

Hildale City Council Meeting

320 East Newel Avenue, Hildale, Utah 84784

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor: Philip Barlow

Council Members: Carlos Jessop, Doran Jessop (telephonic), Brian Jessop, Edwin Barlow & Carvel Nielsen (telephonic)

City Recorder: Raymond C. Barlow

City Treasurer: Richard J. Barlow

Staff: Mary Ellen Johnson, Heber White, Daniel R. Barlow

Public: Brigham Holm, Scott Fischer, Tamara Barlow, Terrill Musser, Jesse Barlow, Chris Fischer, Shauna Hammon, Rosalee Bistline, JVar Dutson, Ashlee Bistline, Lamont Barlow, Clinton Barlow, Lawrence Barlow, George Jessop, Lori Chatwin, Dale Jeffs, Julie Jeffs, Lisa Steed, Ross Chatwin, Brent North, Cindy North, Misty Nicol, Jethro Barlow, Philip Jessop, Jared Nicol, Marvin Cooke, Arthur Blackmore, L. James Barlow, Sherrie Mackert, Cynthia Wayman, Miriam Jessop, Richard Holm, Shirlee Draper, Donia Jessop,

#1 Call to Order

Mayor Barlow called the meeting to order at 3:10

#2 Closed Executive Session

Carlos Jessop made the motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and include necessary staff.

Edwin Barlow seconded the motion.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Carlos Jessop	X		
Edwin Barlow	X		
Carvel Nielsen	X		
Doran Jessop	X		
Brian Jessop	X		

Motion carried.

Council Members went for Executive Session from 3:10 until 3:55.

Meeting reconvened at 4:00

#3 Approval or Discussion of Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Claims, and Demands

Mayor Barlow explained there is nothing in this area to go over at this meeting.

#4 Approve Minutes of Hildale City Council Meetings

Minutes were not ready for approval.

#5 Public Comment

Mayor Barlow explained public comment process and invited the public to comment.

Scott Fischer spoke about agenda items #11 and #12. He was told he could get the detail if he will fill out a documents request

Sherrie Mackert commented on the availability of the copies of minutes from the previous meeting. She was told once they are approved they will become available.

Jared Nicole spoke about agenda items #7. He commented that a water rights purchase should not cause a tax increase. He stated that the council wanted to raise our tax rates. He also said that the council stated they wanted to do the right thing. He wanted the council to know that if a change was not made, he would vote against the tax increase.

Jvar Duston went over the tax rates for the surrounding areas including Washington City, Hurricane, and Ivans. He said if we raised our tax rates they would become 73% higher than the highest of the surrounding communities. He wanted to know why the public entity would need that much more revenue. He said he wanted to be fair and stated he knew the reasons we have a high property tax.

Lamont Barlow asked if there would be time for further questions as we go through each agenda item. He stated he wanted to say more about tax rates later in the meeting. Mayor Barlow stated the council had some information to present.

Ross Chatwin asked what the public could do about it if they were not pleased with the information that was presented. Mayor Barlow said we would follow the process.

#6 Consider and adoption of a resolution to amend the fiscal year 2016 budget

Mayor Barlow stated that the budget must be balanced. We need to open the budget and talk about adjustments. There are items to go over with the treasurer and recorder. It is a resolution wherein we have been struggling to make things match. We need to make a motion in order to get it right to accept the changes. We went over some of the items in a public hearing last week.

Treasurer, Richard Barlow, said he looked at the final numbers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and reviewed from last year. He stated we may need some line item adjustments

Mayor Barlow explained to the public that funds are for specific projects, including: Fire Department, IGA Revenues, Grants – Including CIB, and the fire truck and ambulance.

Richard Barlow spoke about risk management \$149,000, joint utilities, - need to finish last form. In the past, the funds for utilities included gas, water, and sewer, and operating funds and expenses.

Mayor Barlow said the motion should be made to accept the resolution to amend the budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Carlos Jessop moved to adopt resolution No. 2016-06-06: a resolution adopting final budget for fiscal year 2015-16 for Hildale City, Washington County, Utah.

Brian Jessop seconded.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Carlos Jessop	X		
Edwin Barlow	X		
Carvel Nielsen	X		
Doran Jessop	X		
Brian Jessop	X		

Motion carried.

#7 Consideration and adoption of a resolution setting the current year's tax rate for Hildale City, Utah.

Raymond Barlow, Recorder, stated that the tax rate was set by the state and certified by the county clerk, but the tax rates are down because the property values are rising. He went over state and federal review amount. We are recommending that rather than go through the process of truth in taxation, we will leave the rate as is.

Treasure comments on Truth in Taxation:

We can accept the current rate or go through truth in taxation between now and August 17th. It's an evaluation of the things we need. Mention was made to hold to our mission statement, which is worth upholding. We can accept that and proceed. Tax payments are based on a five year rolling average. The budget is based on the past years taxes being paid. The tax rate went through a decline in 2002-2004. It is climbing very slowly. In order to apply money, they have to apply current rather than past due. We need a certain amount to account for basic services. We draw a tax rate to make our city so it can survive. We need to fix the roads. I reach to know how to fund that. That is one of the efforts of going through truth in taxation. The purchase of the water rights wasn't made with tax money. Whenever you have an asset, you have to set money aside for that. You may have to reserve for a particular purpose. So, it looks like you have the money, but you don't have it if you don't set it aside. It has been explained for that benefit. We want to be fiscally responsible for your services and rights – and be pleased with the services and basic government functions. It has been stated that we need help on Central Street retention, as well as Carling Street and Canyon Cove. That is in the next year budget. We have a lot of work to go through to get a loan instead of a grant, but we have to have a way to pay back. These are things we need to consider. We need to keep it transparent.

Mayor: After the public hearing last week, it wasn't beneficial to go with raising taxes which is verified by this audience. We posted notices of the public hearing. Our rates are high in the county, but compared with Colorado City, you will find what high is, Arizona's rates are higher

than here. We can look for other ways. Your suggestions are well taken. We are here to provide services and improve the community. This is our only intention. This is a formality to send the certified tax rate back to the county clerk before we start a new year- it is shown to the state in order to meet the state and requirements. We want to follow the statutes on this item.

Carlos Jessop: We can see that there is a lot of representation here today. As I understand, the formality that we are going through today, we must take steps in order to receive from the state funds that are set aside for our use to help our community.

Richard Barlow: Three years ago we ended up with kind of a balloon payment on delinquent taxes. At the same type of council meeting that we are having today, Mr. Jessop said we want to show the public we know how to cut taxes. The tax rate was proposed to set taxes at \$110,000. So we approved the tax rate at \$100,000 so what we are facing today is making up that difference. I appreciate the effort and want to express my gratitude. If we accept the certified tax rate today we will have to accept the budget for 2017 today.

Mayor: Over the last few years we have been striving to understand the property tax, we have been to the county clerk's office and he has been helpful in explain how the property tax works. Tax rates are based on a five year rolling average on collections in taxes. If the tax collections go down the rate goes up, but as the taxes go to Sherriff sale. He then explained what happened a three years ago. If everybody pays their taxes everybody's taxes do down.

Carlos Jessop made the motion to accept Hildale City Resolution #2016-06-03 a resolution setting the current year's tax rate for Hildale City, Utah.

Brian Jessop seconded. Roll call vote:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Carlos Jessop	X		
Edwin Barlow	X		
Carvel Nielsen	X		
Doran Jessop	X		
Brian Jessop	X		

Motion carried.

Raymond Barlow, City Recorder, presented resolution and certified tax rate for signing.

After the motion, Brian Jessop asked that Richard clarify: So, we are trimming the budget because we anticipated truth in taxation. The mayor then stated that the adjustments would be minimal at this point.

#8 Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution to Adopt Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget

Richard Barlow went over the review list for the budget items.

Mayor Barlow stated that we are down from last year on quite a few items. The effect of not have truth in taxations is \$5492.00. It might be worth it if it was \$50,000.00. As a city, we have these needs. Is the taxation making that work? That is what the transparency is. We took the amount from General Administration. That is what we chose to do to make that happen.

Carlos Jessop: If we set it lower, we may get lost in my simplistic language.

Mayor Barlow: We will have to buckle down and make it work better.

Richard Barlow: We could be taking line items off office equipment. It is something we will have to do, but can be decided. This budget will be posted on the state website.

Carvel Nielsen: Is this readily available for the public that has come today?

Richard Barlow: We want to fulfill the mission statement.

Mayor Barlow: We want to make sure this is finalized. We can give you the links or a pdf you can print.

Brian Jessop: How soon will you have this available?

Richard Barlow: Three business days according to state statutes.

Mayor Barlow: Richard has done a lot of work on this budget, and you can see the comparisons. The grants don't help with the budget. They pay for the projects. It is going to be tight when we get to the end of these projects.

Carlos Jessop made the motion to accept the Hildale City Resolution 2016-06-04 adopting the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget for Hildale, Utah with reducing the property tax by approximately \$6,000.

Edwin Barlow seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Roll call vote:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Carlos Jessop	X		
Edwin Barlow	X		
Carvel Nielsen	X		
Doran Jessop	X		
Brian Jessop	X		

Motion carried.

#9 Consider and Possible Appointment of Hildale Prosecution Attorney

Mayor Barlow: Kimball Forbes has been our prosecuting attorney. He has done a good job and is willing to continue. He recently moved to a new firm. It is proposed to hire Ken Brendall, which is that same as Town of Colorado City for continuity between the cities. Cost difference was discussed. There will be a combined travel if we use the same prosecuting attorney.

This item was tabled.

#10 Consideration and Adoption of a Joint Resolution Adopting Utility Fund Segregation

Richard Barlow: The utility funds are separate: water, sewer, and gas. They operate jointly under the utility board. They serve both communities. At the end of every year, there must be an allocation of assets. Wastewater is owned by Hildale City. The other departments are partly owned by Colorado City. We have propane and liquid natural gas. We put the resolution together hoping to get information from Justin Barlow. We have proposed that utility funds be segregated and allocated for budgeting purposes. We have proposed funds allocation between Hildale City and Colorado City. We didn't have a chance to refine this particular resolution with Justin. We need the detail on the number of gallons sold to Colorado City versus Hildale City. We can address it on the 12th of July. We would rather get this finalized and then review it.

Mayor Barlow: We have budgeted for these funds, and we are getting with the manager of these.

Richard Barlow: We are just allocating for accounting purposes, and we want to make sure they are justified.

Mayor Barlow: We have something in place

Richard Barlow: We review this every year. This will be one of the things to address

Mayor Barlow: Acceptance will be put to the next meeting.

#11 Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution for Adoption of Schedule of Fees and Penalties for 2016-2017

Mayor Barlow: For public information, you will have the packet with this information. Business Licenses that were \$35 need to be \$40. There was discussion about cost for Business License Fees for \$40 then prorated by quarter. *Discussion on prorating. Decided it would be cumbersome.*

Richard Barlow went over the list for fees and penalties

Raymond Barlow: GRAMA states that the first three papers are free on a records request. Research for records is \$18/hr. and is based on the time it takes.

Richard Barlow: We haven't had a chance to go over the building permit rates, so we want to move this to the July 12th meeting. It will be accurate when we vote on it.

This item was tabled to revisit on July 12th meeting.

#12 Consider and Adoption of a Resolution for Adoption of Salaries & Wages

Richard Barlow presented the schedule for salaries.

Brian Jessop moved to accept Hildale City Resolution 2016-06-08 a resolution adopting a schedule of salaries and wages for Hildale City, Washington County, Utah.

Edwin Barlow seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Carlos Jessop	X		
Edwin Barlow	X		
Carvel Nielsen	X		
Doran Jessop	X		
Brian Jessop	X		

Motion carried

Carvel Nielsen: I applaud Richard and Raymond on their booklet. This is the clearest budget that has been presented.

#13 Other Business

Not any at this time.

#14 Adjournment at 6:10 p.m

I verify that a copy of the notice and agenda was delivered to the Mayor and City Council members and posted at the City Hall, 320 E. Newel Avenue, Hildale, Utah and sent to the Utah State Public Meeting Notice coordinator.

Minutes were approved at the City Council Meeting on July 12th.

Raymond C. Barlow

Raymond C. Barlow, City Recorder

