

City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Patricia Wise, Kelly Wilson, Ray Justice, Micah Gubler and Randy Reeve; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, Kevin Bennett and Christy Ballard; Public: Jill Hattan, Barbara Lefler, Brian Stewart, John Valenti, Frank & Ingrid Moffet and Ralph Bowman.

A. Called to Order – The prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were given by Micah Gubler at 6:02pm.

B. Presentation:

1. Stephanie & Dave Allred-July 4th Celebration

Stephanie was given a certificate of appreciation and a La Verkin City coin for coordinating the City's 4th of July celebration.

2. RRCI-Jill Hattan

Barbara Lefler is the Executive Director of RRCI, and Jill Hattan is the staff member who covers La Verkin City. RRCI is an organization that empowers people with disabilities to live independently. They had so much growth in this area that they opened an office in Hurricane last year. In order to help people get to the classes and activities they need accessible transportation. Barbara wrote a grant to UDOT for an accessible van which she received. The grant purchased the vehicle for \$51,350 and the program needs to pay 20% or \$10,270. They are asking the communities and businesses for donations to raise the 20%. For a minimum donation of \$1,000, the donor's logo will be put on the van with RRCI's logo. They do serve people with disabilities in this community, so they wanted to give La Verkin the opportunity to donate.

Jill reported this program is for adults and youth. The current vehicle they have is not wheelchair accessible, so it has eliminated a couple of La Verkin residents from some of their activities. She is very excited for the new vehicle and appreciates the support.

Mayor Hirschi thanked them for the presentation, no action can be taken at this meeting so the Council and staff will discuss it and get back in touch with Barbara.

C. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Minutes: June 19, 2019 regular meeting.
3. Review Checks and Invoices: \$746,352.27

Motion was made by Councilwoman Patricia Wise to approve the consent agenda as written, including the minutes of the June 19, 2019 regular meeting and Checks and Invoices in the amount of \$746,352.27, second by Councilman Micah Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Wilson-yes, Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Gubler-yes and Reeve-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Committee Reports:

1. Fire District-Mayor Hirschi reported the Coral Canyon fire station will begin operations August 1, 2019 with Hurricane Valley Fire District and Washington City. They will cover fire and ambulance calls. The La Verkin fire station still has some work that needs to be completed inside the building, but it is almost ready. The Battalion Chief's offices will be at this location.
2. Sewer Board-No meeting.
3. Planning Commission-Councilwoman Wise reported the discussion of allowing accessory dwelling units in residential zones continued. After a lengthy discussion the Commissioners unanimously voted to keep the zoning ordinances as they now stand.
4. Water Board-Councilman Wilson reported on the Water Task Force meeting he attended for the secondary water meter (SB52). This item was not on the agenda, so he asked them when it would be, and they explained they were putting a committee together to review it. Councilman Wilson volunteered to be on that committee, along with

Hurricane City, Parowan City and Beaver City. If that legislation is passed it would cost the City a tremendous amount of money.

Kyle reported on the meeting he had with Ron Thompson from the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) regarding the low irrigation pressure the City had for several weeks from the District taking water to run the power plant.

Contractually, the District is required to provide the City with a specific amount of water not a specific amount of pressure. This issue doesn't happen very often, but it is a situation staff will be discussing with our engineer. Hurricane has a pump station on their secondary water system, La Verkin may want something similar.

Mayor Hirschi explained the WCWCD has a power plant below the bridge and another one on 600 North in Hurricane. When the River has enough water, they can produce power and get paid for it.

The District's power plant is offline now so the City should be getting better water pressure on the secondary water system.

E. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

Brian Stewart-This is a public safety matter. He has noticed several intersections throughout La Verkin where the stop sign is obstructed by trees or other foliage. It is blocking the line of sight and making it difficult to navigate a turn onto a road that may have traffic.

Derek asked Mr. Stewart to get the addresses to the City so it can be taken care of.

Ralph Bowman-He lives on Flora Drive and the culinary water pressure for that street is provided by two pumps at the water tank. Over the last three days his water pressure has been very low. This has happened before and it is usually because a pump has failed. He called into the City office today and Randy Slack came by his house and then went to check the pumps. His concern is that if the future residents of Sunset View Estates is going to be powered by the same pumps, they shouldn't have to call to complain that the water pressure is low. He suggested the City consider purchasing some technology where the operation of the pumps can be monitored and can alert someone remotely that there is a problem rather than having residents call.

It's either the pumps, or people using culinary water to irrigate because the irrigation water is so low, that is causing the low water pressure. He is concerned for now and for the future.

F. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Proclamation 2019-02; a proclamation encouraging fire restrictions.

