



Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm

1. Roll Call, Prayer, Pledge, Minutes

Minutes from 7-09-2019

a. Council/Staff Attendees

Minutes:

Mayor Rodney Rowley conducted the meeting. City Recorder, Kim Riggle, took minutes. City Council Members present were Dawnette Browning, Bryce Hamilton, Jeannie Mecham and Danny Peatross. Council Member Jason Baker was excused.

b. Public Attendees

Minutes:

Stephanie Robinson, Nate Robinson, Lane Genereaux, Paul Spencer

c. Prayer

Minutes:

Council Member Jeannie Mecham offered the prayer.

d. Pledge

Minutes:

Mayor Rowley led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

e. Minutes

Minutes:

MOTION by Council Member Hamilton, seconded by Council Member Mecham to approve the minutes from July 9, 2019 with 3 corrections on page 3.

- Council Member Browning – Aye
- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Business License

Minutes:

Sharli Fitzgerald submitted old paperwork signed by Mary Jo Ford for a business license to run the Ice Shack. She updated the info but the application doesn't have her signature.

MOTION by Council Member Hamilton, seconded by Council Member Mecham to give Sharli Fitzgerald a business license for the Ice Shack with the provision that she submits a new application.

- Council Member Browning – Aye
- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Bowling Alley - Stephanie Robinson

Minutes:

Stephanie Robinson would like to lease the bowling alley but she is very concerned about profits vs. losses and the reasons for the facility not making much money. She has contacted Brunswick and it is not cost effective to have their repair guy come up from Las Vegas. Her father used to own a bowling alley and can work on the machines but because of liability issues he is not allowed to even look at them. If she were able to lease the property, she believes she could make the changes necessary to run a profitable business. She is willing to be open more often and cater to special groups like the school P.E. classes and bowling leagues. Currently, there are so many repairs to be made and she does not expect the City to replace/repair everything all at once. Over time, parts and equipment can be replaced and maintained. Nate expressed concern about the cost of insurance and whether the money that he and Stephanie put into the facility will show a profit. He understands that the bowling alley loses money every year. Council Member Peatross mentioned that if they could get enough business, it probably would be profitable. Council Member Hamilton recommended the City collect all the pertinent information and give to Stephanie and Nate so they can make an informed decision about leasing the facility. Nate explained that there would be 3 major expenses: insurance; utilities; and maintenance. The Council discussed how to protect the City's investment in the bowling alley and how to account for the true cost of what the City puts into the facility now. They also discussed how to allow Stephanie's father to work on the equipment by hiring him as a city employee. Stephanie wants

something positive for the community and she believes the bowling alley is an asset to the area. She wants to have more control over how she operates the bowling alley and make some changes that would give the kids someplace safe to be. The Council is amenable to the idea of Stephanie leasing the property, they just need to work out the nuts and bolts of the arrangement.

4. Resolution 19-2: Duchesne City Enterprise Zone

Minutes:

Mayor Rowley asked the Council if they had a chance to review Resolution 19-2. Council Member Hamilton clarified that the Resolution states the Council will hold a public meeting about the enterprise zone. Council Member Mecham missed the meeting where the enterprise zone was discussed and asked what the benefit of having an enterprise zone would be to the City. The Council discussed what the zone is for and how it will benefit business owners in the community by giving them tax breaks for doing certain things that stimulate economic growth. Mayor Rowley asked when to hold the public meeting required in the Resolution and Council Member Hamilton and Browning stated that by passing the Resolution in a regular City Council Meeting, it satisfies the requirement of holding a public meeting.

MOTION by Council Member Hamilton, seconded by Council Member Browning to adopt Resolution 19-2.

- Council Member Browning – Aye
- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Resolution 19-3: Fee For Tampering With Water Meters

Minutes:

Lane got 1000 lock-out tags that warn of a \$500 fee for unauthorized tampering with meters. The tags will be used on meters of houses that will stand vacant for a long time, not necessarily for changes in ownership where someone moves in immediately. With Lane's advanced meter reading equipment he is able to detect meters that should be shut off that are running water through that meter. The Council thanked Lane for his work. Mayor Rowley asked if the Council would like to change any of the wording. Council Member Mecham thinks \$500 is a good amount to deter anyone from messing with the meters.

MOTION by Council Member Browning, seconded by Council Member Hamilton to adopt Resolution 19-3.

- Council Member Browning – Aye

- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Resolution 19-4 : Fee For Septage Station

Minutes:

Mayor Rowley gave some background information for how fees for water and sewer are determined and reviewed the costs of installing a water meter set. Currently, Duchesne City is losing money on each meter set because of increases in costs of parts. Council Member Hamilton said sometimes the City doesn't spend much time or money on the hookups and sometimes the City loses money. Mayor Rowley suggested the Council think about the current fees for water and sewer hookups and consider increasing the amount the city charges for these fees.

Council Member Peatross read the Resolution out loud.

MOTION by Council Member Browning, seconded by Council Member Mecham to adopt Resolution 19-4.

- Council Member Browning – Aye
- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. Strawberry Cemetery Fees- Mayor Rowley

Minutes:

Mayor Rowley explained the differences between the Duchesne City and Strawberry cemeteries. There are so many more maintenance issues with the Strawberry Cemetery. Many of the problems are associated with the water pumping system. The system does not have a relief valve in the line and this has caused some problems when all the valves are closed. Installing a pressure switch seems to be part of the solution. Aaron Rowley was working on the issue but left Mountainland to work for his father and therefore is no longer available to assist the City. Mayor Rowley asked the Council to consider increasing the open/close costs to offset some of the maintenance costs. The Council discussed current prices around the State. Fruitland found someone to dig the graves for their cemetery and he charges \$1000 to open and close the grave. Council Member Mecham asked if the City could ask a higher fee from people who come from out of town to bury loved ones. Mayor Rowley did not think the City could justify asking some people to pay a higher price for a plot and open/close fees. Mayor Rowley said the City is losing money on every

grave the city workers dig. The fees for both cemeteries operated by Duchesne City are the same, \$200 per plot and \$200 for opening and closing each grave. The Council discussed these costs and decided two hundred dollars seems pretty cheap for tying up a city worker and a piece of equipment for an entire day. Mayor Rowley would like to increase the fees for Strawberry Cemetery. The cemeteries around the State used to be owned by the churches but now the Cities are taking over those responsibilities. Mayor Rowley would like the Council to think about it and consider how to cover the increasing costs of maintaining the Strawberry Cemetery.

The Mayor and Council discussed the newly installed flagpoles. They look really nice and will look even better when the old poles are removed and the gravel is smoothed and leveled.

8. Planning And Zoning

Minutes:

There was no Planning and Zoning business.

9. 15 Minute Open Session

Minutes:

There was no business brought before the Council during the Open Session.

10. Book Of Complaints, Concerns And Comments

Minutes:

Mayor Rowley explained that there were 2 complaints in the book of complaints.

1. Stephanie Robinson complained on July 19th about paying for mosquito abatement but not receiving those services. She has called several times and left messages but has not seen any change in the number of times they spray. The Council discussed the County's policy of only spraying when people call. With all the water this year the mosquito problem is much worse than in years past. Mayor Rowley is going to bring the issue up to the County Commissioners. Council Member Hamilton said the problem used to be much worse before the mosquito abatement was set up.
2. Sherry Lott complained about the flowers on Main Street. She said the hanging plants look terrible. Council Member Mecham wondered if the pots were getting enough water. Paul Spencer mentioned Mike Price visited the shop today to look at the equipment and explained how to properly mix the fertilizer into the water. Mayor Rowley said the only changes made from last year to this year were replacing the soil with new potting soil and having Novalea water the plants. Many people have mentioned to Council Member

Browning that the flowers do not look good. Council Member Mecham said she saw Novalea watering around 11 pm one night. Mayor Rowley said she waters every night at about the same time.

11. Mayor And Council Review Of Old Business

Minutes:

- Mayor Rowley said the cemetery is very dry. He discussed the watering schedule and suggested it should be increased to twice each day, at sundown and sunrise. Paul mentioned that sometimes citizens will change the watering schedule on the automatic sprinkler control box. Even locking it doesn't help because the key is universal to Rainbird boxes.
- Main Street is looking pretty good. Council Member Mecham asked when the sod would be delivered for the bare section. Mayor Rowley asked if the Council wanted sod or seed. The difference in price is about \$1200. Council Member Browning said the Council decided last meeting to sod and see how it turned out and then reevaluate. Lane said the State is requiring cities with less than 3' grass strips to change out the grass along highways with concrete or another type of water conserving ground cover. Mayor Rowley discussed a recently passed bill that requires all secondary water systems designed after April 2020 to have meters on all hookups. Since the City doesn't own the irrigation companies this law wouldn't apply to the City, only the irrigation companies. Council Member Peatross ask about using culinary water to water all the grass throughout the City. The Mayor explained that the City doesn't use the irrigation water because of the filtration problems associated with irrigation water. Council Member Hamilton wondered how the State can enforce its water conservation policies when the City is using its own water and dirt. Mayor Rowley commented that every time Main Street is watered, 75% of the water runs down the gutter. The Council discussed options for watering better.
- Mayor Rowley had a meeting with the Steeds and their lawyer. The Steeds blamed Duchesne City for their water leak problems. Chuck Richens sent them a letter explaining how Duchesne City is not responsible for their leaks because the City's lines are 60-80 feet away from their water line. Council Member Mecham asked if Mayor Rowley discussed the rate increase and he explained that they did not want to discuss that because the Steeds are hoping East Duchesne or Duchesne County Water Conservancy District will buy the water system and Duchesne City can negotiate with whoever buys the system. Council Member Hamilton asked if they were going to pay their bill. Mayor Rowley believes they will pay the bill the City sent them. In the

letter, they were given until June 30th but they are in negotiations so the Mayor is hopeful that the bill will get paid. Another problem is that the grinder put in last year being used to dump the sucked up water and mud from their leak is now filling with silt. The current dump station fee was not calculated into the bill only 2 months worth of commercial dumping at the previous price. The Mayor was very lenient with what he charged them for use of the dumping station, equipment and labor. Negotiations are still in progress so Mayor Rowley will bring up the possible \$0.08 per gallon fee for use of the dumping station and the 170,000 gallons dumped in one day.

- Mayor Rowley reported on the BBQ with the Ute Tribe. Mayor Rowley, Keith Rowley, Jason Baker, and Deb Herron attended. Of the 15 Tribal Committee members that should have been there, only one showed up, Tony Small. The Tribe's lawyer, Kathleen, attended and informed everyone that the Committee had a conflict with the BBQ and the Tri-Ute games. Mayor Rowley discussed what he learned about the Ute Tribe throughout the evening. For example, the Ute Tribe is the only tribe in the U.S. that has a blood percentage requirement to be a member of the tribe. Currently, Luke Duncan is the Committee Chairman and he serves with 5 other committee members, 2 from each Ute Band. Mayor Rowley also explained that the evening was a social event and the lawsuit was not discussed. Mayor Rowley explained to the Council that negotiations are currently taking place for a land swap between SITLA and the Ute Tribe. Duchesne only needs 75 acres for all the streets and alleys within city limits. This does not include any vacant lots. Mayor Rowley would like to see the Utes use these lots.
- Council Member Hamilton asked if anyone knew about cats being murdered in town. Mayor Rowley has also heard the same thing. Currently, Matt says the ordinance requires any stray cats be taken to the shelter in Roosevelt. This is expensive for the city. The State law says any feral cat is legal to shoot but Duchesne City ordinance does not say cats are legal to shoot. Duchesne City must abide by its rules.

12. Work Session

Minutes:

There was no work session.

13. Executive Session

Minutes:

There was no executive session.

14. Adjournment

Minutes:

MOTION by Council Member Mecham, seconded by Council Member Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm.

- Council Member Browning – Aye
- Council Member Hamilton – Aye
- Council Member Mecham – Aye
- Council Member Peatross – Aye

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Attest:

City Recorder: