

# Town Council Meeting

## July 17, 2024

**Elected Officials Present:** Mayor Marty Larson, Councilmembers: Curtis Thomas, Grant Lundberg (participated electronically), Hale Robison Absent: Stan Judd

**Staff Present:** City Clerk Lucinda Thomas, Deputy Clerk Nicole Preston, City Attorney Josh Nielsen, Police Chief Rod Hurst, Fire Chief William McMullin

### Public Present:

#### 1. Call to Order - Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

- a. Joel Bishop gave the opening prayer.
- b. Rex Barney led the pledge of allegiance.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes for June 19, 2024, and July 9, 2024

- a. Councilman Hale Robison made a **Motion** to approve the minutes for the meetings held on June 19, 2024, and July 9, 2024. Councilman Curtis Thomas **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
  - i. Mayor Marty Larson – Yes
  - ii. Councilman Stan Judd – Absent
  - iii. Councilman Hale Robison – Yes
  - iv. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
  - v. Councilman Curtis Thomas – Yes

#### 3. Approval of Expenditures

- a. Mayor Marty Larson made a **Motion** to approve the expenditures in the amount of Sixty-nine thousand three hundred seventy-three dollars and fourteen cents (\$69,373.14). Councilman Hale Robison **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
  - i. Mayor Marty Larson – Yes
  - ii. Councilman Stan Judd – Absent
  - iii. Councilman Hale Robison – Yes
  - iv. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
  - v. Councilman Curtis Thomas - Yes

#### 4. Approval of Work Orders

- a. Approval of Work Order in the amount of \$3600.00 for PPE for the fire department.
  - i. It was confirmed that this is within their budget.
  - ii. Councilman Curtis Thomas made a motion to approve the work order. Councilman Hale Robison **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
    1. Mayor Marty Larson – YES
    2. Councilman Stan Judd – Absent
    3. Councilman Hale Robison – YES
    4. Councilman Grant Lundberg – YES
    5. Councilman Curtis Thomas - YES

#### 5. Commission & Staff Reports

- a. Police Chief Report – Chief Hurst – 32 case numbers 1 accident 4 animal problems, 1 death investigation, 1 domestic violence, 1 keep the peace, 1 canine support, 1 theft, 1 suicide threat, 2 trespassing, 1 tobacco violation, 1 VIN inspection, 1 warrant arrest, 12 citations for 19 total offense, with 41 officer generated and 24 public generated. Councilman Thomas asked about the trespassing citations. Chief Hurst responded that he didn't have the details, but he assumed that they are from the Warm Springs area. Councilman Thomas did ask for more information on Warm Springs and who responds to the calls. Chief Hurst responded that there are cameras in the area, and DNR does police it most of the time as they are the owner. But sometimes they call

56 Santaquin PD to go out. Legal Counsel Josh Nielsen stated that DNR typically writes between  
57 15-20 tickets a month patrolling the area. He reported that DNR has requested that the Town  
58 make sure that there are some consequences when people are trespassing on the property about  
59 8 years ago.

- 60 b. Fire Chief Report – Chief McMullin – He reported that they have a new member Gage Oram. They  
61 completed their yearly hydrant testing from 400 North to Center Street with only a few minor  
62 issues. Reported that they haven't heard anything on the AFG grants. The Town did receive the  
63 state forestry to wildlands grant \$10,000 that will help the Town get a new Pump for the Tender.  
64 This is a 100% grant, we will have to pay first and then get reimbursed with the grant money.  
65 Councilman Thomas asked if this grant would be enough to cover the cost and Chief McMullin  
66 responded that he felt that it would be enough but there might be a small shipping charge.
- 67 c. Planning Commission Report - Chairman John Rosenberger he was unable to attend the  
68 meeting.

