

**STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF SEVIER
TOWN OF ANNABELLA**

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK MEETING
November 21, 2024**

Minutes from the Annabella Town Council work meeting held Thursday, November 21, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Jones & DeMille offices, Richfield, Utah. Mayor Brent Christensen conducting.

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| 1. ROLL CALL | 3. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING |
| 2. WORK MEETING TO DISCUSS | DATE |
| PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION | 4. ADJOURN |
| WATER RATES | |

1. ROLL CALL. Roll call was taken by Mayor Christensen. In attendance were Councilmembers Jill Anderson, Kelvin Johns, Stephanie Morgan and Chris Nielson. Tina Mitchell, Clerk, was also in attendance. Parker Vercimak, Kyler Nielsen, and John Chartier were also present.

2. WORK MEETING TO DISCUSS PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION WATER RATES. Parker Vercimak explained the projected pressurized irrigation budget and noted that when adding in the loan payment and depreciation as fixed expenses, the total budget goal is \$81,000. He emphasized the importance of collecting depreciation to fund infrastructure replacement. Parker also explained that there are limited funding opportunities for irrigation systems, unlike drinking water systems. He suggested that having a reserve fund for maintenance and unexpected expenses is not a bad idea.

Councilmember Nielson noted the importance of both beautification and conservation when determining a rate structure. He expressed concern about pricing people out of using water, which could lead to yards that aren't maintained, resulting in lower property values.

Councilmember Johns noted that, while rates need to be affordable, the cost of maintenance and improvements to the system need to be considered. He mentioned dam improvements, irrigation pond improvements, and valve replacements as necessary expenses.

Councilmember Anderson inquired about implementing culinary water rates once the mountain water supply is depleted and the Town relies solely on pumping. She noted that before the system was in place, the irrigation watering was finished when mountain water was out. She also noted that residents now enjoy the benefit of watering throughout the entire season.

The Town Council also considered introducing a surcharge to help cover the power costs associated with pumping water.

The Council explored different tiered rate options and also discussed the necessity of rate increases to keep pace with inflation. It was noted that irrigation rates have remained unchanged for nearly 20 years.

Parker Vercimak suggested that the Council consider presenting rate structures to the public for feedback before finalizing them. He proposed several methods for gathering public input, including:

- a) Holding a public open house
- b) Using social media for feedback
- c) Sending out individual usage data with proposed rates to each household

The Council agreed to have Parker Vercimak prepare rate structure options for public review. They discussed the importance of balancing fairness between small and large users while ensuring the system's financial sustainability.

3. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND TIME TO PRESENT UPDATED PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION WATER RATES

The Council did not explicitly set a date for a public hearing. Instead, they discussed gathering public input on rate structure options before scheduling a formal public hearing.

Parker Vercimak said he would prepare a summary of rate structure options for the Council's review. Once approved, these options would be presented to the public for feedback through various channels, including potentially a public open house, social media, or individualized mailings.

Councilmember Nielson noted the importance of giving residents the opportunity to provide input before the formal public hearing. He added that this approach would allow them to address concerns and refine the rate structure before presenting a final proposal at the public hearing.

4. ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.



Brent Christensen, Mayor



Tina Mitchell, Clerk