

TOQUERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Special Work Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2020, at 6:00 pm
212 N. Toquer Blvd, Toquerville Utah



This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

Present: Mayor Lynn Chamberlain; Councilmembers: Keen Ellsworth, Ty Bringhurst, Justin Sip, Gary Chaves, Chuck Williams; Staff: Treasurer June Jeffrey, Deputy Treasurer Dana McKim, Public Works Director Lance Gubler, Recorder Ruth Evans; Support Staff: Planning Chairman Manning Butterworth, Hurricane Valley Fire District Representative Merlin Spendlove; Public: Bradi Frei, Wendi Merritt, Joey Campbell, Marcie, Bruce; Absent: Councilman Chuck Williams, Ash Creek Special Services District Representative Mike Chandler.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Sip. The invocation was offered by Mayor Chamberlain. There were no statements of belief voiced.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Council reviewed the agenda and the Mayor suggested moving item G1 to the beginning of the meeting for discussion. There were no disclosures, nor conflict declarations from Council Members.

Councilman Keen Ellsworth moved to approve the Regular Work Meeting Agenda. Councilman Ty Bringhurst seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried, 3-0. Keen Ellsworth – aye, Ty Bringhurst – aye, Justin Sip – aye.

Councilman Chaves entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

C. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Hurricane Valley Fire Department Representative Merlin Spendlove reported the Fire Department is continuing to stay busy. They have been sanitizing the ambulances after transporting Covid-19 patients and have been trying to stay away from others as much as possible to maintain public safety. There have been only five cases of Covid-19 in the District.

Planning Commission Chair Manning Butterworth did not have anything to report.

Public Works Director Lance Gubler commented that the budget is being prepared by the Treasurer's office; if the Councilmen could meet with them and plan for their upcoming projects for the year, those projects could be included in the final budget.

Treasurer June Jeffrey discussed the upcoming amendment to the budget that includes an additional \$10,000 to fund the Cholla and Trail Ridge Estates bridge and the process for amending the budget. The Councilmen are encouraged to meet with the Treasurer's office about the budget and upcoming projects.

Mayor Chamberlain commented that he appreciates the City employees for their ongoing efforts and continued hard work during this uncertain and difficult time.



D. PRESENTATION:

Bradi Frei from cityinspect gave a brief presentation regarding her software specifically designed for municipalities. The software is designed by city employees for city employees. It takes current paper systems and upgrades it to a digital system. Ms. Frei explained how her program works, the benefits of a digital system, how it streamlines processes for both city employees and residents, and the pricing and plans available.

E. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no public comments.

G. WORKING AGENDA:

1. Discussion on ORD.2020.XX An ordinance updating digital meetings.

This ordinance was discussed earlier in the meeting.

2. Discussion on waiving late fees on utility bills.

Mayor Chamberlain commented that he would like the City Attorney as well as the other Councilmen to comment and give input before anything is decided. Councilman Bringhurst commented that this discussion may need to be moved to an executive session. Mayor Chamberlain suggested tabling this item next week.

3. Discussion on assessing hardship cases for residents utility bills.

Mayor Chamberlain commented that he has received calls from residents who are unable to pay their utility bills. The Council discussed and agreed that no utilities should be shut off during this pandemic. The Council discussed that the City needs to define hardship and have specific criteria to determine if someone qualifies for assistance of some kind. The Council discussed waiving late fees, deferring payments, or somehow subsidizing the water portion of their bill. Councilman Ellsworth and City staff members were assigned to come up with standards and criteria for assessing hardship cases.

4. Discussion on Rocky Mountain Power agreement.

The Council discussed the agreement is still not ready, due to Covid-19 limiting their staff availability and working hours.

5. Discussion on policies for Public Infrastructure Districts.

Councilman Ellsworth distributed documents to the Council explaining the proposed policies for the Public Infrastructure Districts. These include a governing document form which the PID policies would be governed by. The fees would be a set amount and will need to be included on the City's Fee Schedule. The Council and Attorney Snow were invited to read through these documents and give feedback before adoption next week.

