

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 28, 2024**

Minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 A.M. May 28, 2024 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Michael Bleak	Commission Chair-Excused
Paul Cozzens	Commission Chair – Pro Tempore
Marilyn Wood	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Lucas Little	County Auditor
Sam Woodall	County Deputy Attorney
George Colson	County Emergency Management
Wade Adams	County Fleet Manager
Jennifer Bradbury	County HR Director
Reed Erickson	County Planner
Candace Reid	County Public Defender
Bruce Anderson	County Public Works

Others in attendance:

Scott Alvord	Maile Wilson Edwards	Victoria Johnson
Patti Truax		

SYNOPSIS

ADJOURNMENT6

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES2

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.....2

INVOCATION 1

NON-DELEGATED..... 5

PARTIAL SUBDIVISION VACATE AND AMEND, OLD IRONTOWN5

PERSONNEL5

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE..... 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS2

INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Lucas Little.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by George Colson.

Commissioner Wood excused Commissioner Bleak from today's meeting and made a motion to appoint Commissioner Cozzens as Commission Chair Pro-Tem. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye; Michael Bleak, Absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held, May 13, 2024. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Absent; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from May 13, 2024, to May 27, 2024. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Absent; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Jonathan T. Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, reported that everything was going well in the Clerk's Office and they were preparing for the upcoming Primary Election. Jon noted that ballots were scheduled to be mailed to all eligible registered voters on June 4th and the 2024 Primary Election was on June 25th. Jon reported that he had been coordinating with Cedar City and Enoch for outdoor election drop boxes. One drop-box would be in the Cedar City Parking Garage, and Enoch will place their drop-box at the utility building drive-through area, and one drop-box would be at the Iron County Courthouse. Each of these drop boxes were required to have security cameras. The drop boxes would make it easier for voters who work to have a place to drop their ballot. He noted that the drop boxes would be placed for the November general election. Jon reported that there would be poll printing in Cedar City this Election Day. This would improve efficiency and cut down on waste. He noted that Paul Bittmenn, Cedar City Manager, was allowing the November general election to be held in the lobby of the Heritage Center. Paul would list the election as a priority so the elections have 1st choice in being scheduled. Jon expressed his appreciation to Thayne Hainsworth, Iron County Building/Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, for all he does on the Iron County buildings. The landscaping company was also doing a great job with the courthouse lawn. Thayne used the jail work crew to clean out the gutters, which had not been done in years. The State had made money available for the drop boxes and other election needs. He explained that the state new required that the County Clerk and one other person from their office attend an election training at Weber State University (WSU). Jon noted that when he became Iron County Clerk in 2015, election conversations were about maintenance, reconciling voter rolls, and best practices on Election Day. At the last meeting at WSU the conversations were regarding crisis de-escalation, personal care and management, and dealing with mental health challenges. The environment had changed so much since 2020 and it was now difficult for an election worker to stay on their job, and clerks were quitting in droves. Jon reported that he would ask George Colson hold a tabletop exercise on Election Day issues that might happen. Marilyn Wood expressed her appreciation to Thayne Hainsworth for helping around Iron County.

George Colson, Iron County Emergency Management Manager, introduced Scott Albert, State Emergency Management (EM). George explained that Scott was his liaison between EM and FEMA. Scott expressed his appreciation to be working with George Colson. Scott noted that George was a real asset to 5 County and was extremely knowledgeable. George noted that the EM budget was on track. He reported on his accomplishments since his last report.

- He acquired \$50K and purchased a surveillance system;
- Acquired a portable morgue from the Health Department;
- Acquired \$28K in grant money to update the sheriff's radios.
 - Attended the State Emergency Response Commission Table-top exercise (TTX), held in Salt Lake City;

- Attended the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) conference and the Emergency Management Performance Grant conference in Salt Lake City;
- Attended the Medical Response and Surge TTX and a FEMA Dam exercise;
- Met with the Congressional Delegation on FEMA/BLM issues;
- Attended an Iron County Public Information Officer (PIO) working group meeting;
 - Attended the Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) conference in Salt Lake City. He presented the 2021 flood response;
- Went on an Enoch Ice Rink tour. It will be a great facility and beneficial to Iron County;
- Submitted a Notice of Intent to seek mitigation funding for the 2023 floods;
 - Attended a FEMA 395 Earthquake training for preparation for schools, and identifying schools in danger of collapsing. He was working with Zach Tuttle to list those at-risk schools;
- Attended a full Iron County PIO meeting where he presented on EM awareness for PIO's; and
 - He was currently covering for Washington County as their EM as their manager was on vacation.

Wade Adams, Iron County Fleet Manager, reported that the budget was on track. Wade reported that vehicles sales were doing well and it was an ongoing process of selling older vehicles. There was still a wait on getting truck maintenance up north. He and Dave Utley attended a 3-day Blue Print training held in West Valley City and were certified. Now they were able to do diagnostics for the Sheriff's Department. Wade reported that the Fleet Department continued to stay busy with maintenance and fabricating for different departments. He noted that having Kathy Chatwin, Fleet Administrative Assistant, full-time has been very helpful. He hired Kelton Iverson and he was doing well and learning along the way. Wade reported that the Weed Department was going well. Amber Hatch, Iron County Weed Supervisor, was able to obtain one 4-year grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for \$240K and was able get the money all at once. Kathy was able to obtain grants for Enoch and Cedar City. The Cedar City grant was for properties that were annexed into the city. He noted that there were two new part-time workers who were doing well and learning fast. Martin Olaya was hired as the Sign Technician and had a lot of experience working with signs.

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, reported that the HR department was well below the budget and did not foresee any anticipated budget issues or concerns for the 2024 year. Since the last HR report, they had interviewed and hired 23 positions, 14 internal promotions/transfers, and were in the process of recruiting 6 full-time and 1 part-time positions. Points of interest:

- Turnover for 2023 was 20.56%, or 51 positions, in comparison with 2022 there were 17.74% or 48 positions. Present turnover for year 2024 was 9.27% or 23 positions, which was four positions higher than the first five months of 2023.
- The Workman's Compensation EMOD rate decreased for the 2024 year to 0.87 because a large claim was dropped off our plan, which was great news because EMOD figures under 1.0 would result in lower costs for Iron County.
- There was a productive department head meeting last week. They discussed the URS changes as well as some Fleet issues.
- An Accident Review Board meeting was scheduled for next week and would close all accidents from September 2023 to present.

Jennifer reported on milestone Anniversaries since last quarter. Celebrating 5 years: Merilee Wilson in the Engineers Office and Coty Christensen in the Landfill. Celebrating 10 years was Curtis Crawford in the Council on Aging.

Candace Reid, Iron County Public Defender, introduced Victoria Johnson as the new Administrative Assistant. Candace noted that the budget was on track. Reporting was completed in April. The Public Defender's Office does their reporting through IVC and the big reporting was coming up in July which was the beginning of the fiscal year. Victoria's role was to capture data for caseloads, a caseload management process. Candace explained that during the IVC reporting they applied for grants annually to renew those positions that were funded by IVC. In

order to get the renewals they have to prove what the numbers were and what the caseloads looked like. Victoria was the support for supplying that information, in addition to processing invoices, and the other duties she performs. They would have the results of the applications within the next two weeks. Candace would then come before the commission for those contracts to be approved. Commissioner Cozzens asked if there were enough Public Defenders. Candace replied that the only area that was weak was the delinquency side because there had been a large increase in juvenile delinquencies, children under 18 years of age, cases filed. There had been a large influx the last two years of juvenile cases. Washington County was experiencing the same issue, so it was not limited to Iron County, but it was not happening in Northern Utah. She explained that Juvenile cases were time-sensitive and had to be seen frequently. Juvenile cases had to be adjudicated from start to end within 90 days. Juveniles have a detention hearing which was also time-sensitive. It puts a lot of demand that was not there before, but they were functioning well. Victoria reported that she moved here from Jamaica.

