

SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2015

The City Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maile Wilson; Councilmembers: Ron Adams; John Black; Paul Cozzens; Don Marchant; Fred Rowley.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Rick Holman; City Attorney Paul Bittmenn; City Engineer Kit Wareham; City Recorder, Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; Police Chief Robert D. Allinson; Building Official Larry Palmer; Economic Development Director Danny Stewart.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator Evan Vickers, Representative John Westwood, Jeff Lowe, Al Matheson.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION – SENATOR EVAN VICKERS AND REPRESENTATIVE JOHN WESTWOOD: Representative John Westwood – a few issues we see coming up and then we will take questions and comments. I had a good meeting today on our public lands in St. George, Ken Ivory did a very good job. Evan and I both set on the transfer caucus last session on public lands and it was very helpful, transferring of those lands would greatly help our education. Transportation gas tax will be a big discussion. We need to do something to maintain our roads/highways and a gas tax may be a way to do that. Electric cars and how they affect our road is also a concern and how they should be taxed is an issue. Black – the gas tax, could it be floating so when the prices are low it is up and comes down when prices go up. Evan Vickers – there are a number of discussions, \$.24.5 per gallon is the gas tax now; five cents would be a sales tax that can be capped with the high and low of prices. If you took a portion and converted to sales tax it would grow. Indexing has been talked about it, and I don't like that because it always goes up. There are options; the House and Senate have feelings about it. They have talked about a local option tax and most money would stay to B and C Road funds. I don't think it will fly because all counties would have to be on board, it would be an accounting nightmare. I think there will be an adjustment but it is an open discussion. We have done a good job on major corridors, but B and C road funds are not keeping up. Rowley – how much comes from federal? Evan – hardly any, all the projects on the freeway have been bonded for by the State. John – I wouldn't be for indexing either. Evan – if you have it go up and down it becomes a sales tax and you don't want it all to be done that way. John – there will be a lot of debate, but we need help with the B and C roads. Daylight savings time will come up. There are a few bills, to do away with it or to put it on the ballot. Farm bureau wants to keep it. The sportsmen are in favor of leaving it, and so are the car dealers. Amusement parks also. If you go with the Arizona way the sun comes up at 4:30 a.m. Rowley – with being close to the mountain zone we get a lot more light. Evan – more people would like to keep daylight savings time year round. Dairy farmers would do away with it, but the other farmers and ranchers want to keep it. John – the budget, we have an excess \$600 million, a lot will

be lining up for those funds, I see that shifting to one time money. Black – how does that compare to last year. Evan – last year it was about \$350 million total. Rowley – a few years ago did we complete the rainy day fund, will some money go to re-bolster that? John – yes, we are slowly building that back up, it was disbursed for the Parks which was a very good move. Evan in 2008 we had \$1.5 billion, we depleted it to about \$400 million, and it is now about \$800 million, we try to have about 10% in that fund. John – I agree with building that back up. Higher education and graduation rates, we are second in the State. We need to get funding for SUU on the higher ed. appropriation. State school board elections and how we elect the members will come up, keep it non-partisan, how they are elected will come up. We are still seeing a lot of action with the prairie dogs with PETPO, I applaud those people for all they have done, and we will see what happens in the courts, there has been a lot of good activity on that issue.

Southwest Applied Technology College would like to purchase the building they are in now from ICSD, they are on a lease purchase, and they need about \$200,000 more to purchase that. They are already seeing an increase in student body. The building board did not have that on their radar, it was presented and we talked to them about it and it was received favorably, they called it a no brainer. The building is going up and it will be a great addition to that part of town. It is wonderful for our area. Cozzens – I was glad when looking at the construction documents, to see them get away from lead and FSC certification. They try to do these lead buildings and it is a farce, in my industry they have FSC certification on the materials and I am certified to do that, the difference between the boards is a paper trail, and it raises the costs 30 to 40 percent and there is no difference in the material. The environmentalists have driven the costs of construction up considerably, it is unnecessary spending. We need to get away from LEAD and FSC certification. I would be happy to come up and give input sometime. Westwood – anything we can do to save money. Dixie ATC Building would be a priority, they were supportive of us with SWATC, the friends in the south helped us along and we need to reciprocate.

Cozzens – if they relocate the prison would they build a larger facility, would it rob us in our county? Evan – they will continue to use Gunnison as well as the jail contract, they recognize that is a good deal and will continue to do that. It would be the same prison with multiple buildings. Rowley – is the location that valuable that is consuming this much brain time or is it that the buildings are outdated? Evan – both, if you leave it in Draper you have to put \$400-\$700 million to renovate and you still don't have a new building and there is not a revenue stream. If you move it the property would generate a lot of money, it is high profile, high tech corridor and it creates a revenue stream for a new building. The downside is no revenue stream in leaving it there. Evan – you have to have distance from level 1 trauma center, access to the court and employee base as well as volunteer base. The farther out you go the more difficult to meet the criteria. The best story I have heard, Ralph Becker had an expert come to say if we put it in Salt Lake by the Airport and there was an earthquake it would create a tsunami with the Great Salt Lake and flood the prison. Westwood – there is a lot of not in my back yard (NIMBY). Vickers – it is mostly perception. When they built the county jail/State facility in my back yard that is how I got involved. In the end it is perception. One of the sites, West

Jordan had big economic potential and had companies looking and did not want to go with the prison there. Cozzens – Sevier School District updates their old schools, you can't do that with the prison? Evan – you can but you need a revenue stream. Rowley – you would get into asbestos and ADA with remodels. Vickers – most of the new facilities don't even have bars; you would tear down a lot by remodeling. The cost for prisoner in Gunnison is \$40 a day less than at the Point of the Mountain. Westwood – we need to not forget our county. Vickers – I got on this committee being rural and I know there are other counties in the state that would like a portion of the prison in their county, but it goes back to cost.

Westwood – we met with the Public Safety people and it was a good discussion. There will be bills to reduce from 1 to 5 arrests/convictions of drug use before it becomes a felony. Chief Allinson – this may impact our county, if they reduce from felony to class A misdemeanor which will put more in our county. There is some concern. They did a study on reducing prison population and how to treat drug offenders. There are a lot of ramifications, the DEA said the drug cartels are looking at this and then they will flood the area. We are watching it close. Rowley – would the costs of intervention be subsidized with the State? Vickers – right now if it is reduced, the worst case it could cause some problems. Very few of the first time offenders go to prison, they entice them to get involved in drug court and treatment plans. There were 16 or 18 items in the Pugh study, this is the biggest one. There would be \$2 million for cost share. Rowley – I hear about people doctor shopping, is there not a pharmaceutical data base? Evan – controlled substance data base, it is maintained tightly, law enforcement and physicians can get that, we use it to monitor that. Law enforcement uses it for issues, it is reduced, but it is a massive problem in the State. They are looking at a model to update daily or real time, now it is weekly. We may have discussions to have daily dumping. Rowley – the doctor shopping is significant in our community. Vickers – when they run out of doctors they go to illegal drugs, right now it is heroin. Westwood – we have HB 42 on the annexations. Westwood – I appreciate your time and efforts. It is good to see you up there.

Senator Vickers – it is an interesting topic and if you follow that, the air in Salt Lake valley today is cleaner than it was 20 years ago. A bulk is from automobiles and a small amount on wood burning stoves, I have read that high efficient wood burning stoves have little emission. There are a lot of concerns, when they went from tier 1 to tier 2 gases the emissions went down a lot, they are looking at going to tier 3 gases and there will be a lot of discussion. Healthy Utah Plan/Medicaid, the proposal is to increase and expand to 130% of the Federal level. Those above 100% of poverty level have tax credits, those in the middle do not have insurance, the expansion is extremely expensive and the numbers are changing continually. The numbers are between \$70 – \$138 million dollars each year; the Governor's plan is not being accepted well. We are looking at gap at a lower cost; there will be a lot of discussion. Transportation and budget are topics, ½ one time money and ½ ongoing, 75% of that is for education. Corporate income tax is the least favorable tax, least dependable tax. They are looking at \$118 million and moving it to one time instead of ongoing and then watch it until we know it will be there. There is only \$75 million in general fund for on-going funds. Buildings, programs that require

one time funds, example I have a proposal for prairie dog funds. We are working on a state plan and will have to have money to implement that; it would be one-time money. Catastrophic fire legislation, changing money into prevention that would be one-time money. Schools it could be for devices. Black – programs like Shakespeare? Vickers – yes, we are trying to get Summer Games money again.

State School Board Elections, Judge Waddups said you need to get rid of the system. The options are make it partisan, make it non-partisan, I look at it different than they do on the Wasatch Front, people here want to have more say, it used to be the local communities picked who went to the Governor, we now have no say. Look at the best candidate. Modify the current system or go back to the system they did until 1950 where it was an appointed board.

I am working on a bill with Congressman Stewart on wild horses and burros. Another bill that does not affect Iron County yet, but charter school and how it affects the local community, we are trying to take best practices and put into code. We will do weekly update. Every year I have done a survey, I have sent out a postcard to every citizen. This year I am using a different system by sending emails out to people and use social media. Take a minute and go online and take the survey and have as many people as possible do that, it is helpful. Thank you very much for your support. We don't have big ticket items this year.

You may have followed some things about Speaker Lockhart, she is not doing well, the family has asked to keep things private, but to say she is critically ill is an understatement, she has contracted an incurable disease and is not doing well.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Marchant moved to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.; second by Councilmember Black; vote unanimous.



Renon Savage, MMC
City Recorder