Kevin explained the State Fire Marshall issued an order that applied to the unincorporated land in Washington County. BLM and Zion National Park also imposed fire restrictions within their jurisdiction. The State is not authorized to tell cities what to do regarding fire regulations, but we do want to minimize our danger. Some of the restrictions issued by the State are onerous and he didn't want to be as restrictive as it was in the last fire restriction proclamation back in 2012. This proclamation lists voluntary restrictions that encourage citizens to try and keep with the spirit of the rules imposed by our neighboring governmental entities, particularly where we interface with the unincorporated lands around us. He did give a copy of the draft proclamation to Battalion Chief Nick Wright for his input.

The City has adopted a stage two fireworks resolution for this year and that has been working very well.

Motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve Proclamation 2019-02; a proclamation encouraging fire restrictions, second by Councilman Ray Justice. Roll Call Vote: Reeve-yes, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve a Prosecution Services Agreement with James R. Weeks.

Mayor Hirschi explained Mr. Weeks represents La Verkin City in the Washington County Court system.

Kyle reported this will be the first wage increase for the prosecuting attorney since he began working for the City.

Kevin explained Mr. Weeks provides prosecution services for the City. He also has access to the Court's software, enabling him to work electronically, that otherwise the City would need to purchase.

Motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve the Prosecution Services Agreement with James R. Weeks, second by Councilman Micah Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Wilson-yes, Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Gubler-yes, Reeve-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Dumpster Days.

Derek went over the history of Dumpster Days. It was originally 3 days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Last year, Sunday was eliminated so it was two days, Friday and Saturday. The last two Dumpster Days have run all day Friday and shut down by 12:00pm on Saturday because the dumpsters were full. After running the numbers, staff is requesting to have just one day, Saturday, for Dumpster Days. It would be open 7am-7pm or until full. This would eliminate the overtime crew on Friday and cut the expenses by approximately \$350.

If we do move to one day Derek suggested printing out flyers to hand out at the Dumpster Days in October, putting it on the City's website, Facebook page and on the water bill so the residents are aware of the change.

Kyle explained the dumpsters would need to be delivered on Friday but we can be placed at the end of the route so they will be delivered between 2-5pm. We also pay for two extra green dumpsters for yard waste since we can no longer burn. People get frustrated because Saturday is the day most people can get to the dumpsters and they are full by 11am. Staff is recommending finish out 2019 with the two days but beginning 2020 having the dumpsters open on Saturday only.

Councilman Gubler stated he has always liked the idea of Dumpster Days and the intent of it. However, now that the Washington County Solid Waste (WCSW) has a dump location in Virgin Town that is free and convenient, he suggested advertising that location and discontinuing Dumpster Days completely.

Christy said when she was speaking to WCSW they mentioned both the Virgin Town dump site and the landfill are free of charge to residents and that residents can always schedule a large item pickup free of charge as well.

Councilwoman Wise asked what the annual cost for one day of Dumpster Days would be.

Derek said for extra dumpsters and manpower the cost would be \$7,000.

Councilman Reeve pointed out when Dumpster Days were cut back to 3 times a year there was a lot of public outcry.

Councilwoman Wise said she would keep Dumpster Days and just have it on Saturdays. It began as a community service and a way to keep yards clean and the scheduling of it is good. One thing we could do is advertise more what the City's costs are, explain the issues with it and let the community know for the year 2020 we are going to try Saturdays only. At the same time advocate the County facilities, the distance to each of them and the fact they do have a large item pickup service.

She would like to continue the service for at least one more year with the option of discontinuing in 2020.

Councilman Gubler pointed out \$7,000 could go toward fixing some of the City's other issues, especially when we have a very nice, free dump location within 10 minutes of us. He would like to finish out this year, begin now educating our citizens and then do away with it in 2020.

Councilman Justice stated he would like to use the money for other, more important problems especially when there are other, free options for people to dispose of items they no longer want. He thought the main reason for Dumpster Days was to help people with the cost. He feels the time and money could be better spent other places.

If we do continue having Dumpster Days and move it down to one day, he does feel the City should proactively advertise and share the information, so our citizens know they do not need to wait for Dumpster Days.

Councilman Reeve suggested cutting Dumpster Days to one day for a year, educate our citizens and then re-evaluate it next year.

Councilman Wilson agreed. He thinks our citizens just don't realize what we have available to us, he didn't.

Derek said he can get a flyer printed for the upcoming Dumpster Days to begin educating the citizens and informing them of next year's changes.

Councilman Justice suggested making a sign to post at the dumpsters and put the information on the City's website.

Councilwoman Wise agreed with posting the information along with printing a handout.

