

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Randy Reeve, Micah Gubler, Patricia Wise, Ray Justice, and Kelly Wilson; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, Kevin Bennett, Chief Ben Lee, Troylinn Benson, and Christy Ballard; Public: Blair Gubler and Caleb Rees.

A. Called to Order – The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given by Ray Justice at 6:02 pm.

B. Presentation:

1. Mayor Hirschi thanked Councilman Randy Reeve for his 8 years of service and gave him a La Verkin City Coin.
2. Caleb Reese with Rees CPA passed out a copy of the audit to the Mayor and Council.

Caleb began by thanking the Council for the opportunity to perform the audit and the staff for their help.

The audit report is pages 1 and 2 and is the bulk of the audit. The highest report a city can receive is an Unqualified Report and that is what La Verkin City received.

The next report that needs to be discussed is the Internal Controls report and is at the back of the packet. The three areas that make up this report are record-keeping, custody, and authorization. The internal controls are good.

State Compliance Report, on page 59, is a list of specific items from the State Auditor that need to be looked at during the audit. There were two findings on this report and both deal with the Debt Service Fund. The first, there were about \$7,000 more expenditures in the Debt Service Fund than what was budgeted for.

The second finding is a result of the expenditures exceeding the revenue. By doing that, it created a deficient fund balance. Fund balance equals equity and this created a deficit of about \$4,000-5,000. Transferring funds into the Debt Service Fund during the next budget amendment will fix this issue.

Financial highlights-The numbers have been improving over the last several years. The Water Fund cash has increased and the fund balance (equity) has increased.

The Irrigation Fund has been running a deficit for years and is finally running in the positive without assistance from other funds.

The five-year trend shows everything increasing. He is not concerned about La Verkin City. You will always have better years than others, but La Verkin City is trending good.

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. Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2019, regular and work meeting, November 6, 2019, regular meeting and November 19, 2019, special meeting
3. Review Checks and Invoices: \$172,391.87

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to approve the consent agenda as written including the minutes of the September 18, 2019, regular and work meeting, November 6, 2019, regular meeting and November 19, 2019, special meeting and Checks and Invoices in the amount of \$172,391.87, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise.

Roll Call Vote: Reeve-yes, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Committee Reports:

1. Fire District-Mayor Hirschi reported the District will have another Truth in Taxation in the upcoming year.
2. Sewer Board-Blair reported Ash Creek SSD ran the sewer line and installed a manhole for the 210 South park in La Verkin.

The budget will be adopted at their next meeting.

He also reported on projects completed and in progress in Hurricane City.

Mayor Hirschi mentioned the sewer lagoons looked low.

Blair explained they are low because that is what had been used over the summer. Between the rainstorms lately and the flow coming in, they have increased by almost 6 feet.

The young goats have been sold.

Two fields have been planted and there is still some triticale hay for sale.

Councilman Wilson asked the status of the Bench Lake project.

Blair answered it is under construction, Interstate Rock Products is doing the work. They are just about ready to install the casing for SR 7. The manholes and wet wells have been ordered.

He reported there are two additional line replacement projects in Hurricane.

3. Planning Commission-Councilwoman Wise reported on the November 13th meeting. There was a presentation to possibly allow recording prior to the installation of required infrastructure and the associated financial assurances and temporary public easements.

Derek explained this would allow a developer to present the plan and final plat for approval at the same time. This would give the developer the ability to sell lots in the subdivision at the beginning of the project. This lets the developer begin recouping some of their money and it gives ownership of the streets, with the infrastructure, to the City. The developer would also be required to bond, so if the development defuncts the City would have the ability (money) to complete and/or maintain the infrastructure.

He used the history of Sunset View Estates subdivision as an example.

The City used to have this as an option, but it was removed, and the staff would like to bring it back.

Most communities allow this as an option.

Kevin explained the issues with Hillside Terrace. Having this as an option would have avoided most of them.

The developer will still have the option to just construct, which is what we currently have. This will just give them another option.

He gave several examples to explain both options.

4. Water Board-No meeting.

E. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments were made.

F. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to accept the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, Financial Audit.

The motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to accept the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, Financial Audit, second by Councilman Ray Justice. Roll Call Vote: Wilson-yes. Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Gubler-yes, Reeve-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution adopting the Interlocal Agreement with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for the Statewide Utility License Agreement.

Kevin explained this agreement has been in place since 2014 and expires December 19th. The agreement allows cities to operate within the State right of ways and State highways for infrastructure.

He has reviewed the updated agreement and only the language has changed. The responsibilities and obligations have remained the same.

The staff recommends approval.

The motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve a resolution adopting the Interlocal Agreement with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for the Statewide Utility License Agreement, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Reeve-yes, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion on the new 210 South City Park.

Kyle played a video of the area in Confluence Park that had a fire.

Councilwoman Wise reported she spoke with Kyle and Mayor Hirschi on possibly pursuing grant money to help with the construction of the park. This park is the number one priority on the Master Trails Plan and is also currently under construction for a trailhead into Confluence Park.

The State has increased the amount of grant money available this year and the timing is good with the County doing some improvements in the same area.

The City has created a Residence Committee to make sure the residents' voices are heard when developing this new park. Micah Gubler is on the committee. He is over recreation for the City of La Verkin and is also very involved in the community with his church. Jason McDowell is very involved in the community with his church as well. Sandi Gubler works at the elementary school and is a good voice for the needs of young children. Glenna Wilson is a good voice for the retired community, and Jed Stout is very involved in the Hurricane High School Mountain Biking Team. He enjoys working with teenagers and will be a good voice for that age group.

