity to contribute to the community and her students' dedication to their work. She then handed over the presentation to her students, commending their efforts and achievements.

The team, composed of students from diverse academic backgrounds, shares a passion for geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Their project, requested by the city's Sustainability Committee, involved using GIS, LIDAR data, and aerial imagery to calculate that 17% of Provo is covered by trees. This figure was verified against Google's data. The team's work also extended to classifying other land covers in Provo, providing valuable insights for future projects and city planning. The students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to their community.

Chair MacKay asked about the significance of the 17% tree coverage in Provo, expressing a desire for a higher percentage. She inquired whether there were any national comparisons or benchmarks to understand how Provo's tree coverage stands relative to other areas.

Hannah Salzl, City Planner, explained that the initial goal for Provo's conservation and resiliency plan was 15% tree coverage by 2030, which is average for the region. However, recognizing the importance of trees, the goal was revised to incrementally increase from the current coverage, aiming for 19% by 2030. She noted that while this target is ambitious, it is achievable with the determination of the urban forester and the community.

Councilor Garrett expressed gratitude to the team for their work, which he found engaging and informative. He shared a moment where he involved his wife, who optimistically guessed Provo's tree cover to be 30%. Garrett enjoyed examining the detailed map, noting identifiable areas like the Provo River, botany pond, the stadium, and the "tree streets" with higher tree concentrations.

Councilor Whipple shared her gratitude for the resource provided by the team, emphasizing its value for accurate long-term planning. She said she appreciated the partnership with BYU and the students' efforts and was impressed by the team's passion for maps and GIS.

4 Mecha Knights FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics presentation and discussion of STEM in the community (24-008) [0:30:23](#)

Kathryn Thompson, Mecha Knights Outreach Coordinator, volunteered her group to present at a City Council Meeting earlier this year, after meeting Councilor Becky Bogdin during a robotics competition. They currently have 15 competition team members, 2 main coaches, and 10 mentors that come frequently, and are always looking for new sponsors, mentors, and ways to reach out to the community. The 8 presenting members included Kayden Asay, Kathryn Thompson, Amanda Patrick, Parker Taylor, Kiya Asay, Aliyah Smith, Caylee Smith, and Hyrum Brown.

The team introduced themselves and their program. FIRST Robotics challenges teams to fundraise, design a brand, develop teamwork, and build and program a robot for competitions. The team mentioned they have gained skills in graphic design, marketing, and public speaking through outreach activities, such as robot demos at farmers markets and hosting events at their school. They highlighted their achievements, including second place in design and third place in portfolio at the state championships, with their captain, Kayden Asay, being recognized on the Dean's List. They showcased their robot, Chevy Shay, explaining its unique features and functionality in the competition. The team requested connections with local STEM businesses for mentors, sponsorships, and job opportunities. They also sought to create deeper learning about STEM systems in Provo and requested introductions to Provo City School District decision-makers to discuss more STEM camps and demos. Lastly, they invited everyone to the Wasatch Mountain Invitational in June and asked for contact details to follow up on their requests.

Councilor Christiansen expressed deep admiration for the team's performance in the competition, observing its remarkable nature. He expressed a desire to see similar programs spread across schools in Provo, recognizing the talent and value they bring to the community.

Councilor Garrett asked where the competition will be held.

Action Agenda

5 A resolution appointing individuals to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Provo (24-005) [0:36:52](#)

Motion: An implied motion to approve Resolution 2024-14, as currently constituted, has been made by council rule.

Brian Jones, City Attorney, presented. After providing some background information about the Board itself, he said there are currently 3 vacancies on the Metropolitan Water Board. The Council Office followed the statutory process for posting and advertising these vacancies. The three applicants who submitted applications during the prescribed window of time were Jared Oldroyd, Kristina Davis, and Richard Brimhall.

Councilor Whipple acknowledged her previous service on the board and her current role as the council liaison. She expressed satisfaction with the expertise and dedication of the former board members and appointees, highlighting their valuable contributions to the Board of Trustees. Whipple expressed

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gratitude for their continued service, noting their importance in ensuring the board's effective functioning.

Chair MacKay emphasized the importance of retaining members on the water board due to the specialized institutional knowledge they possess. She highlighted the board's need for specific expertise, underscoring the value of extending the service of its members to maintain continuity and effectiveness. She called for a vote on the implied motion.

Vote: The motion was approved 7:0 with Councilors Bogdin, Christensen, Garrett, Handley, Hoban, MacKay, and Whipple in favor.

6 An ordinance creating a Department of Human Resources (24-034) [0:39:52](#)

Motion: An implied motion to approve Ordinance 2024-15, as currently constituted, has been made by council rule.

Mr. Jones presented. He said that prior to 2010, Human Resources was its own City department, as were the various current divisions of the Department of Public Works. In 2010, Human Resources was consolidated as a Division with the Department of Administrative Services. Recent discussions have made it clear that as a best practice, it is better if Human Resources is its own department and if the director of Human Resources is not subject to another department director.

Chair MacKay opened the item for public comment. With none, she closed public comment.

Mayor Kaufusi conveyed her firm belief in the proposed ordinance after extensive research and discussions with both governmental and private sector entities. She emphasized that she is convinced it is the appropriate course of action and the right decision to make.

With no council discussion, Chair MacKay called for a vote.

Vote: The motion was approved 7:0 with Councilors Bogdin, Christensen, Garrett, Handley, Hoban, MacKay, and Whipple in favor.

7 A resolution consenting to the Mayor's appointment of the Human Resources Director for Provo City (24-034) [0:43:09](#)

Motion: An implied motion to approve Resolution 2024-15, as currently constituted, has been made by council rule.

Mayor Kaufusi introduced Daniel Softley as her choice for the new Director of Human Resources. She said Mr. Softley has served Provo City for over 23 years, demonstrating exceptional leadership and expertise in his field. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University and has been instrumental in implementing significant changes within the city, such as the four-tens work schedule and improved pay practices. Known for his enthusiasm for hockey and holiday decorating, Softley is highly respected by his colleagues and staff. Mayor Kaufusi sought the board's advice and consent for Softley's appointment, highlighting his outstanding qualifications and contributions to the city.

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Chair MacKay called for a vote.

Vote: The motion was approved 7:0 with Councilors Bogdin, Christensen, Garrett, Handley, Hoban, MacKay, and Whipple in favor.

Judge Schriener administered the oath of office to Daniel Softley.

Mr. Softley conveyed his gratitude to the Council for approving his appointment as the new Director of Human Resources. He thanked Mayor Kaufusi and the administration for entrusting him with this responsibility, emphasizing its significance to him and pledged to uphold the trust placed in him.

8 An ordinance amending Provo City Code regarding Defined Nuisances - Citywide Application (PLOTA20230293) [0:48:25](#)

Motion: An implied motion to approve Ordinance 2024-16, as currently constituted, has been made by council rule.

Scott Johnson, Zoning Supervisor, presented. He explained that the proposed ordinance amendment aims to enhance code enforcement efforts, particularly concerning properties with recurring criminal activity. While the police address the criminal aspect, properties causing ongoing disturbances are considered nuisances that should be abated. The amendment seeks to empower code enforcement to address such issues directly, improving their ability to tackle difficult properties across Provo.

Councilor Bogdin thanked staff for the work done on this ordinance.

Chair MacKay opened the item for public comment. With none, she closed public comment. With no council discussion, she called for a vote on the implied motion.

Vote: The motion was approved 7:0 with Councilors Bogdin, Christensen, Garrett, Handley, Hoban, MacKay, and Whipple in favor.

9 *CONTINUED*** Review of a previously approved zone change and development agreement for property located at 2050 North Canyon Road - Pleasant View Neighborhood (PLRZ20220302)**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 6:22 PM.