6. Discussion on updating the Toquerville War Memorial.

The Council discussed adding to the existing War Memorial that is outside of the City Office building. The Council discussed who's name should be added and what criteria should be used



to add a name, how to include this expenditure in the budget, if the veteran pays to have their own name engraved, and who should be assigned to head up this committee. It was proposed that Councilman Williams work with Commissioner Greg Turner to head up this project and come up with a plan to expand the War Memorial.

7. Discussion on increasing water rates.

Councilman Bringhurst commented that this is an important conversation and needs to be discussed, however it would be better suited to an in-person meeting with the public. The Council briefly discussed the purpose for raising the rates, the current base rates, and possibly revising the base rates to better meet resident's needs. Resident Wendi Merritt commented that she appreciated the Council tabling this item until the residents can meet in person and offered to meet with Councilman Bringhurst to give her ideas on fee structures that are affordable for everyone.

8. Discussion on ORD.2020.XX An ordinance vacating portions of Shangri-La Dr.

Councilman Bringhurst commented that this ordinance cleans up property lines on Shangri-La Drive and clarifies which sections of the road the City is abandoning and giving to homeowners. This ordinance is ready for voting next week.

9. Discussion on RES.2020.XX Amending Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Treasurer June Jeffery reported this amendment is to make sure there is enough money to cover the TRE Cholla bridge project. The Council discussed that the trail had to be raised up which cost more money than originally budgeted for.

10. Discussion on TRE Cholla trail right-of-way.

Mayor Chamberlain reported that the TRE HOA wants to postpone any discussion on this until they can meet with the City in person. Councilman Ellsworth commented that a no ATV crossing sign and large boulders were placed to block the right-of-way for ATV's. The right-of-way has been established by usage and the City has utility easements in the right-of-way. It was proposed to have Public Works Director Lance Gubler and Councilman Bringhurst establish a safe and defined trail to avoid the ATV's using the bridge. The Mayor will contact the HOA's regarding the City's plans to define the ATV crossing trail.

11. Discussion on Cross Contamination inspections.

Public Works Director Lance Gubler reported that the City needs to be in compliance with State code and conduct the cross contamination inspections. Every testable assembly will need to be inspected by a certified inspector on a yearly basis. The City has to inspect and find the current number of backflow preventer devices and will then need to be track and report on the inspections. Residents will be required to pay for their own yearly inspection and provide proof of passing the inspection. Mr. Gubler was asked about the status of installing Pedestrian crossing only signs and collapsible bollards on the TRE Cholla bridge.



H. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Justin Sip reported that the Trails & Parks Committee meetings have been postponed until further notice. The fundraiser has also been postponed until August or September. Bids for renovations for the Westfield and Center Street parks are being put together and will hopefully be ready for presentation by next month. There is a Sewer District meeting next week.

Keen Ellsworth reported that trees have started to be planted next to the South Toquerville sign. The Toquerville Parkway PID is on track for completion but the ground breaking may be delayed due to COVID-19. The project will start at the south end of the Parkway, at the hogsback. UDOT approved the resolution the Council passed last month, which details the jurisdiction transfer of SR-17.

Ty Bringhurst reported on the current version of the Lowe's MPDO draft as well as the current development agreement. Copies will be distributed to the Planning Commission and the City Council for their review. Attorney Snow has received copies and is also reviewing them.

Gary Chaves reported the Mosquito Abatement District is working hard to kill the mosquito larvae in ponds and other breeding grounds.

Mayor Chamberlain reported on his Mayor's Association meetings and the great work that they and other leaders in Washington County are doing to keep COVID-19 under control. Washington County has been very fortunate with low infection rates.

I. ADJOURN:

Mayor Chamberlain adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.



Mayor – Lynn Chamberlain

05/18/2020
Date



Attest: City Recorder – Ruth Evans

