

ROCKY RIDGE PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN MEETING

August 21, 2024

7:30 PM

MLA Building

DRAFT

Opening:

Presiding: Town Council Member Andrew Aagard.

Present from the Town Council: Joanna Covington, Lucy Gold, Bethany Sturgeon, and Andrew Aagard.

Excused: Mayor Ronald Allred.

Present from the Town Staff: Rachel Bronson, Terry Allred, Benjamin Allred, Casey Reynolds, and Tim Allred.

Others Present: Maralynn Kool, Shea Morrison, and Heather Williams.

Invocation was given.

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July

During the review and approval of the July meeting minutes, Council Member Bethany Sturgeon suggested changing the term "building maintenance man" to "building superintendent," which other Council Members agreed with. She also noted that the minutes incorrectly stated the motion and seconding process regarding a credit card discussion. It was clarified that Council Member Andrew Aagard motioned, and Council Member Bethany Sturgeon seconded it, emphasizing that both actions are required for a motion to pass. Since not all members present during last Town Meeting were not present, the minutes could not be officially approved and will be revisited at next month's meeting.

VISITORS:

Shay Morrison

Regional Growth Summit - Mini Training

CDBG "How to Apply" Workshop

The first of these mini trainings, covering finance and budgeting, will be on September 26th from 10 AM to 12PM, led by Seth Atkinson from Nephi. This session is staff-only, however, Council Members and others interested in finance may also attend. It's free and will be held at the new Richfield building. In addition, a mandatory workshop for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program will be offered on September 25th and 26th. The mini-summit and the second CDBG workshop are scheduled back-to-back on September 26th to accommodate those traveling.

ULCT Annual Convention

UAC Annual Convention

Other upcoming events include the ULCT annual convention on September 4th-5th in Salt Lake City, primarily for elected officials and staff, and the UAC annual convention for county officials on September 11th-12th.

OPMA Tip of the Month

The importance of unedited meeting recordings was emphasized, ensuring that recordings cover the entire meeting from start to adjournment without omissions.

Railroad Funding

Updates on grant applications, including a recent successful grant obtained by the Town through UDOT was shared. There was discussion of pursuing additional grants, such as the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

To conclude the conversation, the focus shifted to the progress on meeting the December deadline related to the new subdivision law. Although Shay did not attend the recent Planning and Zoning (P&Z) meeting,

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an update from Mike Hanson, indicating that the community appears to be on track. The planning commission should be in the process of reviewing an audit or a draft of the new code. If any issues arise during this review, assistance is available. The speaker noted that the community is ahead compared to others that haven't even signed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a consultant. The conversation ended on a positive note, with the speaker thanking everyone and wishing them a safe journey home.

Heather Williams-Young; Consider State Contract for CJCC

Heather noted that it had been five years since her last visit. She wanted to update the Council on the Children's Justice Center and its services, and to see if there were any questions about how the center supports families in the community. As director of the Children's Justice Center in Juab County, she explained that while the center is a local program based in Nephi, similar centers exist in every county across Utah. These centers are locally operated but supported by a state program within the attorney general's office.

The center aims to help children move forward in a healthy way, ensuring that their experiences do not negatively impact their futures. The facility itself is designed to feel like a home, creating a comforting atmosphere for children. The staff includes a forensic interview specialist whose role is to talk to the children in a non-investigative manner, focusing on their well-being.

An overview of the purpose and operations of Children's Justice Centers (CJCs) was given. These centers were established to streamline the process of investigating severe physical abuse, child sexual abuse, and other crimes involving children. Historically, children had to recount their traumatic experiences multiple times to different entities like DCFS, law enforcement, and prosecutors, which added unnecessary stress. CJCs were created to centralize this process, reducing the child's need to relive their trauma repeatedly.

At a CJC, children and their non-offending caregivers receive comprehensive support in a child-friendly environment that feels more like a home than an institution. The facility includes a playroom, and initial meetings are held with caregivers to understand their concerns. Forensic interview specialists, who are not investigators, conduct interviews with the children using a non-leading, research-based protocol, while law enforcement and DCFS observe remotely.

After the interview, caregivers are briefed on the next steps, and the center offers resources such as therapy referrals, protective orders, and crisis counseling. CJCs also maintain partnerships with medical professionals trained to work with children in these sensitive situations. Additionally, CJCs monitor the progress of cases and ensure that families' voices are heard throughout the process.

While CJCs do not engage in prevention work, they do offer community education, providing information on recognizing and responding to abuse. The center encourages community involvement and offers tours by appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A renewal of a previous Water Moratorium on all Building Permit Approvals requiring a new water connection or extension of an existing connection to Town water or the implementation of an Ordinance regarding any new water connections or extensions of any existing connections to Town water - an "Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance."

The meeting was opened for the Public Hearing. Council Members and the Head of the Water Department, Casey Reynolds discussed the continuation of a moratorium versus implementing a permanent ordinance. The main concern was that while the moratorium is temporary and can be revisited

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every six months, an ordinance would create long-term, binding restrictions that might not address the specific issues the moratorium was intended to resolve. There was consensus that the proposed ordinance did not effectively address the underlying problems related to water allocation and subdivision development.

It was also noted that the ordinance was mistakenly included in the meeting packet instead of a resolution, which was initially intended to address the issue temporarily until a permanent solution was found. The group decided that renewing the moratorium, despite its temporary nature, was preferable to adopting an ordinance that could complicate future actions. A Roll Call Vote was taken to renew the moratorium for another 180 days.

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Mayor Ronald Allred	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joanna Covington	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucy Gold	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bethany Sturgeon	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Andrew Aagard	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No additional comments were made and the Public Hearing was closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Policy on Ethical Behavior – Town Council & Staff Signatures

The Council moved on to discuss a new business item: the policy on ethical behavior, requiring Council Members and Town Staff to sign a document affirming their commitment to ethical conduct; each individual signed their own copy. This practice is an annual routine to reaffirm ethical standards. Treasurer, Rachel Bronson, will attest to the signatures this time, a role typically held by Town Clerk/Recorder, Marilyn Bronson.

2. Town Utility Truck

The Council discussed the need for a Town Utility Truck, prompted by the inefficiency of using private vehicles for city business and frequent transfers of Town Equipment between vehicles. Head of the Road Department, Terry Allred's personal truck is often used for Town duties. The vehicle spends considerable time in the shop due to wear and tear. The proposal is to purchase a basic pickup truck with a utility bed specifically for Town use, ensuring tools are readily available when needed.

Discussion followed, focusing on the need to begin pricing and exploring options, with the intention of possibly purchasing a new truck due to the high cost of used vehicles. The purchase would likely be funded by splitting the cost between the Roads and Water budgets. The vehicle would be acquired through a state contract bid process similar to previous purchases. The Council agreed to start looking into available options. No objections were raised.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

1. EMS/CERT: EMS: The EMS department provided updates, including the successful acquisition of a grant for just under \$4,000. The EMS Bureau has recently moved from the Health Department to the Department of Public Safety, a transition that has been beneficial.

CERT: A high school class is being conducted at Anchor to recruit new members for the CERT program, with the hope that younger participants will eventually take on leadership roles as current members are experiencing burnout.

2. Water: Well 3 is back online as of the previous Friday. The well is functioning well, with zero chlorine residuals detected in tests, indicating everything is operating smoothly.

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3. Road: The completion of several key repairs was highlighted; patches have been finished, including a major intersection where a collapsing culvert was removed, and an 8-inch water main and a 3-inch conduit were relocated. Additionally, a 6-inch conduit was installed for future power needs. The intersection has been moved slightly west, and the patch around the culvert box near the church was also completed.

4. P & Z: None.

5. Admin: Town Hall Security Update: Marilyn and Terry met with Colton Allred to discuss security measures for the Town Hall. Colton reviewed the building and is preparing a proposal for the necessary security updates. While attempts were made to get proposals from multiple sources, only Colton responded. The proposal will aim for a mid-range solution that balances functionality and cost.

Monthly Expenditures:

During the review of monthly expenditures, two issues were identified. First, an expenditure listed under the road department for "Blue Stakes of Utah" should actually be categorized under the water department. Second, an electric bill for Nephi City Corporation was mistakenly labeled; it appears that it should be categorized as a Town Hall electric bill.

6. Park: The Council was updated on the cemetery project; 135 feet of curb have been installed out of the planned 450 feet. The work is progressing, with another pour expected either later this week or early next week. Due to limited forms, the curbs are being poured in 100-foot increments.

7. Library: None

***OPEN FLOOR:**

1. Citizen Items:

2. Town Council Items: Council Member Bethany Sturgeon provided an update on the I-15 project. Casey, Terry, and Council Member Bethany Sturgeon have a follow-up meeting scheduled for September 23rd, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, which will be held virtually via Zoom. I wanted to make the council aware, though attendance is only required for the three of us managing the project.

Adjournment:

Council Member Lucy Gold moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Joanna Covington seconded the motion; all others voted in favor with the exception of Mayor Allred, who was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Approved by Town Clerk; UCC, CMC