

# City of La Verkin

435 North Main St., LaVerkin Utah, 84745  
(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104  
www.laverkin.org

---

## La Verkin City Council Work Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

**Present:** Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Patricia Wise, Kelly Wilson, Ray Justice and Micah Gubler; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, Kevin Bennett, Chief Ben Lee and Christy Ballard; Public: Brian Stewart, Mary Williams and John Valenti.

**A. Called to Order** – Mayor Hirschi called the work meeting to order at 5:02pm

### 1. FY 2019-2020 Budget

Kyle passed out the proposed budget. He would like to have the tentative budget for the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and the final budget on the May 15<sup>th</sup> agenda. The budget needs to be approved no later than the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The General Fund has only received a few minor changes from the budget retreat. The cost of living was increased to 2% as instructed with the merit (bonus) percentage decreasing for each department to offset that. He suggested those bonuses be performance based and available September 30<sup>th</sup>. Derek had mentioned to Kyle the departments do not have the same number of people but the same dollar amount and wondered if the Water Fund could be used to increase his department's merit amount.

Councilman Gubler suggested dividing the merit percentage by employees and not departments, that way everyone would get the same percentage and the water fund would not need to be used for that.

Kyle continued that the money can be given as a one-time bonus or a merit increase. He is leaving that decision up to the Directors, but all raises need to be approved by him. He went over several different merit options for the employees. Overtime for the public works department has been included in this budget to cover special events.

The City Council wage increase has also been included in this budget and does require a resolution before it can take effect. A wage increase for the prosecuting attorney is also included; Mr. Weeks has not received a raise in ten years.

Kyle passed out a copy of the 2018 Certified Property Tax Rate. La Verkin is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Washington County. He went over possible increases to the Mil Levy and the additional dollar amount that would give the City.

Service Fees was the next option discussed. Some cities have implemented service fees and some of those cities have been challenged.

Fees need to be justified and can only be used for the specific use presented.

Kyle went over the additional income that would be received if the City added different amounts of residential connection fees and commercial connection fees.

Councilman Justice asked if there are stipulations on what a service fee cannot be used for.

Kyle replied there is not. It is how a city wants to set the definition.

Kevin stated he is worried about any fee La Verkin implements.

Councilwoman Wise pointed out the Council studied the water rate increase with help from Sunrise Engineering. If the City is interested in establishing a service fee for the roads there needs to be documentation and studies justifying that need.

Kyle stated the need and justification is already there. The roads are falling apart, and the BC Road Fund is not covering the need. It is a state-wide problem.

Councilwoman Wise stated she would like a plan with priorities listed that the additional money would be used for, to help the community understand the reason for the fee.

Kyle said Sunrise Engineering has helped La Verkin create a maintenance plan that could be used.

Councilman Wilson pointed out La Verkin has enough roads that need attention, it would not be difficult to create a plan. The City has a good idea of what needs to be done with maintaining infrastructure, if we can generate enough money we could bond for a bigger project and get more done.

Kyle reported most cities and counties in the State of Utah are supplementing the road maintenance with their General Fund.

The Local Option Sales Tax is another option that the Council will be addressing. The County has the option of imposing a ¼ of 1 percent sales tax to everything sold in the County. Washington County will probably be asking communities for a resolution supporting this tax increase. The State has given counties the option for this increase, but it needs to be done by July 1, 2020. From that quarter percent 40% will go to roads. One quarter of the increase will go to each city with a transit system, which is only St. George. And 20% of the increase goes to the County. The County claims that 20% should fund the St. George to Zion Park transit system.

Kyle gave a brief report on the proposed St. George to Zion transit system.

Kyle said the Councilmembers will need to decide if they would like to support the Local Option Sales Tax when it comes to us for support.

If the Council would like to do Truth in Taxation, they need to decide quickly to meet the deadline. The Council doesn't need to determine what they would like the Mil Levy to be, they just need to decide how much additional revenue the City needs, and the County will set the appropriate Mil Levy.

Councilwoman Wise asked about the time frame for the Local Option Sales Tax.

Kyle replied the County has until the middle of 2020 to impose that tax increase. If they choose not to, the cities will have the ability to impose it on their sales tax and receive all the money from the increase. La Verkin City would benefit more from a county wide increase.

There was a discussion on the proposed transit system.

Kyle explained an advisory board has been proposed to manage it and SunTran is the most likely to run it. He also discussed funding and what type of buses they think it will be.

Kyle suggested having another work meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> to finalize and approve the tentative budget on that agenda.

Councilwoman Wise mentioned she feels the Local Option Sales Tax will likely happen and since a portion of that will be specifically for roads, she doesn't feel a service fee for roads would be a good idea.

Before raising the property tax, she would like to know the specific dollar amount and the specific reason for the increase.

Councilman Wilson would like to know the amount La Verkin would receive for the Local Option Sales Tax before he decides on how best to increase the City's revenue.

Councilman Gubler agreed there needs to be a plan for an increase but feels the Directors are running as lean as they can and there are still needs everywhere.

The meeting closed at 5:57pm.

April 17, 2019  
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi  
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

ATTEST:

Christy Ballard  
Christy Ballard  
City Recorder