

City of Taylorsville
TOWN MEETING
Minutes

Wednesday, July 30, 2014
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129
6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Larry Johnson

Council Members:

Chairman Kristie Overson
Vice-Chair Ernest Burgess
Council Member Dan Armstrong
Council Member Dama Barbour
Council Member Brad Christopherson

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Scott Harrington, Chief of Finance
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director
Tracy Wyant, Police Precinct Chief
Kris Heineman, Council Coordinator
Tiffany Janzen, Public Information Officer
Mike Kelsey, UFA
Marsha Thomas, Judge
Kary Webb, Clerk of the Court

Citizens: Royce Larsen, Gordon Willardson

Welcome and Introductions

6:03:18 PM Mayor Larry Johnson welcomed those in attendance at the Town Meeting at 6:03 p.m. He recognized City Council Members and City Staff who were present.

6:07:40 PM UPD Taylorsville Precinct Chief Tracy Wyant rendered a presentation on law enforcement services provided in Taylorsville. He noted that many crimes are crimes of opportunity and can be prevented.

6:09:20 PM Chief Wyant reviewed statistics on offenses committed in Taylorsville during the third quarter of the fiscal year. He cited an average of 40,000 to 42,000 cases in Taylorsville per year.

6:11:21 PM Chief Wyant discussed average response times in the City. He described the types of calls received, i.e. priority one calls, etc. He explained the system used by dispatch for prioritizing calls.

6:14:07 PM Chief Wyant reviewed statistics for traffic accidents and citations. He discussed the controversial flex lanes on 5400 South. He indicated that since implementation of the flex lanes, data reflects an increase in traffic on 5400 South, but with a significant decrease in traffic accidents.

6:15:24 PM Chief Wyant illustrated a map of narcotics activity and burglaries in Taylorsville. He presented an overall yearly comparison with last year's statistics. He also discussed property damage offenses and cited the prevalence of graffiti during warm-weather months.

6:19:18 PM Chief Wyant noted that most auto thefts are preventable and cited safety tactics to help curtail crimes of opportunity. He stated that warming up cars and leaving them running unattended in a driveway or open garage is very enticing to an auto thief. He relayed that 20% of stolen vehicles have keys left in them.

6:22:43 PM Chief Wyant called for questions or comments from those in attendance.

6:22:58 PM A citizen commented on vehicles on city streets that are not street-legal. She relayed that she is working on compiling a traffic safety program that she would like to discuss with Chief Wyant. The Chief agreed to meet with her offline regarding such. He reiterated the ways that traffic calls are prioritized. He said that enforcement of illegal street vehicles will be handled, although it is not a priority offense in the big picture.

6:26:34 PM Royce Larsen commented on golf carts he has observed on city streets. He mentioned his wife's purse that was stolen when it was momentarily left visible in his unlocked car. Chief Wyant stressed the importance of not leaving valuables within view inside cars. He also suggested not leaving purses unattended in shopping cars.

6:28:36 PM Kary Webb called for clarification on the types of narcotics being used. Chief Wyant confirmed that heroin use has increased, not only in the City but on a national level. He noted that there is a direct correlation between drug addictions and crimes of opportunity.

6:30:50 PM Council Member Barbour asked whether narcotic activity is higher in Taylorsville than in other areas. Chief Wyant confirmed that all areas across the valley have seen a level increase. He observed that dealing with narcotic use aggressively will result in the decrease of other criminal activity. He commended officers for aggressive enforcement efforts in regard to narcotics.

6:33:20 PM A citizen inquired about statistics for the recovery of stolen items. Chief Wyant commented on tracking mechanisms used and closure rates for burglaries. He cited a current higher use of DNA in solving crimes.

6:34:57 PM Kary Webb asked for information on domestic violence cases in Taylorsville. Chief Wyant reviewed statistics for domestic violence cases.

6:36:26 PM Mayor Johnson called for discussion regarding simple crime prevention practices.

6:37:00 PM Chief Wyant confirmed that most home burglaries occur during daytime hours. He suggested that knowing your neighborhood, communicating with neighbors, and being aware of suspicious neighborhood activity is very valuable. He talked about ways to protect your home while out of town, i.e. removing newspapers from porches, picking up mail, leaving a light on, and leaving a neighbor's car parked in the driveway.

6:40:08 PM Kary Webb cautioned against advertising on social media those times when a home is not occupied.

6:41:47 PM Kris Heineman advised against leaving mail out in residential mailboxes for pick up. Chief Wyant agreed that mail theft is still prevalent and outgoing mail should not be placed in personal mailboxes. He also suggested picking up mail as soon as possible.

6:44:14 PM A citizen described an incident when she had mail stolen. She commended Taylorsville officers for taking quick action. The benefit of a locked mailbox was referenced.

6:45:03 PM Mayor Johnson discussed the value of alarm systems or dogs in homes and encouraged citizens to take extra safety precautions. He observed that criminals often follow obituaries and prey on the empty homes of individuals attending funerals.

6:46:34 PM A daycare provider commented on the prevalence of purses being stolen from cars in her work parking lot. She stressed the importance of educating people on not leaving items in their cars. The Chief agreed that prevention education is vital. He noted that there are some individuals who will simply not heed safety prevention tips despite education efforts. He discussed the many ways that public safety education has been promoted in Taylorsville.

6:51:05 PM Chief Wyant confirmed that officers are always willing and available to do public safety presentations at daycares, schools, etc.

6:52:32 PM Mayor Johnson expressed his concern for the safety of Taylorsville citizens and urged that individuals practice crime prevention.

6:53:04 PM Chief Wyant gave assurance that great strides have been made in making Taylorsville a safe community. He noted that crime trends are ever-changing. He cited the importance of recognizing that Utah is a relatively safe place to live.

6:56:16 PM Mayor Johnson thanked Chief Wyant and commended the high caliber of law enforcement officers in Taylorsville. He thanked those in attendance and encouraged continued public safety awareness.

Adjournment

6:55:47 PM The Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Peacock Cottle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder