

City of La Verkin

435 North Main St., La Verkin, Utah, 84745
(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104
www.laverkin.org

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:00 pm.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Kelly Wilson; Council Members: Patricia Wise, Blair Gubler, Richard Hirschi, Micah Gubler, and Darren Prince; Staff: Derek Imlay, Kyle Gubler, Fay Reber, and Nancy Cline; Public: Nick Wright, and Toby Gutierrez

5:00 Work Meeting:

1. Legislators: No legislators attended.

A. Called to Order –Blair Gubler gave the invocation/thought and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

B. Presentation:

1. Nick Wright from HVFD

Nick reported on the March statistics. They are buying five million dollars' worth of equipment. They applied for an ISO rating. It will be a 4/X which helps with insurance coverage and price.

C. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Minutes:
4. Checks & Invoices:

The motion was made by Councilwoman Patricia Wise to approve the consent agenda as written, including the minutes. Checks and invoices, second by Councilman Micah Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Prince-yes, Hirschi-yes, Wise-yes, Blair Gubler-yes, Micah Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Hearing:

1. Water Rate increase and water impact fee increase, as contained in the 2025 La Verkin City Culinary Water Master Plan update, user rate analysis, and Impact fee analysis.

The public hearing opened at 6:07 pm.

No comments were made.

The public hearing closed at 6:08 pm.

E. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2025-03 an ordinance approving and adopting:
(i) the 2025 La Verkin city culinary water master plan update, user rate analysis, impact fee analysis and impact fee facilities plan, (ii) an increase in municipal culinary water rates, and (iii)an increase in water.

Fay explained the ordinance adopts three things. One is that you've got the Culinary Water Master Plan Update, that whole packet that our engineers put together, and then as Exhibit B, we're adopting the increase in water rates that we talked about last meeting, and then Exhibit C is the increase in water impact fees. Those things were all exhibits to the ordinance also in implementation for the primary water rate increase the monthly fee. The ordinance provides that it's going to begin June 1, 2025. That's an arbitrary date that he put in there just simply so that we'd have time maybe to get the word out to our citizens. It could be any other date that you may want to specify. On the implementation date, the increase in impact fees can't take effect for a period of 90 days. That's why we have the date of July 19th.

Councilman Prince suggested the mayor make a video to put on social media explaining why the water increase has happened.

Councilwoman Wise asked if the increase would be all at once or phased in over two or three years.

Mayor Wilson responded he thought they decided to do the increase all at once because phasing it in didn't save the citizens very much money.

Councilman Blair Gubler would like to phase in the increase over a two-year time.

Mayor Wilson replied when they discovered it would only be a \$5 difference they decided to go ahead and do the increase all at once.

Councilman Micah Gubler agreed that is what he remembered also.

Councilman Prince added that the \$5 wasn't much but the one-year period would add up to a lot of money collected or missed in the end.

Kyle asked what the inflation rate would be that is added to the bill. He remembered it being 3% but with a cap of 5%. If we're going to do that, we need to decide how that's going to be set. If it's not going to be a specific amount, you're going to have a meeting and determine that, before you can raise it. Inflation could get higher. Who sets the inflation rate? The staff need to know so they can change the bill. He would like to have that number.

Mayor Wilson added the Sewer district is at 5%. He asked if we need a public hearing if the rate changes.

Fay replied that we wouldn't need a public hearing if this ordinance stated it would increase by 3% every year. But if they were changing it higher than the ordinance stated they would have to have a public hearing.

Councilman Micah Gubler commented if they agreed to do the increase all at once he would like the inflation rate to be lower at 3%.

Councilwoman Wise discussed the billing would be \$46.07 for the base rate then 3% inflation on top of that wouldn't be much of a raise. If we decide 3% to 5% cap it's only \$2. How would we determine that a raise would be needed?

Kyle replied it's raised for repair and replacement costs. They figure equipment has about 40 year life.

Blair added the state wants to see a plan in place preparing for the future expenses. They recommend a water study every 5 years. We could look at just the user rates in 3 years to see how it keeps up with the needs.

Kyle added they will know to raise rates with the inflation through the budget. It will show if the funds are being used too quickly for repair and maintenance.

Councilwoman Wise suggested to start the new rates as of July 1st. That gives the public two months for notice on their bill that the water rate rise will begin July 1st.

Kyle added that the July rate would show up on the August bill.

The motion was made by Councilman Micah Gubler to approve Ordinance No. 2025-03 an ordinance approving and adopting: (i) the 2025 La Verkin city culinary water master plan update, user rate analysis, impact fee analysis and impact fee facilities plan, (ii) an increase in municipal culinary water rates, and (iii) an increase in water , with the additional language stating annual inflation raise of 3% not to exceed 5% with the city councils approval and begins culinary rate July 1, 2025 and July 19th for water impact fee, second by Councilman Richard Hirschi. Roll Call Vote: Prince-yes, Hirschi-yes, Wise-yes, Micah Gubler-yes, Blair Gubler-no. The motion passed.

2. Discussion and possible action to set a Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2025-2026 on May 21, 2025. Kyle explained they discussed in the budget retreat an increase for the police, COLA raises, and city council raises. Our general fund budget is just under three million dollars and our overall budget for all funds is just over six million dollars.

The tentative budget addresses most of the items talked about in the budget retreat. The rest will be done with a budget amendment. The public hearing is in a month, and it will be made available to the public seven days before the hearing.

The motion was made by Councilman Richard Hirschi to set a Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget 2025-2026 on May 21, 2025, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Prince-yes, Hirschi-yes, Wise-yes, Micah Gubler-yes, Blair Gubler-yes. The motion passed.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Wilson- Reported there would be a scholarship night at the high school May 13th at 7:00 p.m. He asked for a volunteer. There are 4 or 5 recipients they may have to choose. If there is less, they will give one to each applicant. Councilman Darren Price volunteered to go. The City Alliance has a meeting is Monday at 11 o'clock at the Holland Center in Dixie Tech. All that can be there from the city council, we encourage you to be there.

Blair Gubler- We had a solid waste meeting. I don't know how many of you know Lacey O'Hare that's out there at the landfill. She was their secretary. She's now the new district manager for solid waste. She lives in Hurricane right now. She's been there for about 12 years, so I think she'll do all right. They just had policy changes for their employees and that was about it. And they are going to start recycling glass.

Wise- Reported on the planning commission meeting on April 9th. She attended the DTEC meeting, Dixie Transportation Executive Council, that a majority of mayors attend or counsel people for them. There was some paperwork for consideration of Utah's federal transportation re-offering, principles that the state must comply with. Basically, it took DEI considerations, out of the language, and that any hirings, etc. would have to be done on merit. One of the council members brought up a situation, she said these people would not be hired on merit, like in the open marketplace. She said they have coping skills, they have physical disabilities, etc. So how does merit work in that sense? It was kind of just a conversation amongst the group. It was decided that merit is loosely defined, and merit could be defined in many ways. That was approved to allow that change in language.

UDOT has indicated that federal monies are expected, to potentially dry up, and so they're looking at all of their projects very carefully as to whether, if it's a pass-through entity like Zion Corridor Trail is one of them, and then other projects not trail-related, they want to make sure that those projects are moving forward in a timely manner, and evidently they kind of feel like they haven't.

Zion Corridor Byway Community Conversation is scheduled for this Tuesday in this room at 4 p.m. Hurricane and La Verkin are sharing it. There's also a QR code on the flyer that if you can't make the meeting, you could do the survey. There is an outdoor recreation planning grant, just planning assistance, and it would be a partnership of La Verkin, Hurricane, Washington County, and with the Water Conservancy District applying for funding that is a 100% match so that there's no money that La Verkin would need to pay. It's to complete a feasibility study for a shared use paved path that extends from Confluence Park and Hurricane La Verkin up the Virgin River to the historic Hurricane and La Verkin Canal diversion and then out to the canyon to connect with the Zion Corridor Trail that is slated to run along SR-9. This proposed trail is approximately 5 miles in length and will be called the Pah tempe-Virgin River Canyon Trail. Stakeholders are committed to see this project through providing project management, attending progress meetings, reviewing reports, mapping, providing data and feedback. We expect the following results from this project, identification of alignment alternatives, completion of an appropriate need path, that's environmental documents, that will make progress funds and or land identification of a preferred alignment with 30% design and engineers estimate with the growing population of Washington County increased tourism comes the need for more recreational infrastructure. The Pah tempe Virgin River Canyon Trail will provide an amazing outlet for locals and will also attract tourists who will support our recreation economy. I'm asking tonight is the council's approval for the mayor to sign a letter of support. The committee right now consists of Darren Prince myself representing La verkin, Arthur LeBaron and mayor Billings for hurricane, Leslie Fonger for the county, and then Zach Rundstrom from the water district. This is just a planning assistance grant. There is no money required. If later things were going extremely well

and we wanted to consider engineering, that's a 50% match, but that's not in the initial request. The state also helps with project management.

She asked the council's approval for the mayor to sign a letter of support. They all agreed.

Micah Gubler-. Reported the fair is going on this week. The royalty had a float in the parade, and the city has a display up. Easter celebration this Saturday at 9.30 a.m. at Wanless Park and 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt. And we had Matthias Schmidt he's got a stargazing activity on April 21st at Power Plant Park, 8.30 p.m. Citizens might want to bring a red-light headlamp if you have one and binoculars if you have it. The youth council registrations are coming up in May.

Hirschi.- the special service district, their meetings towards the end of the month, we haven't met yet, but the last meeting we had with them, everything was doing fine

Prince-. Nothing to report

Fay Reber-. Nothing to Reported

Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

Toby Gutierrez if there was any chance or consideration of putting a dimmer light, or some other shaded light, because that one light at the corner of my property, it just radiates.
Derek suggested going online to Rocky Mountain power.

Chistian Harrison wanted to know if he could get a digital copy of the tentative budget. He gave his email and will receive a copy.

H. Adjourn:

The mayor closed the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

5-7-2025

Date Approved

ATTEST:

Nancy Cline
Nancy Cline
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson