



Washington City Council

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Agenda - Amended
Workshop Meeting
July 12, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Washington City Council will hold a Public Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Washington City Offices, located at 111 North 100 East, Washington, Utah.

1. Approval of the Agenda.
2. Review of the board audit report.
3. Discussion and review of applicants for the RAP Tax distribution, applications are:
Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park - Days of 47 Dixie - Brigham's Playhouse
4. Discussion regarding Telegraph Road and power lines. Public Works Director Mike Shaw / Power Director Kelly Carlson
5. Discussion to propose the naming of the Gazebo in Veteran's Park. Mayor Kenneth Neilson
6. Discussion and review of proposed Vote by Mail for 2017 election year. City Recorder Danice Bulloch
7. CLOSED SESSION
 - A. Discuss purchase, exchange or lease of property.
8. Adjournment

POSTED on this 11th day of July 2016
Danice B. Bulloch, City Recorder

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Washington City will make reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting. Request for assistance can be made by calling the City Recorder at 656-6308 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to be held.

Recorder Memorandum

MEETING DATE: *July 12, 2016*
TO: *Mayor & Council Members*
FROM: *Danice B. Bulloch, City Recorder*
REGARDING: *Vote by Mail proposal*

Staff would like to propose a “Vote by Mail” for Washington City. Voting by mail is a huge step for our City, a lot of research and time has gone into researching this option. Washington City, unlike many cities in the state, has not seen a decrease in voter turnout over the years, but the percentages are still very low. The best turn out was in 2013 at 28.44% and I was excited to have such a great turnout, which is overall a small amount of our population. In 2013 our absentee voters had a 75% voter turnout, and last year (2015) the absentee voters turnout was 69%.

I believe an increase in voter participation will happen with:

1. Most voters are very busy these days, if a ballot is sent right to their homes it relieves the stress of getting to a polling/voting location.
2. More time for research: “Vote by Mail” ballots are mailed approx 30 days before an election, giving voters more time to do their due diligence on the candidates.
3. Casting the vote: Should the Council look at doing a prepaid return postage, a voter simply drops the ballot in the mail. A ballot can also be dropped of at the City Office or Washington County Election Office.

Some of the concerns I have found are:

1. First year citizens were unsure and wanted to go to a polling location. Then next year, in every city I have spoke to, the citizens were happy and grateful to have the ballot sent to their homes.
2. Citizens had concern how to handle a problem with the ballot should one happen. They just simply return the ballot to my office and a new one is issued.
3. Fraud. All mail in ballots have the signatures matched to the voter registration form. If there is a problem it is addressed with the voter and resolved or rejected. Every possible precaution is made in handling mail in ballots.

Things for a better turnout for our citizens:

I have been working with the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on same day registration for a couple of year now. They have stated the amount of citizens wanting to do same day registration is low, however I feel it is a benefit to our citizens.

The Recorder's Office will be doing an Election Day Voting Center in our office. Voters who want to come into our office and vote will be able to vote with a provisional ballot and possible electronic machine. Our new office will allow us to handle a Voting Center perfectly.

Getting the information out to citizens early with as much information as possible. It will help keep them informed on Vote by Mail, and a Voting Center, also answer any questions they may have. I have attached an example of a letter from Salt Lake City compiled for their citizens. I want to do the same type of letter and send it out very early, along with the social media, newsletters, flyers, etc.

Attached:

1. News articles regarding the increase in voter turnout.
2. Example of SLC's Vote by Mail information.
3. Example of Riverton City Resolution adopting Vote by Mail and their cost comparisons.
4. Washington City Estimated Cost.
5. Washington City Comparison.

Our state is growing and along with it accessibility to government, which is something strongly supported by my office. One of these issues is voting. The ability to vote by mail is coming as it will be a requirement by the State someday. Staff would like to embrace the concept and look forward.



Turnout and Cost Comparison

	2011	2013	2015	2016 In-house	2016 Outsource
Number of Registered Voters					
Primary	8249	9800	9533	10330	10330
General	8420	9832	9838		
Voter Turnout					
Primary	11.31%	14.41%	14.76%	Approximately 50%	Approximately 50%
General	25.50%	28.44%	25.50%	Approximately 75%	Approximately 75%
Budget Cost	\$15,305.00	\$19,520.00	\$23,000.00	\$41,775.20	\$49,059.00
Poll Workers & Locations					
Number of Precincts					
Precincts	8	10	10	10	10
Early - By Mail	2	2	2	1	1
Voting Locations	4	4	5.5	0	0
Number of Poll Workers					
Voting Location X 4 Worker ea.	16 X 2 (P&G) = 32	16 X 2 (P&G) = 32	22 X 2 (P&G) = 44	City Office Voting Center	City Office Voting Center
Early Voting 9 days X 2 Workers (4 hrs per day)	18 X 2 (P&G) = 36	18 X 2 (P&G) = 36	18 X 2 (P&G) = 36	Staff + 1 Worker X 7 days	0
Alternates	3 X 2 (P&G) = 6	3 X 2 (P&G) = 6	3 X 2 (P&G) = 6	0	0