

## Independence Town Council Minutes

October 7, 2014

Wasatch County Library/Senior Center, 465 E. 1200 S. Music Room, Heber, UT

1. Mayor Sweat called the meeting to order at 7:00. Council members Ryan, Heaton, Duke and Laird were present.
2. Jeff Laird led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Bill Duke led the prayer.
4. Council reviewed the draft minutes of June 3, 2014. Council member Heaton noted the need for several corrections to the draft minutes. Council member Ryan moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Council member Duke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Council reviewed the draft minutes of June 17, 2014. Council member Heaton suggested corrections to the draft minutes. Council member Ryan moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Council member Duke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Mel McQuarrie gave a road improvement update. The chip seal is completed. Drainage is still a problem on Center Creek road. The County had performed unauthorized work, which has not improved the situation. The County had agreed that it would not charge us for the work, but has now billed us.

Mayor Sweat expressed concern about recent bills for County maintenance work outside of the Town boundary above the dug way. Mel McQuarrie confirmed that the work performed was not within the Town boundary. Mayor Sweat noted that the County has billed us almost \$10,000 for dug way repairs outside of the Town boundary.

Dug way repairs will be privately contracted in the spring. Mr. McQuarrie will draft specifications for the required work, so it can be publicly bid.

Council resolved to pay the Chip seal bill and to reject the bills for unauthorized work.

7. Ms. Hoffman gave a traffic calming update. Her research indicated that the speed bump options are both expensive and not well received by the real estate community. The Sheriff's office would like to help, but would like to discuss the town's philosophy of traffic calming prior to making a proposal. Our meeting is scheduled for Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Sweat suggested the stop sign at 3600 East should be removed. Council member Laird noted that removing the sign is contrary to the Town's traffic calming goal. However, it is a hazard when drivers disregard the signs.

The council requested an action item about the stop sign on the next agenda.

Mayor Sweat asked us to inquire about a solar powered radar sign. The Council discussed the appropriate speed limit for the road and concluded that the 35mph speed limit was appropriate, if it were respected.

The Council discussed ATV and snowmobile use of the road.

Council member Heaton requested a full update after the Sheriff's meeting.

8. Ms. Hoffman explained the background for the proposed transportation resolution. Statewide, local governments have a multi-billion dollar unfunded need for road maintenance and construction. B&C road funds, which are dedicated for road maintenance and construction, fund less than 30% of the outstanding road maintenance needs. Further, B&C funds are derived from a gas tax, which is based on a set amount per gallon. The gas tax was conceived as a user fee for roads, but because gas and diesel powered cars have become fuel efficient, and because the trend toward hybrid and full electric vehicles is accelerating, the gas tax is no longer a road user fee and revenues from the tax will continue to decline in proportion to actual road use.

In addition to local governments' needs for road maintenance funds, the state road development needs continue to grow. There is credible talk of a 5-10 cent per gallon gas tax increase during the 2015 legislative session and to index the tax to keep pace with inflation. There hasn't been a gas tax increase in over 20 years and there probably won't be another one for over a decade. However, the proposed increase would fund only a small fraction of the existing multibillion-dollar local road maintenance deficit.

Further, transportation statewide is no longer just about roads. UTA is its own multibillion-dollar system that competes with local governments at the state legislature for the same tax dollars. Last year, UTA (which only serves the Wasatch front) requested new sales tax authority that would have been more than all of the sales tax revenue received by all 245 cities and towns of the state.

The ULCT believes there is a limited amount of "headroom" in sales tax. If the legislature authorizes an increase in sales tax for one purpose, it effectively eliminates the availability of sales tax for another purpose. As such, the ULCT membership authorized a comprehensive push to capture an additional .25% sales tax for local transportation needs. The revenues would be generated state wide, but would be distributed on the same basis as our 1% local option sales tax.

The membership requested each city and town within the state to consider adopting a model resolution to support the legislative effort in 2015. A compilation of those resolutions will be provided to the 2015 legislature to show grass roots support for a local option to provide additional funds for local road maintenance.

If the legislature grants the local option, the Council would then be able to consider whether it wants to impose the additional sales tax within the Town to access the

statewide pool of funds. The resolution itself expresses support for new sales tax authority and support for expanded latitude in how we can spend those funds, but it does not commit the Town to impose the tax once the authority is granted.

Mayor Sweat expressed concern that trail users aren't paying for expansion of transportation options. Ms. Hoffman explained that unlike the gas tax, everyone—especially tourists—pay sales tax. The sales tax is a way to capture revenues from non-residents.

Mayor Sweat noted problems with a form resolution that was drafted primarily for Wasatch front communities. If the Town were to adopt a similar resolution, it should be modified to express our concerns, but not concerns that apply elsewhere.

Mayor Sweat asked if the new authority would relieve developers of the need to build trails and sidewalks. Ms. Hoffman noted that developers would have the same exactions, but the money could be used by the Town to maintain roads and trails that are dedicated to the public.

Council member Heaton questioned whether the proposal would adequately fund the projected shortfall.

Council requested additional time to consider the resolution.

9. Mayor Sweat reviewed the new county snowplow contract. The contract is authorized in the budget and has been executed for the 2014-15 season.

10. Ms. Hoffman gave a development update. The Council asked for an overview of the process to annex private property into Independence. Ms. Hoffman reviewed the importance of Resort Cities Sales tax to the Town and how new development must maintain the Town's resort cities status. She explained that the process starts with a meeting to discuss how the annexation can comply with or enhance our resort cities status.

Mayor Sweat inquired about bed and breakfasts and how they contribute to the overall resort cities plan. Ms. Hoffman noted that B&Bs are helpful for the town's revenues. She also discussed a trend at the state level to mandate that cities and towns allow "Air B and B" and VRBO rentals in all homes. She suggested that these models help Independence, because they add short term rental "pillows" to compliment our status as a resort city. Every pillow added within our Town provides additional latitude to develop full time residences without impacting our resort cities status.

Ms. Hoffman discussed the impact of recent Census updates to our town population. With the new numbers, we should encourage the development of short-term rental pillows at every opportunity.

Ms. Hoffman reviewed development at the Daniels Summit. There is a new application for a culinary well at Daniels Summit Estates. Construction on the cell tower is progressing.

11. Council set the next meeting date for November 11. The Council discussed the need for two meetings per month, but concluded that the Town should meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The Council will re-evaluate the need for additional meetings in April.

12. Council member Heaton moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Council member Laird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dated this 11th day of November 2014.

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Phil Sweat, Mayor

Attest:

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Jodi Hoffman, Acting Town Clerk

Draft