

**NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

June 4, 2024

The North Ogden City Council convened on June 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden City Public Safety Building at 515 East 2600 North.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on May 30, 2024.

Notice of the annual meeting schedule was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on December 13, 2023.

Note: The time stamps indicated in blue correspond with the recording of this meeting, which can be located on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6fclhQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.

PRESENT:

S. Neal Berube	Mayor
Ryan Barker	Council Member
Blake Cevering	Council Member
Jay D Dalpiaz	Council Member
Chris Pulver	Council Member
Christina Watson	Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Joyce Pierson	Deputy City Recorder
Bryce Nelson	Administrative Services Manager/Treasurer (Zoom)
Zella Richards	North View Senior Center Manager

VISITORS:

Sandy Cochran
Brenda Ashdown
Susan Kilborn (Zoom)

0:0:34 Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Barker offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CALL FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

0:2:12 Council Member Barker disclosed that his family owns unincorporated land and inquired whether this would constitute a conflict of interest regarding decisions on the annexation of surrounding unincorporated islands into the City. Mayor Berube clarified that tonight's meeting would only involve a discussion on annexations, and based on the updated information from Weber County, there would be no conflict of interest.

2. ACTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 14, 2024, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

0:2:23 Council Member Dalpiaz motioned to approve the May 14, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Covering	aye
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:2:23 Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden City resident, inquired about the parking lot in front of the Public Safety Building and when it will be open to the public for parking. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that the striping of the parking stalls will be done this week.

4. **DISCUSSION ON THE ANNEXATION OF UNINCORPORATED ISLANDS**

0:5:20 Mayor Berube provided updates on the potential annexation of unincorporated islands into the City, highlighting that current County regulations do not allow for automatic annexation under recent legislation. However, a 2017 bill permits counties and cities to approve an annexation ordinance, though this option was not pursued due to high surveying costs. Mayor Berube mentioned that Weber County is exploring a new program that might reduce these expenses. The recommendation is for the City Council to await further information from the County. Additionally, it was explained that the City may need to amend the RE-20 Ordinance or create a new ordinance in the future to accommodate properties like the fish farm, ensuring they can continue operating despite potential non-compliance with current City ordinances

5. **DISCUSSION ON THE NORTH VIEW SENIOR CENTER AND RECREATION**

0:8:36 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call initiated the discussion by highlighting the connection between recreation programs and tax dollars, emphasizing that a significant portion of the City's revenue comes from various taxes, including sales tax, motor vehicle tax, property tax, and franchise taxes. He raised questions about the best ways to allocate tax dollars and invited Council Members to share their perspectives.

Mayor Berube clarified that property taxes are currently committed to public safety, based on existing ordinances. He noted a historical decision to reallocate funds from transportation utility fees to property taxes for public safety. Mayor Berube asked the Council to discuss their philosophies on property taxes, particularly concerning funding recreation programs and other City services.

Council Member Pulver emphasized the importance of using tax dollars to benefit the greatest number of residents. He mentioned the challenge of balancing ongoing programs and services, such as the Aquatic Center, with the need to cover costs and advocated for prioritizing programs that have wide-reaching benefits. Council Member Barker suggested looking at other Cities' models, such as Salt Lake City's initiative to offer free pool access to residents under 16. He highlighted the importance of making City services accessible to all residents, despite budget constraints. Council Member Cevering acknowledged the diverse needs of different community groups, including seniors and youth. He stressed the difficulty of meeting all needs with limited resources but emphasized the importance of trying to achieve broad community benefits.

Council Member Watson advocated for maintaining services that foster community pride and engagement, such as recreation programs and the Senior Center.

She proposed separating the costs of recreation programs from staff salaries to create a more sustainable financial model.

Council Member Watson emphasized the long-term benefits of investing in youth programs as a preventative measure against negative behaviors. The Council discussed various perspectives on the allocation of tax dollars, with a focus on sustaining vital community services while ensuring public safety. The need to raise property taxes to sustain or expand current programs was a key point of discussion. The importance of ensuring that tax dollars provide the maximum benefit to the community was emphasized, along with exploring alternative funding models and prioritizing services that promote community well-being. Mayor Berube and others acknowledged the importance of maintaining competitive salaries for essential services such as public safety, which may necessitate property tax increases. Council Members Barker and Pulver proposed reallocating funds from non-essential public events to critical areas such as infrastructure maintenance, reflecting a focus on prioritizing essential services. Council Member Dalpiaz expressed concerns about the perceived advantages of neighboring cities such as Pleasant View in terms of commercial development, suggesting that their success may be more attributable to geographic factors than to deliberate strategic planning. Mayor Berube and City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explored the potential benefits of hiring a Community and Economic Development Director to stimulate local business growth, highlighting the importance of strategic planning in fostering economic prosperity. A significant portion of the discussion revolved around the City's potential role in managing the operations of the Senior Center, particularly in light of funding changes from the County. The Council deliberated on the financial implications and operational responsibilities involved in assuming this responsibility, with Council Member Watson offering to facilitate communication with the seniors. Throughout the discussion, there was a consistent emphasis on prudent spending, transparent decision-making, and community engagement. The Council expressed a willingness to maintain current standards while seeking opportunities for improvement and cost-effectiveness, reflecting their dedication to serving the best interests of the community.

6. **DISCUSSION ON THE CITY COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 2024 CHERRY DAYS PARADE**

1:27:02 Council Member Watson initiated a discussion regarding the City Council's participation in the upcoming Cherry Days parade. She raised questions about whether the City Council and the Youth City Council should have separate floats or combine efforts to create one. Additionally, she mentioned an old float in need of significant repairs and suggested considering a simple and cost-effective option for the float by involving the Youth City Council in sprucing it up.

Council Members expressed support for the idea of having a float and Mayor Berube offered a trailer for decoration and discussed the possibility of using funds from the City's RAMP grant for decorations.

Council Members Pulver and Covering expressed willingness to participate in the parade, with Council Member Barker and Mayor Berube noting a commitment to ride with the Fire Department.

The discussion concluded with plans to proceed with a float for the parade, with further details to be determined.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1:35:27 Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden City resident, provided feedback on several topics discussed during the meeting. She began by emphasizing the importance of considering yearly tax increases to offset inflation gradually, rather than larger increases down the line. Brenda, a senior citizen on a fixed income raising a grandchild, expressed frustration with sudden price hikes in recreational programs and urged for incremental increases to mitigate the impact on residents' budgets. She advocated for fiscal conservatism when considering City-sponsored activities, highlighting concerns about the cumulative costs of various events over time. Brenda also called for greater transparency regarding the City's partnerships and sponsorships, expressing a desire for more information on the financial arrangements involved. Regarding the Senior Center, she acknowledged its value but suggested implementing nominal fees for services to alleviate the financial burden on the City. Brenda proposed exploring options for shared funding among neighboring cities to support the Senior Center and reduce the financial strain on North Ogden. She concluded by expressing her opinion that alternative funding mechanisms should be explored to ensure the sustainability of community resources like the Senior Center.

1:40:27 Sandy Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, echoed Brenda's sentiments on the budget, emphasizing the importance of gradual tax increases to mitigate the impact on fixed-income residents like herself. Sandy also expressed concern about using RAMP money to fix the parade float.

1:42:27 Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden City resident, commended the Council for coming together and making decisions with a sense of humor. She expressed appreciation for Council Member Watson's volunteer efforts regarding the Senior Center and offered to collaborate with her on ideas.

Susan highlighted the willingness of many seniors to contribute beyond what's required and encouraged the Council to tap into the diverse talents of the City's residents. Susan urged the Council to consider citizens as equals and leverage their input and skills for the betterment of the community.

8. **MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

1:44:54 Zella Richards, Senior Center Manager, expressed gratitude for the comments and time dedicated to discussing matters concerning seniors. She emphasized the importance of seniors in the community, particularly regarding recreation and socialization. Zella highlighted the diverse situations seniors face and the significance of companionship and shared meals. She thanked the Council for considering the needs of seniors and acknowledged the challenges they encounter, expressing appreciation for their efforts.

1:46:32 Council Member Pulver mentioned a community cleanup event by Build Barker Park happening on Saturday, June 8, from 8 to 11 a.m., focusing on trails behind the amphitheater. There was a query about why the event wasn't listed on the City's Facebook calendar. Council Member Dalpiaz suggested involving the 501(c)(3) organization responsible for the event and ensuring clarity regarding its organization. Council Member Pulver noted efforts to maintain a separate website for such events but acknowledged the need for better linkage. Council Member Dalpiaz emphasized the importance of clarifying the roles of the 501(c)(3) and the Barker Park City Committee. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call suggested sharing posts from the partner organization's Facebook page to increase visibility. Mayor Berube mentioned upcoming events planned for the year, indicating they should be added to the City calendar.

1:48:14 Council Member Cevering raised two points: the Skate Park and property tax increases. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call discussed plans to deter vandalism at the Skate Park, mentioning considerations of fencing and cameras. He also highlighted incidents of vandalism to the Skate Park's bathrooms.

Council Member Cevering asked the residents in the audience, Brenda Ashdown and Sandy Cochran, their opinions on appropriate tax increases. There was agreement on the need for gradual tax increases, with suggestions ranging from 3% to 10%. Brenda Ashdown recommended a 3-5% increase annually, while Sandy Cochran expressed willingness to accept 5-10%. Mayor Berube provided context, explaining that a 5% increase would equate to \$1.56 per month on average.

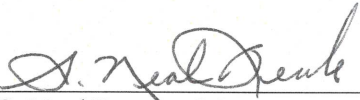
Council Member Cevering emphasized the importance of communication regarding tax increases and their impact on citizens.

1:56:08 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call expressed gratitude for the productive discussion and emphasized the importance of leaving any sharpness or offense at the door. He shared a positive experience of Council Members who were able to engage in robust debates while maintaining respect for each other. He concluded by highlighting the value of healthy discussions and expressed a desire for everyone to leave feeling positive about the conversation.

9. ADJOURNMENT


Council Member Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



S. Neal Berube, Mayor





Rian Santoro
City Recorder

7/9/2024

Date Approved