Marilyn Wood, Iron County Commissioner, reported that on June 13th she, Richard Wilson, and Bruce Anderson met with Dan Jessen, Parowan City Manager, and Mollie Halterman, Parowan City Mayor regarding the south end of the fairground regarding the road coming in, the cemetery, and a private road. There was a master plan for a road going through there and some of the property lines were not correct. They met and were trying to work through those issues. There was a developer on the East side who wanted to develop the property. Marilyn noted that they continued moving forward with the new Jail. It was nice to be back on track and have staff members going over the plans. The process of jail personnel meeting with the architects to refine the design was ongoing. She expressed her appreciation to Jennifer Bradbury for holding the Department Head meeting. It was good to meet with the Department Head and go over any issues they were experiencing. Marilyn expressed her appreciation to Sam Woodall and to Bruce Anderson. Ever since becoming a commissioner, they had talked about doing some livestock trails. One interesting note was they had worked a lot with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) with the different roads. UDOT was getting ready to widen I-15 on the South end of Cedar City. There was a culvert placed under I-15 years ago when the freeway was built. The freeway divided a local ranching family's farm in half, which resulted in the culvert to allow livestock to pass through. Marilyn noted that because there was a livestock trail on the Iron County map, UDOT would still keep the culvert. There were several times when a livestock trail was on the Iron County map, and the state would analyze the roads and it would be beneficial for Iron County to have livestock trails identified on the map. Bruce Anderson had visited many farmers to ensure the roads were on the map. This would be presented at the Iron County Planning Commission and then would come back to the Iron County Commission. Sam and Bruce had worked really hard on the trails and she wanted to publicly thank them.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that the jail planning was moving forward with scheduling and budgeting. Paul Bittmenn, Cedar City Manager, would be drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the arrangement with Iron County to provide water for the jail. Paul noted that he attended the 5-County meeting where the Finance Committee worked on budgeting. He attended the Human Service Council meeting where they reported on many grants that they administer through Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Commissioner Cozzens reported that there was an event today at the Cedar City Airport at 1:00 p.m. in which Cedar City Mayor Green would be speaking about the additions and improvements planned for the airport. He noted that since October of 2023 to date, Iron County had recharged 4,186 acre-feet of water which was the equivalent of 1.3 billion gallons of water recharged. The Western Rock Pit recharged 1,578 acre feet, the Schmidt Pit recharged 856 acre feet, water put into the north end of Quichapa Lake used for irrigation was 1,550, and Horse Alley 202 acre feet recharged. Recharge was moving forward and doing great. Paul explained that he was on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Board and as they look at the numbers, intake to the plant had not increased, even with the growth in Cedar City and Iron County. Iron County was doing great with conservation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Truax, a resident of Iron County, mentioned the municipal service tax that the unincorporated residents of Iron County pay, and also pay for General Fund tax. What was used to enjoy, or utilized, should come from the general fund. That was how it was before 2008 for 16 years. It was unfair and was time to have it repealed. Patti reported that she felt this was fraudulent for unincorporated residents being taxed and incorporated residents not being taxed. It was very unfair and would like the commission to repeal this tax because it was not fair.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PARTIAL SUBDIVISION VACATE AND AMEND FOR LOTS 8, 9, AND 11, BLOCK G, OLD IRON TOWN SUBDIVISION- TO COMBINE THREE LOTS INTO TWO LOTS RENUMBERED 8A AND 9A. LOCATED IN THE NE¼ OF SECTION 8, T37S, R14W, SL&M, IRON COUNTY, UT (APNs: E-843-2-1-078, E-843-2-1-079, E-843,2-1-711) Applicant: Ben Batty

Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, explained that this was located in Old Iron Town and the subdivision was surrounded by forests. Mr. Batty requested that the three lots be combined into two lots. It meets all the requirements and was in compliance with the ordinance and was ready for approval by the Iron County Commission.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the partial Subdivision Vacate and Amend for Lots 8, 9, and 11, Block G, Old Iron Town as presented. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Absent; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

Reed Erickson reported that there was an American Planning Association (APA) conference held in Cedar City last week. There was a presenter, Fred Philpot, who specialized in impact fees and performing impact studies and was the most knowledgeable person he knew regarding impact fees and studies. He invited Fred to come down to a Coordinating Council meeting. Mr. Philpot was willing to come down and meet on a Monday after a Commission meeting, and the other City Managers could be invited to the meeting. Fred would report on what would be best for Iron County and the other municipalities on June 24th.

PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented the promotion of Trajan Evans from a Full-Time Public Information Officer (PIO) Deputy Attorney 4 to a Full-Time PIO Deputy Attorney 5, effective May 26th; the new hire of Crystal Carrizosa as a Full-Time Administrative Assistant for the Building and Zoning Department, effective May 28th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire of Keith VanHorn as a Full-time Landfill Technician for the Landfill, effective May 28th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire Braxton Wilson as a Full-Time Corrections Deputy 1, for the Sheriff's Department-Corrections, effective May 27th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; and the new hire of Ayden Christensen as a Seasonal Parks Maintenance Technician for Tourism/Parks & Recreation, effective May 28th. This was a backfill of a vacant position.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Absent; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

Not Non-Delegated items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair Pro Tem, declared adjournment.



Signed: Paul Cozzens, Commission Chair Pro Tem



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk

