



MAGNA CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

March 11, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
WEBSTER COMMUNITY CENTER
8952 West Magna Main Street
Magna, Utah 84044

MAGNA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

****DRAFT MINUTES – UNAPPROVED****

Council Members Present:

Eric Barney, Mayor
Steve Prokopis
Audrey Pierce
Trish Hull (via Zoom)
Mick Sudbury

Council Member(s) Excused:

Staff Present:

David Brickey, City Manager
Paul Ashton, Legal Counsel
Diana Baun, City Recorder
Daniel Torres, Economic Development Manager
Brian Tucker, Planning Manager
Lt. Shane Manwaring, UPD
Madison Warner, Municipal Planner

Others Present:

Kari Duckworth

6:00 PM – PUBLIC MEETING

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barney, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Determine Quorum

A quorum was present, allowing the meeting to proceed.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

MAGNA COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR ERIC BARNEY, MAYOR PRO TEM AUDREY PIERCE,
COUNCIL MEMBER TRISH HULL, COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE PROKOPIS,
COUNCIL MEMBER MICK SUDBURY

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracy Gibson addressed the council, representing the Salt Lake County Aging Adult Services. During her comments, she expressed the goal of expanding the Meals on Wheels program in Magna by recruiting local volunteers. She emphasized the significant impact that community involvement can have, explaining that when community members deliver meals, it helps combat isolation among elderly residents. She shared insights into the program's structure, including the volunteer requirements, which entail a time commitment of approximately an hour per week if there were five volunteers, or as little as one day a month if 20 volunteers were involved. Gibson outlined the specific route in Magna, which runs along 3500 South from 7200 to 8400 South, north of 3500 South, serving around 10 individuals who receive meals. She shared a poignant statistic highlighting the detrimental effect of isolation on seniors, equating it to the health impact of smoking 14 cigarettes a day. Additionally, she recounted her personal connection to Magna, having worked at the Magna Senior Center and expressed her love for the community. She mentioned having posters and flyers available and inquired if any businesses or places recommended by the city would be willing to display them.

5. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

A. Unified Police Department

Lieutenant Shane Manwaring reviewed a prepared presentation and handout (Attachments A and B) on behalf of acting UPD Chief Del Craig, who was on leave, and went on to discuss the recent developments in crime statistics for Magna. He explained the role of NCIC codes, which are part of the National Crime Information Center established by the FBI in 1967 as a database initially containing five files: wanted persons, stolen articles, vehicles, license plates, and guns. The NCIC now includes hundreds, possibly thousands, of files. He explained that law enforcement officers categorize incidents as either short forms, like stopping to help a motorist or answering questions, or long forms, which require detailed reports. In efforts to improve accuracy in crime statistics, officers have been trained to provide specific NCIC codes even for short-form incidents. This training initiative began around November of the previous year, with the expectation that better classification would lead to clearer statistics, avoiding generic categories like public order, which can distort data interpretation. In presenting the crime statistics, Lt. Manwaring noted that burglaries had increased by six from the previous year's number, bringing that to ten incidents relative to four. He analyzed this increase, remarking that although six might seem substantial, the overall numbers remain low compared to surrounding cities. He recommended that residents leave their front lights on during the night and consider installing cameras as deterrents to help lower the burglary rates. He emphasized that one of the best preventive measures involves residents watching out for their neighbors and reporting any suspicious activity. Additionally, incidents of damaged property were slightly up, primarily attributed to graffiti. The police department has made significant progress in identifying repeat offenders, resulting in several arrests. To prevent vandalism by minors, the department adopted a zero-tolerance policy last summer for curfew violations, issuing citations to those found in violation to curb nighttime criminal activities. He provided detailed reports on

recent “shots fired” incidents, describing one such at 3:20 AM on March 10, 2025, and another at 7:04 AM on March 11, 2025, near Copper Hills Drive. Officers responding to both calls have collected evidence, including shell casings, which are now part of an active investigation. Advancements in technology are enabling law enforcement to trace shell casings back to recognize them in various incidents, and investigations leveraging this data are progressing well.

B. Pleasant Green Cemetery – No updates

C. Magna 4th of July – No updates

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve City Council Minutes – *Mayor Eric Barney*

1. February 25, 2025 City Council Meeting

Council Member Sudbury moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as published. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. My Hometown Initiative – *Mark and Jana Rupp*

Alisha Cartier introduced Mark and Jana Rupp to present on the My Hometown Initiative. Mark Rupp, along with his wife Jana, provided details about the initiative, which is currently active in West Valley City, with the aim to improve community engagement and address various needs through interfaith cooperation.

Mark Rupp reviewed their prepared presentation (Attachment C) and shared a key element of the initiative is building leadership in homes, churches, workplaces, and the community. Faith group leaders can recommend individuals to become block captains, enabling citizens to emerge as leaders.

Craig Thomas, an employee of West Vally City, shared the example of the organization of National Night Out block parties, which have significantly increased since the initiative's inception. He noted that such events have more than doubled, from prior numbers to approximately twenty additional block parties, demonstrating the initiative's power in fostering community engagement. Local churches play a crucial role as community resource centers, providing classes on diverse subjects based on community needs identified by faith group leaders.

Mr. Rupp pointed out that these faith leaders not only highlight the community's problems but also tap individuals within their congregations who can teach necessary classes. Regular monthly meetings at West Valley City Hall among interfaith council members facilitate the realization of such community improvements, showcasing a collaborative spirit that is both resourceful and supportive. The initiative also unifies and beautifies neighborhoods through days of service. Projects include helping elderly individuals and others who may struggle to

maintain their properties. He shared statistics from one community area within West Valley City, where 240 service projects were conducted between April and October in 2022, resulting in 45,000 volunteer hours overall. These efforts underscore the initiative's commitment to fostering community pride and collective action toward neighborhood enhancement. A Youth in Action initiative further distinguishes the program, engaging young people in organized activities that build leadership skills. He shared a personal story about his daughter, who planned a Friendsgiving dinner through the initiative. This experience of leading an event attended by 200 youth was not only impactful for the participants but also instrumental in her personal growth and scholarship opportunities.

Jana Rupp emphasized the importance of city support for the initiative's success, asserting that without city engagement, resources, and backing, the program could not achieve its potential. Through organized community gatherings and celebrations, such as the faith and cultural celebration planned for July 19, the program also works to build relationships among diverse cultures and faiths.

The council asked several questions regarding the program's implementation, funding mechanisms, and the potential benefits it could bring to Magna. Alisha Cartier, highlighting her commitment to the program, requested the council consider supporting the organization of a luncheon for local faith leaders.

B. Consideration of an Ordinance (OAM2024-001295) Amending Sections 14.12.060, Sidewalks; 18.12.050, Lots; 19.50.060, Landscaping of Park Strips; 18.14.080, Street Lighting; Clarifying Language on Pavement, Turf, Plants and Ground Cover, Street Lighting Requirements, and Trees in Park Strips – *Brian Tucker, Planning Manager*

Brian Tucker presented the proposed ordinance amending sections related to sidewalks, lots, landscaping of park strips, and street lighting requirements. The ordinance aimed to address several ongoing issues regarding street design and maintenance in Magna City. Key points of the proposed changes included:

- **Increasing Sidewalk Width:** The ordinance proposed increasing the sidewalk width to 5 feet while maintaining a 5-foot park strip. This adjustment was intended to enhance pedestrian accessibility and uniformity in Magna's neighborhoods.
- **Masonry Fences on Corner Lots:** Developers would be required to install decorative masonry fences on corner lots. This requirement aimed to improve aesthetic appeal and uniformity while maintaining visibility and safety at intersections.
- **Clarification on Park Strip Paving Rules:** The ordinance sought to clarify the rules for paving park strips. Currently, park strips can only be paved under certain conditions, such as when adjacent to major streets that separate the homes from the street or when less than a specified width. The proposal would require specific patterns and colors for the stamped concrete used in these cases. An existing requirement for at least 30% live plant material in park strips would be maintained, with restrictions on the use of turf unless the park strip is sufficiently wide.

- **Street Tree Installation and Maintenance:** The ordinance specified new requirements for the installation and maintenance of street trees. These would include conditions for using trees with low water use, vase-like growth habits, and minimal root disturbance to enhance viability in park strips, especially under power lines.
- **Street Light Placement and Spacing:** The proposal detailed specific placement and spacing for street lights, varying based on the street type. This included residential, industrial, and commercial zones, ensuring optimal lighting for safety and visibility.

Mr. Tucker said the Planning Commission recommended allowing more flexibility for homeowners in R1 and R2 zones with respect to paving options for their park strips. They suggested that residents in these zones could have more leeway in choosing paving materials, provided that overall aesthetic and safety guidelines are adhered to.

During the discussion, council members raised concerns about elements like rock sizes in park strips and the use of weed barriers. Some council members emphasized the potential issues with medium-sized rocks, which could pose safety risks, and stressed the importance of weed barriers to prevent unsightly growth. The discussion also highlighted the need for separate requirements for residential versus collector and arterial streets to accommodate their different functionalities and maintenance needs.

Mayor Barney proposed bifurcating the code, suggesting separate guidelines for park strips on residential streets as opposed to collectors and arterials, which often fall under city maintenance. This would ensure clarity and suitability of regulations based on differing street types and uses.

Mr. Tucker agreed to provide an updated version of the ordinance, incorporating these suggestions and concerns, for the council to review before the next meeting. He aimed to ensure that the new regulations would effectively address the current issues while accommodating the needs and preferences of Magna's residents.

C. Discuss Current Code for Magna City's Abatement Process – *David Brickey, City Manager*

David Brickey presented issues with the current abatement process, highlighting a specific case where a property has required three abatements in less than 12 months, costing the city approximately \$12,000. This example of a troubling property has underscored numerous challenges for Magna in managing repeated violations effectively. He detailed how the property, inhabited by a tenant and owned by the tenant's girlfriend, necessitated substantial intervention by the city. Despite recurring abatements costing the city upwards of \$12,000, the problematic behavior persisted due to the tenants stripping items for recyclable metals and piling trash in the yard. He proposed that the existing due process timeline should be adjusted for instances of repeated violations. Given that current procedures allow for a potentially lengthy abatement process, extending well over two months from the initial complaint to court proceedings, he emphasized the need for a more expedient timeline. To this end, he posed a question to the council about what they deem an appropriate threshold for enacting shortened

timelines, suggesting thresholds like two abatements within six months. He also introduced the idea of adding abatement costs directly to the property tax bill or potentially imposing a lien on the property to ensure reimbursement for the expenditures. This approach aims to address the financial burden on the city while compelling property owners to take corrective actions more seriously.

During council discussions, members explored the possibility of notifying mortgage companies of ongoing violations, the considerations surrounding a property's history when evaluating future violations, and the challenge of balancing due process with addressing frequent offenders. It was noted that without addressing the core issues, recurrent violations might persist, further straining city resources and patience with the offending properties.

Council Member Sudbury inquired about best practices and whether three instances of abatement are generally considered the norm. In response, Mr. Brickey suggested a more stringent approach, advocating for a timeline that would allow quicker enforcement after at least two of the same violations over six months. He stressed the importance of being able to address such issues promptly to prevent them from becoming long-term nuisances affecting neighborhood quality and property values. By modifying the abatement process to be more proactive and reducing the waiting periods, he hopes to enhance the community's environment and ensure a fair, efficient process that effectively curbs recurring violations. Through these proposed changes, he aims to bring about a more livable Magna by systematically tackling problem properties, and he agreed to bring back detailed recommendations formulated from the council's feedback for further consideration.

D. Discuss Communities That Care (CTC) and Magna City Memorandum of Understanding – *Trish Hull, Council Member*

Council Member Hull introduced a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Communities That Care (CTC) and Magna City, aiming to establish a clear understanding between the two entities regarding the fiscal management and oversight of the grant funding that CTC receives. A central focus of the MOU is to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the city and the coalition in managing these grants. The key points of the MOU include:

- **Clarifying Roles:** The document sets out to clearly define the city's responsibilities as the financial agent for the coalition, in accordance with the requirements of the grant. Mayor Barney emphasized that Magna City is identified as the fiscal agent for the CTC coalition, responsible for receiving, holding, and disbursing the funding earmarked for CTC activities. This role obligates the city to adhere to the stipulations outlined in the grant funding agreements, ensuring that funds are used strictly for their designated purposes.
- **Authorizing Spending Approval:** It proposes that the coalition chair be empowered to approve spending within the coalition, a change designed to reduce the volume of routine financial approvals required from the mayor, thereby streamlining the approval process. Council Member Hull explained that up until recently, spending approvals had been channeled directly through Mayor Barney, which created a bottleneck in financial

management. The shifts in responsibility aim to distribute the workload more evenly while ensuring accountability remains within the coalition structure.

- **Financial Oversight and Audit Process:** The MOU outlines a robust financial oversight process, including the establishment of a fiscal committee and provisions for annual audits. The fiscal committee would comprise the coalition chair, two coordinators, financial representatives such as Stewart Okobia and Daniel Hoffman from the MSD, and potentially county representatives, tasked with reviewing the coalition's books and approving financial actions. Annually, an audit would be conducted to ensure transparency, address compliance with the grant's conditions, and allow the city to continually monitor and manage any emerging issues.

The council discussed the proposed changes, specifically focusing on the approval process, the established checks and balances, and the implications for the city's liability.

Council Member Sudbury raised concerns about the checks and balances in place to prevent potential mismanagement of funds, highlighting the importance of maintaining oversight to safeguard against misuse.

Mayor Barney addressed these concerns by clarifying that while the coalition chair would have approval authority, a fiscal committee and regular oversight mechanisms would remain firmly in place. The city would continue to play a critical oversight role, reinforced by detailed spreadsheets tracking all expenditure possibilities, further ensuring that it remains aligned with the grant's stipulations.

Council members also expressed their commitment to ensuring that, should any issues arise, the MOU and the processes it describes would be revisited and adjusted as necessary to maintain integrity and proper use of funds. The finalization of the MOU remained contingent upon legal review by City Attorney Paul Ashton, who will continue working to refine the document and address any outstanding concerns.

E. Discuss Communities that Care (CTC) and Utah Transportation Authority (UTA) Memorandum of Understanding – *Trish Hull, Council Member*

Council Member Hull expanded on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Communities That Care (CTC) and Utah Transportation Authority (UTA), explaining the intent to facilitate transportation access for specific groups of people within the community. She mentioned that the initiative focuses on providing free bus passes to two primary groups: victims of crime and participants in the youth court, as well as volunteers involved in the youth court program. She detailed that the UTA program is designed with stringent regulations to ensure its proper use, emphasizing the comprehensive tracking mechanisms employed to document how the passes are utilized. This tracking ensures accountability and that the resources are directed towards individuals in genuine need. The passes are particularly targeted at residents meeting certain income criteria, ensuring that the assistance reaches those who require it most. Recognizing the transportation barriers that exist within Magna, Hull identified this MOU as a critical step towards enhancing mobility for these communities.

Improved access to public transportation could have a significant positive impact, especially for victims of crime who may need to travel for court appearances or support services, and for young participants who need to commute for youth court sessions or related activities. The execution of this MOU would formalize the collaboration between CTC and UTA, allowing the coalition to manage the distribution of these bus passes effectively. By facilitating this agreement, the city aims to support vulnerable populations, reduce logistical barriers they might face, and promote broader participation in civic and community-oriented programs.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding 2025 Municipal Election – *Diana Baun, City Recorder*

Diana Baun presented detailed information regarding the 2025 municipal election, highlighting the available options between ranked-choice voting and the traditional primary and general election format. During the discussion she provided key points, such as the costs associated with each election method and the financial implications. She noted that for ranked-choice voting, a fixed cost would be shared among participating cities. As of the meeting, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, Millcreek, and Cottonwood Heights were confirmed to be using ranked-choice voting, potentially influencing Magna's decision through shared expense distribution. The deadline for deciding on ranked-choice voting was emphasized as April 1, 2025, necessitating a prompt decision from the council.

Council Member Prokopis noted a critical component was the potential need for voter education to ensure the public understands the ranked-choice voting process.

Ms. Baun acknowledged that despite the seemingly straightforward nature of ranked-choice voting, many voters face challenges in comprehending how to appropriately rank candidates, which can potentially lead to erroneous ballots. Council members considered the implications of such misunderstandings and the importance of allocating funds for educational campaigns to raise voter awareness and correct ballot completion.

Additionally, the conversation touched on changes to the city's form of government that would affect the upcoming election. It was noted that the new election would include the election of district seats 2 and 4 and a mayor at large, conforming to recently enacted legislative changes. Council members expressed an interest in gathering more information about other cities' decisions regarding ranked-choice voting to better understand their collective experiences and outcomes.

Council Member Sudbury expressed a desire to see if other cities would join in ranked-choice voting, thereby potentially altering cost projections. The discussion culminated in a decision to delay the voting method choice until the next council meeting to gather further information and assess developments among peer cities.

Council Member Prokopis moved to delay the decision until the next meeting. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion; vote was 3-2, motion passes with nay votes from Mayor Barney and Council Member Sudbury.

B. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Appropriate Conditions to Consider Vacating Dora Street – *Paul Ashton, City Attorney*

Paul Ashton presented information on the potential vacation of Dora Street, detailing several critical components for the council to consider. He explained the legal requirements for vacating a street or road, emphasizing that adequate consideration must be paid for the property in question. Paul highlighted the appraisal, which valued the property at an amount between \$225,000 and \$270,000, a necessary figure for the city to contemplate should they decide to vacate the road. In addition, he noted that potential conditions for the vacation of the street could include the mandatory purchase of the property. One practical consideration discussed was putting the property on the open market, although it seemed evident that interest would primarily be from the surrounding property owners, including the school district and a developer who initially petitioned for the street's vacation. This was confirmed as developers were informed of the appraisal findings, which positioned them for potential negotiations.

Council members engaged in discussions regarding the implications of vacating the street and touched upon potential development issues tied to the area. Mr. Ashton reiterated that the council must determine whether vacating Dora Street would materially injure the public interest or any individual, per statutory requirements. He also raised awareness of the importance of establishing time limits on any conditions placed upon the vacation to avoid future complications, as seen in other municipalities. He pointed out that while proof of development feasibility, like access to water and sewer services, is crucial, it should be left between the property owners and Magna Water Improvement District; a suggestion aimed to ensure the city remained outside of utility negotiations.

Council Member Sudbury moved to deny the vacation of Dora Street. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion; vote was 4-1, motion passes with a nay vote from Council Member Prokopis.

9. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY UPDATES

David Brickey provided updates on several ongoing projects and issues:

- **2700/2820 Realignment Project:** Brickey stated that the 2700/2820 realignment project is moving forward. The house that currently occupies a critical portion of the pathway is scheduled to be vacated by April 15th. Once vacated, the Magna City staff will engage a list of qualified contractors to handle the demolition of the house. The process is expected to conclude by the end of May, contingent on any issues such as contamination that might delay the demolition. Additionally, the engineering team is working on design concepts using AASHTO standards, and these will be discussed in more detail during a closed session due to the implications on property pathways.

- **Parking Code Revisions:** Progress on parking code revisions is underway, with Titles 18 and 19 already adopted by the council last December. Titles 11 and 12 are pending review, with a meeting involving UPD and council members expected to take place on March 19th. The anticipated result is that amendments related to criminal parking complaints will be brought before the council in April, potentially allowing new regulations to be enacted by May.
- **Webster Center Renovation Project:** Notifications have been sent to the architects to proceed with the renovation project of the Webster Center. A meeting involving two council members is set to further discuss their input and expectations on the anticipated timeline and design of the renovation.
- **Authorization for Manhole Cover Repairs on Washington Drive:** Brickey sought approval for an expense that could reach up to \$4,000 aimed at repairing manhole covers on Washington Drive. These manholes, thought to have been paved over during county work completed over two years ago, require elevation adjustments to match the road level. Given that Magna Water Authority is not solely responsible, the expenditure falls on the city to ensure consistent access for necessary maintenance.
- **Survey from Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District:** Brickey announced a survey launched by the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District. The survey is designed to gather public feedback regarding service improvements and changes, such as requests for spring cleanup services. The survey, which takes about five to seven minutes to complete, will be shared on the city's webpage and Facebook page, aiming to engage residents in defining the services provided by the waste district.

Paul Ashton provided a brief legislative update, noting plans for a more in-depth report at the following meeting. He shared that the legislature had passed 512 bills during the session. This legislative activity could have broad implications for city administration, depending upon the specifics of the enacted bills.

David Brickey also highlighted a significant financial win for the city. Magna has secured \$1,400,000 in funding from the legislature earmarked for improvements to 8000 West. Discussions with their legislative lobbyist are planned to devise strategies that might increase funding in subsequent years. This new funding represents a promising opportunity for ongoing infrastructure projects to enhance the community.

10. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Pierce mentioned an upcoming meeting with Madison scheduled to discuss emergency management strategies and initiatives for the community. She further indicated that more detailed insights from the meeting will be shared in her subsequent report, aiming to keep the council informed on preparedness measures and potential collaboration opportunities.

Council Member Hull discussed ongoing activities within the Communities That Care (CTC) framework. She also noted the scheduling of a UFA breakfast event on May 17, which presents an opportunity for networking and discussing public safety enhancements with other

community leaders and stakeholders. Hull emphasized the value of CTC data in tracking community issues like mental health and substance abuse, with a focus on potential future goals around addressing fentanyl risks.

Council Member Sudbury reported on the Unified Police Department (UPD) finance committee meetings and ongoing budget discussions. He shared that recent talks have centered around financial separations between UPD and Salt Lake County, along with compensation and benefits considerations. Additionally, UPD's regular meeting on March 20 will be pivotal as budget season approaches, providing a framework to address forthcoming fiscal needs.

Mayor Barney shared comprehensive updates from the most recent MSD board meeting. Highlighted were budget presentations from the district attorney's office, which managed to streamline their budget by approximately \$27,000 due to efficiencies brought by experienced attorneys, totaling \$390,345 requested from the MSD. Additional attention was directed toward the expansive \$1.7 million budget for the Salt Lake County Justice Court, encompassing operational necessities like security, court tech systems, and interpreters. He also spotlighted two community projects recently completed:

1. **New lighting installed at White Farm Park:** This project aimed to enhance safety and visibility along the park's pathways and playground areas. The initiative was noted for providing significant improvements in public safety and accessibility during nighttime.
2. **Mantle Park Renovations, Sponsored by the RDA:** These renovations have rejuvenated the area with better landscaping and lighting, improving accessibility and aesthetics. Feedback from the public has been largely positive, particularly among patrons of the adjacent Empress Theatre, who have noticed the enhanced safety and accessibility features.

Council Member Sudbury moved to recess the City Council Meeting to move into Closed Sessions as highlighted below. Council Member Prokopis seconded the motion; the vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

11. CLOSED SESSIONS IF NEEDED AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE §52-4-205

- A. Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual.**
- B. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.**
- C. Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property.**
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and**
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205**

12. ADJOURN

Council Member Hull moved to adjourn the March 11, 2025 Magna City Council Meeting. Council Member Prokopis seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

The March 11, 2025 Magna City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

This is a true and correct copy of the March 11, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes, which were approved on March 25, 2025.

Attest:

Diana Baun, Magna City Recorder

Eric Barney, Magna City Mayor

DRAFT