69  
70 Mayor Larson made a change to the agenda to allow Eric Hazelet and Lori Christensen the  
71 opportunity to make their presentation outside of the public forum setting, they will then move the  
72 public forum after Agenda Item #6

#### 73 74 **6. Discussion with Eric Hazelet and Lori Christensen regarding the Rocky Mountain Power** 75 **Transmission Line.**

- 76 a. Lori Christensen explained the work that she has already done to learn more in depth about the  
77 proposed project. She has spoken with several people from Rocky Mountain Power and state  
78 senators and representatives. She reported that Rocky Mountain Power recognized that there  
79 were about 125 people at their Genola Open House and that the Town overall doesn't want this  
80 project to go through the community. She reported that it would be her hope that the Town  
81 leadership would push for Rocky Mountain Power to look at Alternative A instead of their  
82 preferred path. She gave the council members a typed copy of her notes with different people's  
83 names and what she had learned. She reported that this project has been in the works several  
84 years as they are bringing wind power from Wyoming to head over to Cedar Valley to support the  
85 data centers that are wanting to come in. She knows that we can't stop the project all together,  
86 but she is hopeful that as a community we can move the project away from the Town.
- 87 b. Eric would like to have a council member assigned to be a point of contact to help understand the  
88 whole process. He stated that he had asked Rocky Mountain Power to allow Genola to be apart  
89 of their conversations with BLM and/or BOR so that when they do have the conversations, we  
90 know exactly what is being said and we can let them know that we would rather this project go  
91 through BLM land (Alternative A) rather than through Genola Town. He talked to them about  
92 putting the project underground. He stated that the price difference was about 150 million dollars.  
93 He didn't feel that this would be a good option to propose.

#### 94 95 96 **7. Discussion with Laurel Bishop about research she has done on high voltage powerlines and** 97 **the health risks.**

- 98 a. She showed a power point presentation and discussed the effects on the aesthetic damages,  
99 electromagnetic field, farm operations, irrigation, stray energy, impact on livestock, impact to  
100 wildlife, noise pollution, people with disabilities.
- 101 b. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

#### 102 103 104 **PUBLIC FORUM –**

- 105 i. Jamie Barney – She is worried about the rain and water under the lines, and how the  
106 area already has a high-water table and is worried about the effect that it could have on  
107 her property or the people in the community. She's worried about how fast this has been  
108 thrown at the community and typically that means that something isn't being done  
109 correctly.
- 110 ii. Stephanie Jones – she would like to ask the city leaders to use everything they can to  
111 help move the proposed plan. She felt that Rocky Mountain Power is not being

112 completely honest with their information especially on how they seem to be trying to push  
113 this through as fast as they can. She feels that there is a large lack of transparency with  
114 this proposed project.  
115 iii. Jenny Bylund – She is impressed with the town and how they are coming together to fight  
116 this. She wants to know who is going to fight for them. She is hoping with the whoever  
117 might be part of a work group to also include the BLM or BOR also in their work group.  
118 She feels that it is imperative to have a strong working relationship with BOR, BLM, and  
119 Rocky Mountain Power. She feels that we need to show them the land, teach them  
120 about our land and community to show them why it is imperative that they preserve it.  
121 iv. Quentin Francom – he wants to know when the Town found out. He talked about the  
122 monetary value that will be lost in. He also talked about a stop sign at 400 East and 800  
123 North and would like to have the stop sign changed to be on the dead-end road instead  
124 of the through road.  
125 v. The council then had a chance to respond to residents’ concern.  
126 1. Councilman Thomas - He understands due to his line of work the problems that  
127 can happen because of the noise pollution. He feels that this could be a real  
128 health problem. He feels that the stop sign question makes sense and feels that  
129 it is something worth looking at. He reported that he felt that the new flashing  
130 stop signs at 5 corners and is proud of what the town has done to try to mitigate  
131 the danger there.  
132 2. Councilman Robison – He stated that he had just as many questions as many of  
133 the residents do. The council is still learning as well. He agrees that he would  
134 like to see a councilman as part of a board to help look at these options and be a  
135 point of contact. He would like to see us as a Town demand answers from  
136 Rocky Mountain Power and not just let them slip on by.  
137 3. Mayor Larson – He responded that the residents have asked several really great  
138 questions, and unfortunately, he doesn’t know all the answers, but he intends to  
139 go meetings and ask and push to get answers. He has received a couple of  
140 answers including the town doesn’t have say in going above or below ground for  
141 main transmission lines, the town can have a say in forcing residential lines to go  
142 below ground but not the main transmission lines. He wants the residents to  
143 know that he is on their side, and he wants to move the route. He stated that he  
144 found out about the lines, about the same time as everyone else did but he found  
145 out through his full-time job not through his role as Mayor. He asked Rocky  
146 Mountain Power to come because the town wasn’t notified earlier. He then asked  
147 Rocky Mountain Power to hold a separate open house in Genola since there was  
148 never one here which is why that happened. He stated that during their next  
149 agenda item that they will discuss this further. Stop sign question – recognizes  
150 his thinking on the change and said that he would investigate what he as Mayor  
151 would be able to do. He praised our law enforcement and feels that they do a  
152 good job for the Town of Genola.  
153

154 **8. Discussion about Rocky Mountain Powers proposal for a new high voltage transmission line**  
155 **to run through our community.**

- 156 a. Councilman Thomas mentioned that he would like to broaden the horizon’s and bring in as many  
157 people who might be able to help the community. City Attorney Josh Nielsen stated he had done  
158 some research and for the transmission to come through town they would need a conditional use  
159 permit. The Town’s has not had an application in over 10 years, and the Town hasn’t reviewed or  
160 updated the ordinance in just as many years. He recommended that the Mayor put a hold on any  
161 conditional use applications and instruct the planning commission to formally begin the process to  
162 update and amend the ordinance.  
163 b. Mayor Marty Larson made a **Motion** to formally initiate proceedings to amend the conditional use  
164 ordinance and instruct the planning commission to begin the process and to put on hold all  
165 conditional use applications until the ordinance has been reviewed and updated. Councilman  
166 Hale Robison **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.  
167 i. Mayor Marty Larson – YES

- 168           ii. Councilman Stan Judd – Absent  
169           iii. Councilman Hale Robison – YES  
170           iv. Councilman Grant Lundberg – YES  
171           v. Councilman Curtis Thomas – YES
- 172       c. Mayor Larson then asked Mr. Nielsen to prepare an ordinance for a moratorium on conditional  
173       use applications to be acted upon during the next council meeting.
- 174       d. Mayor Larson then made a motion to have a letter written up on Town Letterhead and have it  
175       available to the council and planning commission to sign stating:  
176           For the benefit of the Town of Genola and to preserve the quality of life of our Genola  
177           Citizens we strongly suggest that Rocky Mountain Power select their Alternative A- route  
178           for its 345 KV powerline from the Spanish Fork Substation to the Mercer Substation. The  
179           Rocky Mountain Power route map shows Alternative-A (dark green line) from east-to-  
180           west, going around the north end of West Mountain, then south along the empty foothills  
181           of the west side of West Mountain, to the end of Utah Lake where it turns west avoiding  
182           the Genola Town boundary and continues west crossing uninhabitable farmland before  
183           turning north towards the Mercer Substation. This alternative -A route avoids the Town of  
184           Genola completely and would not require negotiations and agreement for easements with  
185           our Town’s government and its residents.  
186           This letter may be signed by all council members and planning commissioners if they  
187           wish. He would also like a copy of their map included. Councilman Curtis Thomas  
188           **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.  
189           1. Mayor Marty Larson – YES  
190           2. Councilman Stan Judd – Absent  
191           3. Councilman Hale Robison – YES  
192           4. Councilman Grant Lundberg – YES  
193           5. Councilman Curtis Thomas – YES
- 194       ii. Mayor Larson then spoke with the council members about having a point person  
195       representing the council for this. It was brought up that the council members have full  
196       time jobs and that being able to attend meetings during the day if that’s when Rocky  
197       Mountain Power called them might be burdensome. They decided to try to have council  
198       member Curtis Thomas and planning commissioner Norm Beagley.
- 199
- 200   **9. Discussion and possible action on raising the limit for approval of purchases.**
- 201       a. The Council discussed that the procurement policy ordinance hadn’t been updated in several  
202       years. They discussed the need to increase the spending amount without council approval from  
203       \$500 to \$1000. They instructed Attorney Josh Nielsen to create the draft and for Clerk Thomas to  
204       post the public hearing to be held next month.  
205
- 206   **10. Discussion on the report from Hansen Planning Group concerning the required subdivision**  
207   **ordinance amendment.**
- 208       a. Planning Commission requested that the Town Council review the document and wanted to know  
209       if they have any opinions about the suggestions provided by Hansen Planning Group. The Town  
210       Council all had the opinion that following the two-step process would be the preferred method by the  
211       council.  
212
- 213   **11. Discussion and possible action on water rates and the water rate study with Rural Water**  
214   **Users Association.**
- 215       a. The council decided that they would rather wait until they get a proposed resolution in place that  
216       can be discussed. Councilman Lundberg requested information from Clerk Thomas be sent out  
217       about when was the last time that Water Rates were raised etc. They asked for that information  
218       at least a week before the next council meeting.  
219
- 220   **12. Discussion and possible action on awarding the bid to re-roof the town office.**
- 221       a. Councilman Curtis Thomas noted that he would be abstaining from the vote as one of the bidders  
222       was related.