The Committee has met once and was able to put together a list of great ideas.

Kyle, Mayor Hirschi, Derek, and Councilwoman Wise met with the City Engineer, who has a lot of park design experience and gave them the list from the Residence Committee.

Once there are hard numbers it will come to the City Council for approval.

The window for grant money opens January 15th and closes March 5th. If you submit the paperwork early enough the State will help you make any corrections. It is very competitive and there are a lot of details required for grant applications. She has attended a lot of grant writing workshops and has found people from around the State are familiar with La Verkin and are excited for La Verkin to be doing something of this nature.

The grant is a 50/50 grant which means the State will supply 50% of the money and the City will be required to cover the remaining 50% with money and in-kind services.

Kevin asked if Ash Creek Special Service District has a representative on the Committee because they are technically the property owner until the City makes the last payment to them.

Kyle reported he spoke with Ash Creek SSD and they are fine with the City moving forward with this project.

Councilwoman Wise mentioned she asked the Mayor to move this park up on the priority list, mainly because of the timing. The focus on getting trails built is big right now in the State of Utah, from the Governor's Office on down.

Councilman Wilson asked the status of the 210 South Trailhead.

Councilman Justice reported the stairwell is under construction and the County is finishing the final details on the restroom.

Derek reported once the details are worked out on the restroom his crew will get the building pad ready. The City is going to pay for some of the items they would like in the restroom such as stainless-steel fixtures. The utilities are on sight. He is planning on connecting them to the Groom property at the same time he is connecting the park's utilities.

Mayor Hirschi reported the trail down into Confluence Park is also under construction.

G. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Hirschi-Thanked the Directors for the reports they email every other week.

Winterfest is Friday and Saturday, December 6th & 7th.

Wilson-He met with Ed Bowler from the Water Task Force to explain the issues La Verkin City would have with metering the secondary water. He will also be meeting with local Legislators to convey to them the concerns we have.

The last meeting for the Task Force is this month. He will attend that meeting because they will be deciding what to present back to the State Legislature.

A lot of people want SB 52 to pass because it would conserve water. He doesn't dispute that fact, but it would cost a lot of money to install the system and currently, there is not a meter warrantied that would work with Virgin River water.

La Verkin Hot Springs update. There is a new group of individuals interested in moving forward with the project. The plan is to pump the water out of the canyon to the property on the west side of SR9. That property owner is a partner in the potential project. Councilman Wilson has been told the project should begin moving forward in early 2020.

This would be a great asset to La Verkin City and Washington County.

Wise- The Zion Regional Collaborative group involves Springdale, La Verkin, Hurricane, Virgin, and Rockville. They sent out a survey for a multi-use trail from Hurricane to Springdale and got excellent feedback from it. This was the first step in the feasibility study. They have created a plan and have begun speaking with UDOT, WCWCD, and SITLA. A multi-use trail system connecting Washington County would be amazing. Several of the communities are already working together to connect to each other. The report from the surveys should be finalized within the next couple of months and then it will be up to the cities to make sure these trails happen.

Justice- He thanked the Police Department for the event allowing Marley Bergon to become an honorary police officer for a day. Marley is a three-year-old cancer patient who wants to be a police officer.

Gubler-He agreed with Councilman Justice, he too has received a lot of good feedback from the event.

He also appreciates the reports from the Directors.

He encouraged everyone to attend Winterfest.

Reeve-He reported on the Washington County Solid Waste meeting. There was a presentation by a company interested in Washington County implementing their services. This company is the same one he traveled to Germany to tour their facility. The company has been very scattered at getting the District information and fulfilling what they said they would do, which has made the District hesitant to sign anything.

The Executive Board, which he is a part of, has begun meeting with Republic to negotiate upcoming contracts. The recycling, waste pick up and landfill management contracts all expire in 2020.

La Verkin City will need to decide how they want to move forward with recycling. Solid Waste has a contract with Republic to pick up and dispose of the recycling, but they also have a contract with La Verkin City. Five years ago, the City had the option to opt-out, opt-in or make recycling mandatory for its citizens and we chose to give our citizens the option to opt-out. Other communities have mentioned wanting no part in recycling moving forward which will affect the cost of the program. The way things are looking with the commodities, etc., he would recommend the opt-in option. If a citizen would like to participate in the program, they can opt-in.

Councilman Justice asked if the recycling was still going to the landfill. If we are paying extra for recycling, he doesn't want to see it going into the landfill. That defeats the purpose of recycling.

Councilman Reeve responded, when Rocky Mountain went bankrupt the recycling was going to the landfill for about 3 months. Republic took over the contract and the material is now going to a sorting facility in Las Vegas. It does cost \$128 per ton and Solid Waste is currently sending approximately 450 tons per month. The citizen is currently only paying for the pickup of the recycling, not the processing.

Mayor Hirschi included a letter from the Solid Waste District in the Councilmembers packet stating they are increasing the garbage rate by \$.25 in January. This is part of an agreement that allows them to increase the rate every two years, but it has been several years since they last increased the rate.

H. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at 7:29 pm.

Minutes were done by Christy Ballard.

January 15, 2020
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

ATTEST:
Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder