

SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION WORK MEETING

May 20, 2025, 10:00 AM

Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 North Main, Suite 101, Manti, Utah

Present are: Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew, Commissioners Mike Bennett and Jim Cheney. Deputy County Attorney Wes Mangum and Deputy County Clerk Shanya Peterson.

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew at 9:53 AM.

DISCUSSION WITH WOMEN FROM SPRING CITY TO HEAR THEIR CONCERNS IN REGARDS TO EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT.


Commissioner Bartholomew addresses the public and asks them to state their name for the record.

Public Attendees: Sonja Brown – Spring City, served on the Growth Committee, Ann Robinson, Ruth Bergeuer, Susan McEwen – Spring City, Stephanie Ficcat – Spring City, Sue Toles – County, Yvonne Wright – Spring City, Kim Crowley – Spring City, Ginny Howie – County, Kat Coldwell – Spring City, Pam Jenkins – Spring City, Marie Danielson – County, Kadee Powell – County, Becky Fellhauer – Spring City, Ms. Jorgensen – County

Commissioner Bartholomew states that he reviewed the notes that were sent and also drove through Spring City to get a feel for the community. He adds, “This meeting is yours.” Ms. Brown addresses the commission, stating that the group would like to be a part of a town that has a general plan. She explains, Spring City doesn’t have a general plan. She says we have something in place, that tells the basic vision and history of Spring City. it is not adequate—it was done by local residents and lacks the depth and professional guidance needed. Ms. Brown notes that 100% of the towns in Sanpete County have hired professionals to develop a general plan, covering transportation, building codes, utilities, and annexation. Spring City’s Council has refused to do so, which is their first concern—especially regarding a major rezoning issue currently before the County Commission. She continues saying we haven’t received the professional guidance the way they need and would like to have a fully elected City Council before decisions like this are made. She states that Spring City hasn’t had that in a long time. Ms. Brown states that they come

today as mothers of Spring City and of the County to ask for time and for counsel. They want time to do a general plan in a professional way. She states that they can apply for a grant through the Utah League of Cities and Town so it's not a matter of funding. In Spring City, they've been pushing quickly to do utility expansion, bonding and new massive redevelopment plans around Spring City. At the same time, the City Council is pushing to do multi-family housing and .5 acre lots in town. She states City Council keeps telling them that it won't affect the buffer zone. She states we all know and the planning administrator made it clear you set a precedent when you do it in town it applies to the buffer zone. Ms. Brown says these are their concerns and that's why they're here to ask the Commission to pause and give them six months to work through their issues. She states they're just about to put forward new candidates for the City Council. She adds that they are about to put forward new City Council candidates and can no longer rely on people just "taking turns" on the council. Ms. Brown states they have a millionaire developer who has 100 acres so if they go to half acre lots with multi-family housing you could double or triple the size of Spring City. She expresses concern about the longstanding strained relationship between Spring City and the County and says they would like to be the example on how to shape the buffer zone and work with the County. Ms. Brown says Spring City's Planning and Zoning Commission isn't being respected, which is a concern. She states multiple council members are in the same LDS ward and two of them are leading the charge for the massive development. One council member, who is also president of Horseshoe Irrigation, allegedly refuses to recuse himself from water-related votes—even though Utah Code section 10-3-2 requires transparency and avoidance of conflicts of interest for individuals in such positions. She closes by saying: "Women care about the same things you do—dirt, water, and food. Nearly every decision comes down to that." She urges the Commission to learn from the mistakes made along the Wasatch Front and to consider water availability carefully. Although they are told there is enough water, some residents have noticed wells drying up. They want time to verify water resources before further development proceeds. She also asks the Commissioners to consider that more and more people are going to want to grow their own food because of the chemicals that are put in our food and how it is affecting everyone. Ms. Brown states, they're not against growth but would like to work with the County to do it right and in a thoughtful way. Commissioner Bartholomew asks how many years they have lived in Spring City. Sonja Brown states she is from Bountiful and has lived in Spring City for five years. Ann Robinson states she bought property in Spring City a year ago but lives in Salt Lake. A few unknown speakers say they have lived there between two

and a half years to five years. One lady states she has lived here for seventeen years and another said fifteen years. Kim Crowley states she moved to Spring City in 2014 and her biggest concern is who the old timers are selling their property to. Another unknown speaker said she's lived in Spring City for twenty-one years and her concern is the half acre lots. Ginny Howie states her concerns are her view and that she could run out of water. She also states that she has lived in Spring City for twenty years. Pam Jenkins states that she has lived in Spring City for thirty-four years. Unknown speakers said five years and another states one year. Another unknown speaker said she has lived in Sanpete County since 1972 and in Spring City since 2008. Commissioner Bartholomew asks, Mr. Black how long he has lived there. Mr. Black states that his family settled Spring City in 1959. Randy Strate states his family also settled Spring City. He is a fourth-generational farmer born and raised there. Commissioner Bartholomew states the reason he is asking how long they have lived there is because one of Spring City previous mayors said that the people that have been there for four years to five years or less are the ones that want the change and the ones that have been there longer do not. He states he is hearing just the opposite from them. Discussion ensues about how times are changing and a lot of towns are pushing for a smaller lot size. Commissioner Bartholomew states that these issues are very complex and there is no easy solution. Kadee Powell states that it is a complex issue so it should be taken slowly and with great care. She asks for time to get a plan in place. Commissioner Bartholomew clarifies that the decision that's going to be made is whether or not the County goes forward with letting this go to Planning and Zoning. It's stated that Spring City is a National Historical District. Ms. Brown states that we should find a way by doing a general plan to protect what's there and create a thoughtful way to accommodate new people coming to Spring City. Commissioner Bartholomew encourages them to go to their City Council meeting so they can give them their information and their counsel.

ATTEST: 
Linda Christiansen
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED: 
Scott Bartholomew
Commission Chair