MINUTES NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE SALINA CITY PUBLIC HEARING at the North Sevier Community Center 373 West 400 North, Salina, Utah 7:00 p.m. August 13, 2019

COUNCIL AND STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Jed Maxwell
Dwayne Brown,
Newell Hales
Earl Taylor,
Jon Maxwell
Cade Hunter

Ashlee Larsen, City Recorder
Kathy Maxwell, City Treasurer
Jennifer Vought, Court Clerk
Al Taylor, Police Chief
Brad Allen, Maint. Supervisor
Kirk Rasmussen IT
Brett Gates, Maintenance
Keith Hayes, Police

Meeting called by: Board

Mayor Jed Maxwell called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM at the North Sevier Community Center for a proposed tax increase of 55%. The Salina City tax on a $150,000 residence would increase from $213.35 to $330.74, which is $117.39 per year. Tax increase on a Salina business $150,000 would increase from $387.90 to $601.35, which is $213.45 per year.

Public Hearing: Mayor Maxwell stated we are here to receive input from the public on the Salina City tax increase to help fund for three things. First is the Salina City Swimming Pool, Mayor Maxwell stated that Salina City has applied for a CIB loan in the amount of $1,000,000.00. This will be a 100% loan at 1% interest rate for 20 years. With a payment of $55,000 per year to rebuild the existing swimming pool. Second proposal Salina City is looking to build a new City Hall, Library, and Police Station. Salina City hall is at the end of its life cycle the building has been flooding for years and continues to ruin Salina City records. Salina City has purchased a container to help hold our files for now.

The State of Utah has raised their dispatch fee to $50,000 per year. Salina City is required to maintain between 5 to 25% of the general fund Revenue in Salina City's retirement account which is required by State Law that will bring Salina City up to about $197,000. **Mayor Maxwell** stated we have paper work that shows all of Salina City general funds. If you have any questions speak into the microphone and state your name and we'll try to answer any questions the best that we can.

Newell Hales stated a few years ago Salina City had a meeting like this regarding our Police Department at that time we talked about disbanding Salina City Police Department and having the Sevier County Sheriff's Office take over. **Newell** stated Salina City has a lot of great workers and feels the reason Salina City raised their wages is because we need to keep competent workers. **Newell** stated that he has done quite a bit of research and Salina City wages our still a lot less than other entities.

7:06 PM Jim Torgerson: stated he's lived here all his life and is concerned that Salina City needs to make sure they have checked all their budgets before they raise their taxes he is concerned that the Blackhawk Arena does not self -sustain itself or at least break even. **Jim** stated he is concerned that several elderly residents are on fixed incomes and can't afford to pay such high property taxes. **Jim** stated he will be ok to pay higher taxes now, but in ten years from now he might not be able to afford these taxes and said usually taxes never go down they just continue to go up. **Jim** is concerned that the swimming pool will not self -sustain itself and worried that other cities won't help pay for the renovation fee. but will use the recreation for the same price as Salina residents. **Jim** stated that to make things fair we need to do some type of fee schedule for those who are not property owners in Salina City. **Jim** stated Salina City needs be careful with the recreational things to make sure it pays for itself. Infrastructure comes first Safety, Garbage, Sewer, and Water. **Jim** said he appreciates everything Salina City Council Members do for Salina City Just be aware of raising such high taxes.

Dwayne Brown: stated the swimming pool and library will never break even. However, when you have large companies come into our city and look at our industrial center they want to know what we have in our community to draw in families. We need to have recreational things here in our community to draw people here.

7:16 PM Jim Torgerson stated we need to have Redmond and Aurora help fund The Salina City Pool if they use it.

7:17 PM Dustin Deaton: Stated he approached this when he was the mayor he was fighting with Redmond and Aurora to help fund Salina City Swimming Pool, but they don't want anything to do with it. **Mayor Maxwell**: stated that Salina City is not building a new swimming pool Salina City is repairing our old one which will save Salina City millions of dollars.

Newell Hales stated that when he ran for City Council a couple years ago everybody in our community continually asked him when Salina City was going to fix our swimming pool. **Newell** stated that as far as he knows Redmond and Aurora don't want anything to do with repairing Salina City Swimming Pool. Residents of Salina City will have a better rate structure then those who are not tax payers in Salina.

7:19 PM Dustin Deaton: stated that he has been on their side of the table and it's not a fun night. He stated that taxes are raising up to 64 1/2% per homeowner **Dustin** is concerned why it's such a big jump all at once and wants to know exactly what it's for because he was a little late to the meeting. **Mayor Maxwell** stated that according to the county Salina City taxes will raise to 55%. And the tax increase is to help fund our Swimming pool, increase in dispatch fees, and build a new city building. **Dustin** is wondering why Salina City is saying the dispatch fee is going up to $50,000 when Salina City is already paying $35,000 so that means it only went up to $15,000. **Dustin** is wondering why we budgeted $136,000 for the swimming pool we always had a budget of $33,000 in the past.

Mayor Maxwell: stated that the pool budget is $40,000 and we put $90,000 down to start the pool which will be $94,000 between pool and maintenance fund per year.

Dustin agrees with all our numbers except for the new Salina City Building he feels like the timing just isn't right.

Earl Taylor: stated our General Fund budget is $1,575,000 million dollars the Salina City police department fund is over $500,000 plus additional fees, including all the other departments.

Mayor Maxwell: stated the tax increase is for the swimming pool, the new Salina City Hall, increase on dispatch fees, raised all the employee's wages, plus we need a new fire truck, Salina City has a lot of things that need to be repaired. We also need to hold 5 to 25% in Salina City retirement fund. **Mayor Maxwell** stated the City building needs to be replaced it has mold, the front of the building is detaching, and it continues to flood.

Dustin Deaton: stated he is concerned about the sewer system he let Mayor Maxwell know about the sewer system problems when he left the office it needs several repairs. **Mayor Maxwell** stated Salina City has investigated it and they are aware of the sewer system problems and will take care of it.
7:26 PM **Ryan Roberts**: stated that he has been on the city council and feels like if departments don't use their budget at the end of the year they will try to buy something just to hurry and use the remaining budget. **Earl Taylor** asked Ryan if he has seen something in the past when he was on council that was misused.
Ryan Roberts: asked if Salina City has put money away money for the swimming pool, and the new City Hall.
Newell stated that we have put money away for the pool, but nothing yet on the City Hall
Jon Maxwell, stated Salina City is planning to get a CIB loan for the City Hall sometime in October.
Mayor Maxwell: stated that in the years past Salina City hasn't planned for their future, if Salina City would have kept up on the swimming pool maintenance we wouldn't be in the situation were in having to redo the entire pool.
Ryan: stated that 55% seems like way too much we should raise the taxes in increments a little bit at a time. **Ryan** stated that Salina City has one of the highest property taxes. **Mayor Maxwell** stated we have a lot more services then other entities. **Ryan** feels like maybe there's some fat in the budget that we can cut out. **Ryan** hopes that Salina City is looking at their revenue quarterly budget and letting their entities know how close each department is going over their budget. **Dwayne Brown** stated that all entities must get a purchase order signed for anything over $300.00 before they can purchase it. And Salina City lets the entities know once a year where their budget is at.
Mayor Maxwell: stated in the past two years Salina City has an all-day budget meeting and focuses on the budget and has gone through the budget with a fine-tooth comb to cut back what we can. We have departments come in and let Salina City know what they need for the year.
Ryan Roberts: stated he feels like if we can't afford the swimming pool maybe we shouldn't redo it.
7:41 PM **Richard Ryan**: stated that he has no problem with bringing in the swimming pool. **Richard** is concerned about our city growing especially if the coal mine shuts down. **Richard** feels like we need to have a discussion if we want to leave our town how it is or if we want it to grow.
Mayor Maxwell stated within the last couple years we've had several new businesses come to Salina City he feels like right now Salina City is in growing mode.
Jon Maxwell: stated there's not a lot of land here to house several people.
7:47 PM Danny Viers: stated that we need something for our kids to do around here they seem to get into trouble he thinks it's a good idea to bring back our swimming pool.
7:49 PM Dustin Deaton: stated his biggest concern about Salina City community growing is the impact of water and sewer system.
Mayor Maxwell: stated if we see the growth then Salina City will have to address it at that time. Everything in Salina City has gone so many years with neglect so it all needs to be fixed at once.
7:52 PM Marion Harrison: stated we need to be a little more careful where Salina City spends their money Marion stated why don't we have money saved for the city hall if it needs to be replaced, why do we have the funds for the swimming pool that is a want not a need.
Earl Taylor: stated that he feels like we under utilize the North Sevier Recreation building he feels like we need to use the North Sevier Rec. as part of our city offices and hold off on building a new building.
Mayor Maxwell stated if we move into the NS Rec. Salina City library would also need to move and would take up the entire rec center. Which would take away all the actives and rentals from the rec center. Something that we need to realize is the NS rec is funded by Salina, Aurora, and Redmond.
Marion Harrison: stated that we need to make sure Salina is not building things for a want, but more

for a need.
8:06 PM Dustin Deaton asked how Salina City received an CIB loan if Salina City didn't have a Public Hearing.
Jon Maxwell: stated that we did have a public hearing for the Salina City swimming pool loan, but nobody showed up.
Mayor Maxwell: stated that we hold countless meetings at the city office they our posted on the public website and everyone is welcome to come.
Jon Maxwell: stated that we have had countless meetings regarding the swimming pool over the past year.
8:06 PM Mark Coombs: stated that Salina citizens weren't aware of this public hearing.
Mayor Maxwell: stated that this public hearing was posted in the Salina Sun for two weeks, on Salina City face book page, on Salina City website, it was posted on the doors of Salina City Hall and the North Sevier Recreation Center, and on the public website. **Mayor Maxwell** stated that he doesn't want the taxes to raise either he owns several properties in Salina, but it's to the point that we need to do something for our City.
Cade Hunter: stated Salina City residents said they were fine to raise our taxes, so we can keep our police department at the last public hearing.
8:08 PM Randy Bumgardner: stated he understands the business property taxes is a little higher. **Randy** is concerned about the tax rate going up to 55% and how business will pay these tax rates. and not going down. He is wondering if the swimming pool project meeting has already happed and can't be dropped. **Mayor Maxwell** stated yes, the swimming pool is already in process. **Randy** is wondering if the 55% tax rate is set in stone.
Mayor Maxwell stated no 55% is a proposed rate we can't go up in rate, but it can go down. That's why we're here tonight to get the city's input and let citizens know the reason for the tax increase. **Randy** asked what the cost is on the new City Hall he's wondering if this 55% tax increase is part of the new city hall. **Randy** feels like it is a good idea to keep money on hand if we have problems with the sewer system.
Earl Taylor stated he's been on city council for twelve years and something that the city has never looked at is inflation to set money a side if we need to replace the sewer system Salina City is trying to look at their future.
Newell Hales stated that Salina City has a separate water fund, sewer fund, Pressurized Irrigation fund and Cemetery. Salina City cannot use that money for the swimming pool or any other projects.
Randy stated he sees good in what Salina City is projecting but feels like 55% is a little too high.
8:18 PM Charlyn Roberts: Stated has Salina City investigated why the city hall continues to flood is there anyway we can restore the old building and how much will it cost to fix it.
Mayor Maxwell: stated to fix the City Hall would probably cost over a million dollars to restore it.
Jon Maxwell stated that the city hall isn't even in working conditions with the mold and flooding, but we can investigate restoring it.
Mayor Maxwell: stated that we've already restored the city hall how much money do we want to continue to put into an old building.
8:20 PM Kim Robinson: stated he thinks it's a good idea to try and restore the City Hall it's been here forever. He's concerned if we tear down the building what will be put in its spot.
Mayor Maxwell: stated Salina City proposed about putting in a park next to the swimming pool.
8:22 PM Aaron Richards: I agree with a lot of things that are being said, but he doesn't appreciate being lied to and feels like the city council is trying to cover things up. He feel like Salina City might be hiding some of the costs like the dispatch fee that you said is raising to $55,000 when it's raising to

$15,000. Aaron is confused on the million-dollar loan for the swimming pool can Salina City send the extra money back or is Salina City keeping the extra money for maintenance. **Newell Hales** stated depending on the leftover money we might decide to keep the money for maintenance.
Earl Taylor: stated everything that the city does has eyes on Salina City has auditors that come in once a year to audit the whole city. **Earl** doesn't appreciate Aaron stating that the council members are lying to the citizens of Salina City when anyone can come into the city offices at any time to retrieve the budget.
Aaron Richards stated that he feels like 55% is quite steep once you raise taxes they never come off he feels like the city can do it a better way
Dwayne Brown asked Aaron how Salina City can increase their revenue and asked Aaron what ideas does he have.
Jon Maxwell: asked if Aaron wants Salina City to raise their taxes to 25% this year and when Salina City gets their new building raise them again to 25%.
Aaron Richards stated he feels like that would be a better idea then to raise them all at once.
8:34 PM Dustin Deaton: Why doesn't Salina City look at raising the taxes to 35% for the swimming pool patch the Salina City building then raise taxes 5% each year to save up for a new city building.
Jed Maxwell: Stated Salina City will put it up for discussion.
8:35 PM Skyler Duckworth: Stated why can't Salina City utilize some of the par taxes to help fund the Swimming Pool and Library instead of just the NS Community Center to lessen the burden on residents instead of just going straight to taxes.
Dwayne Brown: Stated the recreation department has contributed $30,000 to the swimming pool fund.
Jon Maxwell: Stated Salina City has brought this up at board meetings, but Redmond and Aurora don't want anything to do with the Salina Swimming Pool. This is something that we will look at.
8:40 PM Misty Parker: Stated that she was one of the residents of Salina who pushed for the Swimming Pool Project but had know idea that the city hall and sewer system had problems and is wondering why these problems have never been addressed.
Mayor Maxwell: Since he's been the mayor the building is not been in good shape.
Jon Maxwell: stated that these issues have been addressed several times in City Council meetings but know one ever shows up to city council meetings. The City minutes are available to public knowledge.
8:42 PM Paula Martin: Agrees with a lot of comments that have been made tonight. Paula went to the county building today to find out what all the cities taxes are in our area, and Salina City is the 2nd highest tax bracket in the county.
Mayor Maxwell: Stated Richfield has a lot more business than we do here in Salina they have a lot more tax revenue in Richfield. Monroe doesn't have a Sewer System, Blackhawk Arena, or Police Department its funded by the county. Salina City's Police Department is $520,000 a year.
Paula stated she understands, and we need our police department.
Newell Hales: stated Richfield has a bigger tax base than Salina like Walmart, all the stores on main street and we all shop at these businesses.
Paula Martin: stated a new City Hall building won't revenue she would hate to have the Salina City building torn down its an iconic building she understands that it has a lot of issues but is hopeful that Salina City can restore the old building. She is concerned about low income residents being able to pay for the increase in taxes.
8:49 PM Ryan Roberts: Is wondering if we can add the new city building to the existing police department. Ryan stated to the council members if they can at least look- into restoring the city hall.
8:52 PM Marion Harrison: asked if there is anyone who is willing to volunteer to help with the city.
Earl Taylor: stated that Salina has several residents that help volunteer at the museums, planning and zoning, and Fire Department.

8:54 PM Kyle Hunt: stated they have 20 volunteers on the Fire Department that work hard to keep our city safe. He doesn't necessarily agree with the 55% tax increase, but he knows that Salina City needs it. The Fire Department needs a new fire truck to keep our residents safe. If we want to bring more businesses and people to our town we need to support our town. Salina City needs to look to their future. And support the people that run our city the Fire Department, Police Officers, and Administration. If we want our community to grow we need to have a swimming pool, a park closer to town. We've got to make a change if that means raising our taxes.
9:00 PM Ryan Roberts: Stated the tax increase is too much too fast.
Mayor Maxwell: Its hard to supply departments when they go over their budget every year. The Fire Department is looking at about $600,000 for a new fire truck.
Kyle Hunt: stated the truck fund has saved $40,000 so far.
Paula Martin: Does Salina City have anything saved towards the City Hall.
Earl Taylor: No, we need to receive bids.
Dwayne Brown: We're grateful to our community several businesses have borrowed equipment to us instead of buying all new equipment. Robinsons has borrowed us several things to help us out and save us money.
Jon Maxwell: stated Salina City is open to any ideas on saving money so if anybody has some come to City Council and let us know.
Earl Taylor: Asked what the Salina City Residents feel like is fair for the tax increase we should shoot for.
9:07 PM Cassidy Anderson: stated she likes the idea of raising them to 25% increase then slowly increase it from there each year.
9:07 PM Aaron Richards: Stated that Salina City doesn't even know what the cost will be for the new City Hall why are they raising the taxes so high all at once.
Mayor Maxwell: Stated we need a new building there just enough room for growth.
9:08 PM Paula Martin: Can Salina City just make the City building into the Library and move the City Administration somewhere else.
9:09 PM Kim Robinson: stated that you never know with the economy and to raise taxes to 55% and hit Salina City residents all at once would be to hard for some people to adjust, but if you do it in smaller increments residents would be able to adjust there funds a little easier.
9:15 PM Marion Harrison: Salina City should think very seriously about there needs and not there wants.
Ryan Roberts: appreciates the city council members and all that they do for our City.
Mayor Maxwell: Appreciates everybody's comments and time.

Cade Hunter motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing at 9:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by **Jon Maxwell**. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Date 8/28/19 City Council Member _____

Date 8/28/19 Recorder _____