

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 3:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

**Mayor Jon Pike
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall
Councilmember Bette Arial
Councilmember Ed Baca
City Manager Adam Lenhard
City Attorney Shawn Guzman
City Recorder Christina Fernandez**

OPENING:

Councilmember Pike called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The invocation was offered by Councilmember Hughes and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Arial.

Councilmember Randall mentioned that Mayor Pike's father passed away this weekend and sent condolences to him and his family.

Mayor Pike explained that today's appointment will be done in accordance with state law; he read language from the law that applies to a vacant seat. The term for the individual appointed will expire in January, 2022. The City gave public notice of the vacancy as required on September 9, 2019; the notice included date and time of today's meeting. All applicants were required to submit a resume, the deadline was Friday, September 20, 2019. Utah law requires the Council to interview each applicant; if an applicant is not present to be interviewed, they will not be considered for appointment. Each applicant will be given three (3) minutes to answer the interview question. There can be no closed-door discussions or interviews and any deliberation will be in the public meeting. The Council had a week to review and read the applications, cover letters and resumes that have been submitted. There have not been any meetings to review the submissions. Following the conclusion of the interviews; the Council may deliberate and cast their votes. He noted that he will vote in the event of a tie. The Council will vote for one (1) applicant. After tallying the votes, if the vote is not unanimous; he will call for a second vote. The top two (2) candidates will move on to the second vote. After tallying the the majority vote will determine the person to fill the vacancy for its remaining unexpired term. In the event the second round of voting ends with a tie, he will cast my vote to offset such tie. Because of the nature of this meeting; he asked the audience to maintain proper decorum for a public meeting; he asked for no applause. He noted that the order was determined through the Lt. Governor's office such as is done in an election.

The question asked by Mayor Pike of each applicant: Why should the Council appoint you to fill the vacant City Council seat?

Vardell Curtis

Mr. Curtis thanked the Mayor and Council for their consideration. He told a story about how he came to live in St. George. He believes the Council should choose him because he loves St. George; he lives here because he chooses to live here, not because he has to. Everyone should live where they love and love where they live. He is aware of the challenges and is ready to accept the challenges. He has been giving service to the City for thirty (30) years.

Jeremy C Young

Mr. Young mentioned if appointed, he will bring a unique combination of four (4) strengths to the job:

1. He has a wealth of experience in political analysis and communication
2. He is a bridge builder and problem solver
3. He is strongly committed to St. George's future
4. He would approach his role on the Council with humility

His goal would be to serve as a stabilizing presence, to help carry forward the important work of the Council while honoring his responsibility to the citizens.

Greg Aldred

Mr. Aldred thanked the Council for this opportunity. He addressed each of the Councilmembers and commented what he admired about them. He mentioned that he has served the community in many aspects; after which he stated that he tries to live by the motto "Service above self" and asked the Council for their vote.

Cheryl Anderson

Ms. Anderson stated she feels she would be a good applicant due to her business degree with an emphasis in accounting. She does not have a full-time job and can dedicate the time necessary to be on the Council. She has a concern for the arts and appreciates what the City has done. She stated that is dedicated to St. George and has lived in the area since 2004.

David W Adams

Mr. Adams stated that he finished with his master's degree in business in 1960 after which he became a general contractor. During these years, he developed a 330-lot subdivision, three (3) apartments complexes and one (1) condominium complex in Murray. He received a call from Norm Bangerter who asked him to serve as the Director of Community and Economic Development for the state of Utah. He then got personally involved with the US Olympics Committee – he stayed in the position for four (4) years. There were a number of recessions during this time. He provided details of his employment background.

Nickolas (Nick) Ball

Mr. Ball noted that he does not know anyone on the Council; but he new Joe Bowcutt. He considers himself a younger version of Joe. He feels he has a diverse background. Being a Spanish speaker, he can break down barriers which can be of

benefit. He loves people and has a love of service. He would like to align the needs and goals of the City with what it is trying to accomplish.

Jake Burningham

Mr. Burningham stated he tends to be a man of action rather than words and noted that he is not a public speaker. He grew up in northern Utah and is a firm believer that actions speak louder than words. Additionally, he noted that he is not afraid to work.

Tom Butine

Mr. Butine thanked the Council for the openness of this process. He spoke about his resume and education. His experience is working on high performance teams in a high-tech industry. He is good at analyzing facts and data and making decisions based on them while considering values. If appointed, he will ask questions and consider aspects that the Council probably would not and it would improve the quality of the City's policies and direction. He will work as a teammate and foster mutual understanding.

Doug Solstad

Mr. Solstad answered that the Council should appoint him because they know him – they know he is involved in the community in making a difference. He believes in working hard; he is passionate about where he lives. He recently ran in the primary election with slogan "Understand, Serve, Repeat". If appointed, he will serve with passion, will be present, will be prepared, and work hard to demonstrate his love for the City.

Bryan S Smethurst

Mr. Smethurst thanked the Council for this opportunity. He was raised in a service-oriented family and has served this Nation, State, and City. The core values he lives each and every day are loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, and personal courage. He will work hard with the other Councilmembers and the community to carry on their heritage and landmarks as has a tremendous love and cares for the citizens of St. George. If given the chance to serve, he will do his very best to carry on his father's legacy with being a hard worker and one who loved all. He may not agree with everything put before him but will work hard with the Council for a solution that works for the City and its people.

Vincy Seegmiller Stringham

Ms. Seegmiller Stringham spoke about her heritage in St. George. She outlined her background and spoke about the demographics of St. George.

Gregg McArthur

Mr. McArthur shared two (2) attributes which he possesses - his deep love of the City and his deep roots in the City. He explained why he is running in this year's election and why he has also applied to be appointed tonight. He feels he is well qualified to represent the people, the area, and the City.

Matt Mortenson

Mr. Mortenson mentioned that he does not have a pioneer heritage in St. George, but he does have a pioneer home. He has struggled with how to get the paint off of his beautiful, old home with sandstone carvings that have been covered up. He noted that St. George has been discovered. He does not have a lot of critiques and believes the City is being run well. He appreciates the Council and would like to take a hand in continuing what they have done.

Joseph Middione, Jr

Mr. Middione was not present.

Charles R Wood

Mr. Wood thanked the Council for this opportunity. He is not presenting himself as one who has an axe to grind or preconceived notions – he has an open mind and has an interest in serving the citizens of St. George. As a councilman in Iowa years ago, he gained the temperament and appreciation for objective consideration and civil discourse when presented with issues with differing opinions and values. He will have an open mind and has the best intentions of serving the residents.

Mayor Pike called for a short recess.

Kyle S Wells

Mr. Wells provided an outline of his background. He believes he has the education and experience but realized personal traits and experience does not qualify one for public service itself; you need a purpose. His purpose is to do what he can to create an economy that allows his kids to stay here regardless of their chosen profession. He feels the area has an export problem - we export our kids. He outlined how he currently serves the community.

Bruce Raftery

Mr. Raftery thanked the Council for this opportunity. He filed for this position to spread his wings in the area of community service. He has been involved with veterans for fifteen (15) years and is the face and voice as the Public Information Officer in Washington County and the City. It is his idea that there can be win-win situations; he does not like animosity based on decisions that are made to make things better. It was easy for him to get involved with veteran groups as he is a third generation Marine. He would like to spread his service to the citizens of St. George.

Mark S Ripley

Mr. Ripley thanked the Council for this opportunity. He mentioned that he does not know anyone in the room and met Mayor Pike once. He gave a brief history of his background and family.

H Thayne Houston

Mr. Houston thanked the Council for this opportunity. He feels the Council should choose him because he has a deep heritage here. At the age of 26, he bought his father's business and has been in business ever since. He has been put in positions of conflict resolution many times in his life. He thanked the Council and stated that he looked forward to serving.

Curt L Gordon

Mr. Gordon stated that he loves St. George as it has a very unique character. He and his family has lived here for 18 years. He believes he has a unique experience and depth of qualifications since he has worked in city and state government and is also an experienced Planning Commission. He provided an outline of his background and noted that he is the only applicant who is producing an attainable housing product. His primary talent is to develop and articulate a vision. He is ready to step in and get things going.

J Mark Gallup

Mr. Gallup provided a history of his education. In 1976, he was the spokesman for the State of Oregon Economic Forecast. He believes there are four (4) critical issues facing St. George – water, traffic, infrastructure, and crime. He spoke about attainable and affordable housing, Lake Powell Pipeline, and traffic increases. There is a difference between an efficient and effective manager.

Patricia Kent

Ms. Kent thanked the Council for the opportunity to interview and to serve in the community. When she moved here 38 years ago, it was much different than it is today. She believes she has a responsibility to make a difference in the community and noted she has the knowledge and ability to make wise decisions for the community. Additionally, she believes she has the leadership qualities and abilities to do what needs to be done and would like the chance to be a voice for the community.

Patricia "Anne" Picot

Ms. Picot thanked the Council for this opportunity. She has not been in St. George long; but feels she feels that she is at home. She respects public service is a sacred trust and has lived by that principal all her life. She asked the Council to look past her physical disability and to look at her ability to serve this community. She has a proven record of team leadership and being a team player and has held many leadership roles in her faith. Additionally, she trained in the Cheyenne VA hospice on the No Veteran Dies Alone program and has worked as a legislature in city government.

Steven G Jennings

Mr. Jennings thanked the Council for this opportunity and explained that he was born and raised here in St. George, educated here locally. He mentioned that he served

an LDS mission in Mexico and speaks Spanish. The Council should appoint him because he is a qualified candidate and will bring a positive influence and contribution to the discussion of items coming before the Council on a regular basis. As a contractor who focuses mostly on commercial development, he feels that he brings a unique prospective that can be beneficial for the Council. He would like to continue to build upon the foundations created by forward thinking leadership.

Sherlynn Davis

Ms. Davis thanked the Council for this opportunity. She spoke about the history of St. George. Much of the success in St. George City is due to a careful nuance approach of the City Council. The Council is a team of players that bring strategies together to create a win. She looks forward to the possibility of serving, bringing forward her strengths of creativity, leadership, and vision to serve the community.

Steve Davidson

Mr. Davidson stated that he considers himself an optimist, strives to find common ground, and is self driven. As an appraiser in the Washington County Tax Assessors office, he loves the opportunity to work with taxpayers. Being able to speak Spanish has provided him an additional insight and awareness of the needs of the City. He spoke about his family history and noted that his motivation is to serve. Balance isn't just found – it is created.

Mitchael Lane DeWitt

Mr. DeWitt noted that he is a visionary and believes Joe Bowcutt was a visionary. Tech Ridge is a brilliant opportunity to bring in a subsidiary of a bit tech company from Silicon Valley. He noted that he is the oldest RN at Dixie College. He mentioned Dixie Technical College – they can give ideas of the courses the students should take. He is a visionary and helped build a daycare center in Los Angeles.

Susan Thompson

Ms. Thompson stated that she is grateful for being here and for what the Council does. There are amazing people doing amazing things in the City. She believes everyone wants the same things – prosperity, safety and health. Her strength is that she can bridge those gaps. She loves people and feels that she offers diversity and a different viewpoint.

Bryan Thiriot

Mr. Thiriot commented that he was born and educated here. He is a 5th generation pioneer family here in St. George. He remembers when Kmart was built and watched as the scar was made on the Black Hill. He noted how special it was to him to have his daughter attend the same high school he and his mother attended. St. George will be 200 years old in 2062. He loves that his grandfather was taken care of as a young boy by a family in the community when his mother passed away.

Mayor Pike advised that the interviews are now complete – there were 28 candidates interviewed as Mr. Middione did not show up. He thanked all of the applicants for applying. For those not chosen today, he asked they reach out as there are a number of boards that need members. He asked the City Council if there is any discussion.

Councilmember Hughes mentioned that someone is going leave here tonight being sworn in on the City Council. He added most of which happens does not start with the Council, it starts with people like the applicants. This is a difficult decision for him as he knows many of those that have applied. He is going to do the best to do what he feels is best to fulfill a seat that was campaigned for and won by Joe Bowcutt who was a smart man and deeply loved his community.

Councilmember Arial stated this is not an easy decision to make. She was where these applicants were about six (6) years ago. She feels this is an incredible community.

Councilmember Randall noted this has been difficult for her as there are such qualified people who have applied. She keeps thinking – what would Joe want? She appreciates all of the applicants for applying noting there are some great applicants.

Councilmember Baca reiterated what the other Councilmembers have said. He thanked the applicants for being here and noted this will be a difficult decision.

Mayor Pike advised the City Council has a ballot marked Ballot 1 with the names of all 2 applicants. He requested that each Councilmember cast their ballot for the one applicant they would like to appoint. He will then read the vote of each Councilmember.

Mayor Pike read the votes for Ballot 1 as follows:

Councilmember Hughes – Bryan Smethurst
Councilmember Randall – Bryan Smethurst
Councilmember Arial – Steve Davidson
Councilmember Baca – Vardell Curtis

Mayor Pike advised there will be a second round.

Mayor Pike read the votes for Ballot 2 as follows:

Councilmember Hughes – Bryan Smethurst
Councilmember Randall – Bryan Smethurst
Councilmember Arial – Bryan Smethurst
Councilmember Baca – Vardell Curtis

Councilmember Randall noted she felt this is what Councilmember Bowcutt would want.

City Recorder Christina Fernandez administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor Pike mentioned there is an election going on. Many of the Councilmembers wanted to keep this separate as the vacant seat was not up for public vote at this time.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Randall to adjourn.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Arial.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes - aye

Councilmember Randall- aye

Councilmember Arial - aye

Councilmember Baca - aye

Councilmember Smethurst - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Christina Fernandez, City Recorder