



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 6:00 pm
Approved September 11, 2024
8000 S Redwood Road, 3rd Floor
West Jordan, UT 84088

WORK SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCIL: Chair Zach Jacob, Vice Chair Chad Lamb, Council Member Bob Bedore, Council Member Pamela Bloom, Council Member Kelvin Green, Council Member Kent Shelton, Council Member Kayleen Whitelock

STAFF: Council Office Director Alan Anderson, Mayor Dirk Burton, City Attorney Josh Chandler, Policy Analyst & Public Liaison Warren Hallmark, City Administrator Korban Lee, Assistant City Attorney Duncan Murray, Council Office Clerk Cindy Quick, Deputy Police Chief Jeremy Robertson, Assistant City Administrator Paul Jerome, Attendee Patrick Boice, Attendee Tangee Sloan, Attendee Alexandra Sanchez, Attendee Joe Bryant

Chair Jacob called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Discussion of Election Code Text Amendments, Campaign Finance Reports, and Prohibition of the Use of the City Logo (West Jordan Title 1-15-2; 1-15-4; 1-15-8; 1-15-9)

City Recorder Tangee Sloan oriented the Council with proposed amendments to City Code Sections 1-15-2, 4, 8, and 9 to address the following:

- Standardize elected official filing fee (\$50)
- Failure to file campaign finance reports
- Prohibit use of the City logo
- Deletion of redundant numbering and other stylistic changes
- Update language and format for consistency
- Compliance with Utah Election Laws

Ms. Sloan listed election-related expenses that the filing fee helped offset. Council Member Whitelock was not sure the City should sponsor a Meet the Candidates event. The Council discussed the proposed \$50 standardized filing fee. City Administrator Korban Lee believed charging a filing fee reduced staff workload by discouraging individuals from filing on a whim. A majority of the Council appeared to indicate support for setting the standardized filing fee at \$50.

Ms. Sloan proposed the following language regarding failure to file campaign finance reports to improve accountability, transparency, fairness, and efficiency:

A candidate who is at least thirty (30) calendar days late in filing any campaign finance report with the city recorder is not qualified to file any declaration of candidacy until all finance reports have been filed and accepted by the city recorder.

Responding to a question from Council Member Green about the possibility of charging a penalty fee, Ms. Sloan said State Code would allow the City to charge a \$50 penalty if the Council chose to do so. The Council discussed the proposed policy and potential scenarios. Responding to a suggestion from Council, Ms. Sloan said she believed it would be reasonable to require all previous campaign finance reports to be filed and accepted at least 30 days prior to the last day allowed to file candidacy which was supported by the majority of the Council.

Ms. Sloan proposed an amendment to the Election Code prohibiting the use of the City logo for perceived political advantage, to maintain the integrity and neutrality of municipal symbols, and to ensure all candidates had equal opportunities without leveraging City resources. Responding to a question from Council Member Green, City Attorney Josh Chandler said the City logo was trademarked, but there were questions about the enforceability of such a trademark.

Chair Jacob believed an incumbent should be able to use a photograph of themselves on the dais in Council Chambers for campaign purposes. Chair Jacob felt the purpose of prohibiting use of the City logo would be to prevent the appearance of endorsement by the City. Ms. Sloan said her concern was for printed, standalone use of the City logo on mailers or signs. Chair Jacob requested more legal background on the issue, and suggested a consequence should be established.

Ms. Sloan briefly noted that renumbering and language corrections were also needed for consistency in the code. Council requested that amendments be brought back to a future meeting for final action.

b. Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project (also referred to as ranked choice voting) for the 2025 Election (three at-large seats)

City Recorder Tangee Sloan reported that she had the responsibility of asking the legislative body if they would like to participate in the Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Program (also known as ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting) for the 2025 election, sponsored by the Lt. Governor's Office. Ms. Sloan noted that the 2025 election year was the final year to participate in the pilot program. May 1, 2025 was the deadline to notify of intent to participate or withdraw from participation.

Ms. Sloan reported that the 2023 traditional election with a primary and general election for four council seats and a mayoral seat cost the city \$220,995. Using information provided by the County, Ms. Sloan estimated an election for the same seats would cost \$164,238 under ranked choice voting with no primary election. However, additional funds would be needed for voter education estimated at \$60,000-\$65,000. Ms. Sloan estimated for the 2025 election, a traditional election would cost \$165,000-\$200,000, and

ranked choice voting would cost \$125,000-\$150,000 with additional costs needed for public education.

Ms. Sloan asked the Council to make an early decision and allow plenty of time for public education if they wanted to participate in the pilot program for 2025. She would facilitate whatever the Council decided to do. However, she expressed concern for potential voter confusion if public education efforts were made to participate in ranked choice voting for 2025, only to return to the traditional method for the following election cycle.

Council Member Whitelock did not want to participate in ranked choice voting. Council Member Bloom would support ranked choice voting as an at-large candidate. Council Member Green did not like ranked choice voting. Council Member Shelton would be more in favor of participating in approval voting.

Council Member Bloom left the meeting, and returned at 7:18 pm.

Kelleen Potter, Executive Director of Utah Ranked Choice Voting, explained that ranked choice voting allowed for more voter expression. Josh Daniels with Utah Ranked Choice Voting spoke in favor of ranked choice voting over approval voting. Mr. Daniels said the culture of an election changed with ranked choice voting.

The Council discussed previous national and local election scenarios. Ms. Potter said it had been her experience that community education did not cost as much as anticipated.

Chair Jacob asked the Council to voice whether they were supportive or unsupportive of participating in ranked choice voting for the 2025 election encouraging opting in now knowing they had until May to make a final decision. Chair Jacob, Council Member Bloom and Council Member Shelton were in favor of opting in. Council Members Green, Bedore, Lamb, and Whitelock were not in favor, making a majority of the Council not in favor of moving forward with ranked choice voting and the item was therefore tabled.

Chair Jacob commented that if any of the four Council Members not in favor of ranked choice voting decided they were interested, the issue could be brought back.

c. Discussion on Adjustments to At-large Council Seats and Council Districts.

Council Member Green presented the following suggestions for Council discussion:

- Change At-Large Council Seats from a group race to individual races (i.e. Seat A, Seat B, and Seat C)
- Change from Four Districts with three at-large seats to Five Districts with two at-large seats and stagger the at-large races to alternating election cycles.

Council Member Bloom believed changing the at-large Council seats from a group race to individual races would create confusion. She suggested the at-large elections would need to be staggered. Ms. Sloan suspected candidates would wait until the last minute to declare their candidacy, wanting to see which seat everyone else chose. Council Member Bedore liked the idea behind the suggestion but believed it would not work in practice.

Council Office Director Alan Anderson recommended the Council discuss both suggestions together. Chair Jacob pointed out the County had six-year terms for at-large seats and four-year terms for district seats. He and Council Member Bloom liked the County approach. Chair Jacob suggested three district seats and one at-large seat could run at the same time, alternating with two district seats, one at-large, and the mayoral seat running together.

The Council discussed potential election scenarios. Council Member Whitelock said as a citizen she liked being able to vote for a majority of the Council. Vice Chair Lamb noted that all residents could contact and discuss issues with all Council Members. He suggested a fifth district seat would allow more of the residents to feel represented. Chair Jacob said he liked the idea of smaller districts with representatives living closer to those they represented.

Ms. Sloan noted that the County needed ample time to provide information from the last time the city had to redistrict. Council Member Green felt that at-large elections were expensive. Council Member Bloom asked why the question had been raised. Ms. Sloan said the City would eventually need a fifth district, but the change was not necessary yet. She explained the County was responsible for redrawing the districts. Mayor Burton said administration would make whatever the Council decided work within the timeframe available. He suggested the Council did not need to worry about the timeframe.

Council Member Bloom did not believe the city needed a fifth district at this time. She suggested waiting until there was a greater need to make the change. Council Member Green believed the question had to do with the philosophy of the current Council. Council Member Bloom believed it made sense to wait until the next census. Vice Chair Lamb said he did not think Council Members were ready to change philosophies. Chair Jacob did not think there would be any more compelling reason for a fifth district in eight years with the next census than there was now.

Council Member Shelton agreed with Council Member Whitelock's opinion of being able to vote for a majority of the Council seats and the item was tabled.

d. Discussion on Amendments to Election of Chair and Vice-Chair Title 1-6-9

Mr. Anderson said Council Members Shelton and Bedore proposed the following amendments to Council Rules:

- Change the term of Chair and Vice Chair to six months, allowing more Council Members the chance to serve
- Allow any Council Member the chance to serve not just those with seniority
- Simplify the election process

Council Member Shelton believed relationships on the City Council were very important and that was the purpose of the proposal. Council Member Bedore spoke of creating hurt feelings among council members during the election process for Council Chair and Vice Chair. He felt the process should change and suggested allowing a six-month rotation process giving everyone on the Council a chance to serve unless they took themselves out of the rotation.

Mr. Anderson read aloud from City statute: “The body shall elect one of its members to be chair.” Council Member Green believed the statute did not dictate the manner of election. Mr. Anderson shared the processes and procedures of other cities in the area with the same form of government regarding Council Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Council Member Green asked if the voting associated with passing a resolution naming Council Chair and Vice Chair could count as the required election. Senior Assistant City Attorney Patrick Boice believed the vote could count as an election of the Council. City Attorney Josh Chandler agreed. Council Member Shelton asked what would happen if a resolution naming Council Chair and Vice Chair was not ratified by a majority vote. He felt such a situation would be devastating to him if it was his turn in the rotation.

Council Member Green believed it would not be difficult to put together a rotation based on availability and desire to serve. Chair Jacob pointed out that the Utah League of Cities and Towns had leadership consisting of a Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair, suggesting it helped to mitigate potentially rogue decisions. With the three positions, an individual would be part of leadership for a year and a half with the proposed rotation process. Council Member Green reported that the County had a Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair Pro Tem.

A majority of the Council expressed support for six-month leadership terms. The Council discussed the rotation process. A majority of the Council appeared to support the Vice Chair moving to the Chair position, and the Chair moving to the Past Chair position at the end of a term, with the need for a new Vice Chair appointment. Council Member Green suggested alternating district seats with at-large seats in the rotation.

Mr. Anderson said staff would draft language and bring proposed amendments back to a future Council meeting. Chair Jacob suggested including language that the Past Chair or Chair Pro Tem would not need to attend all leadership meetings. He also suggested the duties of the Council Chair should include assigning Council Members to ad hoc committees. A majority of the Council appeared to agree with his suggestion.

e. Discussion of Proposed 2025 Annual Meeting Schedule for City Council and Agency Boards

Council Office Director Alan Anderson presented a proposed 2025 Annual Meeting Schedule with the following two options:

- Option A - maintain the schedule with two Council meetings and one Committee of the Whole meeting per month
- Option B - modify the schedule with two Council meetings and a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to each Council meeting

Mr. Anderson said Committee of the Whole (COTW) agenda topics were currently scheduled into November and believed that topics could be addressed sooner if more COTW meetings were scheduled. He requested the Council set aside more time for work sessions. Mr. Anderson presented a proposed 2025 Redevelopment Board Meeting Schedule, with RDA meetings once per quarter.

Chair Jacob proposed moving the regular Council meetings to Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. Council Members Bedore and Bloom were fine with Council meetings on Tuesdays. Chair Jacob could see the value of COTW meetings, and suggested starting the COTW at 4:30 or 5:00 pm, with Council meetings following at 7:00 or 8:00 pm. Council Member Whitelock felt 8:00 pm was too late for meetings to start for the sake of citizens. Chair Jacob suggested moving Citizen Comments to COTW meetings.

Chair Jacob noted his preference would be to schedule three Tuesday evening meetings per month. All Council Members indicated they were able to meet on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. Council Member Green would prefer two meetings per month with an earlier start time. He believed employee morale was suffering with late Council meetings. Mayor Burton said staff would adjust to whatever worked for the Council.

Council Member Bloom spoke in favor of scheduling two evenings per month, starting at 4:00 pm, with additional meetings on 5th Tuesdays and the ability to schedule more meetings as necessary. Council Member Green agreed and suggested scheduling work sessions from 4:00 – 6:30 pm, with regular meetings starting at 7:00 pm. Vice Chair Lamb emphasized that Council Members had full-time jobs, and meeting before 4:00 pm would not be possible for many people. Chair Jacob said he would not want to make it harder for residents to be able to serve on the City Council. A majority of the Council indicated support for scheduling two Tuesday meetings per month with a work session at 4:00 pm followed by Council meetings at 7:00 pm, and a 6:00 pm work session on the 5th Tuesday in months that have five Tuesdays (except for December).

Council Member Green suggested the Council schedule a meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm for the sole purpose of receiving the budget a week earlier than currently proposed. A majority of the Council expressed support for the suggestion.

Mr. Anderson said staff would prepare the 2025 Annual Meeting Schedule as outlined and bring it back to a future meeting for adoption.

f. Discussion of Adjustments to Council Compensation

Vice Chair Lamb reported that it had been nine years since an adjustment was made to City Council compensation. Vice Chair Lamb proposed putting together a policy that would adjust Council compensation whenever the Mayor's compensation was adjusted. He proposed 20% of the Mayor's annual salary. Council Member Bedore agreed with tying Council compensation to Mayoral compensation. Council Member Green suggested 25% of the Mayor's salary, with health insurance benefits eliminated. Council Member Bloom disagreed; she did not view service on the City Council as a part-time job.

Chair Jacob noted that the Taylorsville Council approved tying Council compensation to the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) approved for staff. Council Member Whitelock felt time on the City Council was a service, and she believed 20% of the Mayor's salary was high.

The Council discussed health insurance benefits available to the Council. Council Member Whitelock said she would favor a citizen compensation committee deciding Council compensation.

A majority of the Council indicated support for putting a policy in place to address Council compensation and expressed support for 20% of the Mayor's salary, with an annual COLA. A majority of the Council indicated support for an effective date of July 1, 2025.

Mr. Anderson said staff would draft language and bring the amendment to a future Council meeting for action.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

None

4. ADJOURN

Council Member Whitelock moved to adjourn. Chair Jacob seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

I certify that the foregoing minutes represent an accurate summary of what occurred at the meeting held on August 21, 2024. This document constitutes the official minutes for the West Jordan Committee of the Whole meeting.

Cindy M. Quick, MMC
Council Office Clerk

Approved this 11th day of September 2024