- 223           **b.** The council reviewed that last month they didn't discuss the other bids or announce their totals  
224           but had given Mr. Raven another chance to rebid as his bid total had been disclosed during a  
225           public meeting two months earlier. The council discussed the different bids and their major  
226           differences. Olsen was a lower bid by two hundred dollars but had left out wood replacement and  
227           didn't specify how much the wood replacement would be. Keenan Raven had put it into his that  
228           there would be two sheets included in his bid and that if more sheets were required that it would  
229           be \$50 extra per sheet. The council discussed that they felt Mr. Raven's bid, although a little bit  
230           higher, would be the better bid as it was specific in the additional charges that could occur, and  
231           Mr. Olsen's was not.
- 232           **c.** Councilman Hale Robison made a **Motion** to award the bid to Keenan Raven with Raven  
233           Roofing. Councilman Grant Lundberg **Second** and the motion **Passed**.  
234               **i.** Mayor Marty Larson – Yes  
235               **ii.** Councilman Stan Judd – Absent  
236               **iii.** Councilman Hale Robison – Yes  
237               **iv.** Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes  
238               **v.** Councilman Curtis Thomas - Abstain

### 239 240 **13. Council Comments**

- 241           **a.** Mayor Marty Larson – nothing to report  
242           **b.** Councilmember Hale Robison – nothing to report  
243           **c.** Councilmember Stan Judd – was excused from the meeting  
244           **d.** Councilmember Grant Lundberg – He had nothing to report  
245           **e.** Councilman Curtis Thomas – He had concerns and asked to be explained the process of  
246           appointing a new councilman since Councilman Stan Judd has turned in his resignation to be  
247           effective August 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was explained that Clerk Thomas will be putting out a Notice of Vacancy  
248           allowing members of the community to submit a letter of interest. The council will then vote  
249           between those who have submitted. The appointed person will then serve from the day of  
250           appointment to the next municipal election which will take place in 2025 and elected officials take  
251           office in January of 2026.

### 252 253 **14. Motion to go into a closed session –**

- 254           **a.** Mayor Marty Larson made a **Motion** to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation here  
255           during the regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting. Councilman Curtis Thomas **Second** and  
256           the motion **Passed** all in favor.  
257               **i.** Mayor Marty Larson – Yes  
258               **ii.** Councilman Stan Judd – Absent  
259               **iii.** Councilman Hale Robison – Yes  
260               **iv.** Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes  
261               **v.** Councilman Curtis Thomas – Yes
- 262           **b.** The meeting then went into closed session at 9:15pm to discuss pending litigation.

### 263 264 **15. Motion to close the closed session -**

- 265           **a.** Councilman Curtis Thomas made a **Motion** to close the closed session. Councilman Hale  
266           Robison **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.  
267               **i.** Mayor Marty Larson – Yes  
268               **ii.** Councilman Stan Judd – Absent  
269               **iii.** Councilman Hale Robison – Yes  
270               **iv.** Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes  
271               **v.** Councilman Curtis Thomas – Yes
- 272           **b.** The Closed session was then closed at 9:33pm

### 273 274 **16. Motion to Adjourn**

- 275           **a.** Councilman Hale Robison made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Curtis Thomas  
276           **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in Favor.  
277               **i.** Mayor Marty Larson – Yes  
278               **ii.** Councilman Stan Judd – absent

- 279                   iii. Councilman Hale Robison – Yes  
280                   iv. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes  
281                   v. Councilman Curtis Thomas - Yes  
282           **b. The meeting was then adjourned at 9:34pm.**

283  
284 Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Nicole Preston

285  
286  
287 Minutes Approved on: August 21, 2024  
288

*Lucinda Thomas*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucinda Thomas City Recorder