Motion was made by Councilman Micah Gubler to finish out the 2019 Dumpster Days, educate our citizens on the different options and discontinue the service beginning January 2020, second by Councilman Ray Justice. Reeve-no, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-no, Wilson-yes. Motion passes.

Kyle said he will get a flyer printed notifying the citizens that 2019 will be the last year for Dumpster Days. It will also have the location, travel distance and hours of operation for the two dumping locations and the large item pickup information. He will also include the services are free of charge.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a project at the shooting range.

Councilman Gubler explained he was contacted by Mr. & Mrs. Park who would like to install a couple heavy duty T-posts for target hanging at the distances of 150 and 200 yards. He has a copy of an aerial map showing the locations and a picture of what the posts would look like.

The Parks will provide everything, they just need help digging the holes and mixing the cement for the poles.

Mr. Park is an NRA certified shooting instructor and they use the shooting range often.

Kevin pointed out the property is BLM land and they may need permission from them.

Councilman Wilson pointed out BLM has already given permission for a shooting range to be at that location.

Mayor Hirschi reported the City has a dumpster at the shooting range that is becoming a problem. People are dumping large items and tires, both in the dumpster and on the ground.

Kyle mentioned staff will be discussing the possibly of replacing the dumpster with two, 55-gallon drums to discourage illegal dumping.

Councilman Reeve asked if the project needs City Council approval or if the Mayor can make the call since it falls under day-to-day operation.

Councilman Justice stated he knows of multiple Eagle Scout projects that consisted of the installation of targets at the shooting range, but they were not heavy duty and were destroyed.

Councilwoman Wise would like the Mayor to write a courtesy letter notifying the BLM of the project.

Councilman Gubler agreed with sending a letter. The BLM knows the property is being used as a shooting range and if that use ever changes the T-posts could be removed easily with a backhoe.

Kyle mentioned Springdale has contacted La Verkin City to partner with them in hosting a competitive biking/shooting/running event.

Councilman Wilson mentioned at one-point Hurricane was interested in helping to improve the La Verkin shooting range, but he was not sure where that stands.

Kyle explained Hurricane wants La Verkin to own the property before they put any money toward it.

Kyle will write a letter for the Mayor to approve and send it to the BLM notifying them of the shooting range improvements.

G. Mayor & Council Reports:

Wilson- Nothing further to report.

Wise- The Zion Recreation Corridor feasibility study contract has been issued; she will keep the Council updated on the progress.

Justice- He did attend the special meeting for the St. George to Zion Transit System. It looks like they are moving forward with the concept. The State is giving 15 million dollars to the project, 8 million to the capital and 7 million for 10-year operation and maintenance. They will begin with 4 diesel buses that will run every 1 1/2 hours for an express run and a local run every 2 hours from 6am-10pm. They are also planning on using the quarter percent sales tax that just passed to

help fund the system. They will still need to work out other options to add to the funding, otherwise it will not run past the 10-year seed money.

Gubler- Nothing further to report.

Reeve-He asked the status of Simon Lee's proposal for an Eagle Scout project.

Kyle explained staff will be discussing it on Monday. The Mayor has notified Mr. Lee.

Councilman Reeve asked about La Verkin City's emergency response plan. He would like the City Council to review the plan and have a drill to practice that plan.

Kyle explained Chief Watkins oversaw that plan, he is not sure what Chief Lee has done with it since he came on.

Councilman Justice mentioned when he was on the City Council previously, he was on that committee and they did have a couple of emergency meetings that included other local law enforcement agencies, so he knows there is an emergency plan.

Kyle reported the City participated in the State-run drill.

Councilman Gubler is over public safety and will meet with Chief Lee to see what the City has in place. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints wanted to meet with Chief Lee and the City to coordinate plans. He will report back on that.

Derek reported he has the Emergency Response book. He had to update portions of it for the emergency response plan for water sourcing. The book covers a lot of disasters.

Kyle said it also outlines protocol for emergency response. The State relies heavily on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints because of the way they have things already organized.

Councilman Gubler mentioned Hurricane City has consistent drills, he will find out how often and how they are running.

The Councilmembers would like a copy of the book.

Kevin mentioned at one-point staff was attending courses from FEMA, so we understood the entire process and how we were interrelated with the County, State and Federal Government.

Councilman Reeve said he is concerned that because we do rely heavily on the Church things won't be defined and practiced.

Kyle stated all disasters are handled differently but communication is fundamental and that is the same for all disasters. The City also has Interlocal Agreements with some surrounding communities to help them.

H. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 7:23pm.

Minutes were done by Christy Ballard.

August 7, 2019
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

ATTEST:

Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder

