City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Chuck Hardy, Patricia Wise, Ray Justice, and Kelly Wilson; Staff: Christy Ballard, Kyle Gubler, Kevin Bennett, Sergeant Amber Crouse, and Chief Ben Lee; Public: John Valenti, David Crouse, Brayli & Drew Karaim, Amy Curtis, Nichole Shaw, Vanessa Bergon, Cheryl & James Hawkins, and Kristina Pledger.

Councilman Micah Gubler was excused.

A. Called to Order – The thought and the Pledge of Allegiance were given by Patricia Wise at 6:03 pm.

B. 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. Agenda
3. Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2020, regular meeting
4. Review Invoices and Checks: $170,490.59

The motion was made by Councilwoman Patricia Wise to approve the consent agenda as written including the minutes of the April 15, 2020, regular meeting and Invoices and Checks in the amount of $170,490.59 second by Councilman Ray Justice. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes. Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Committee Reports:

Reports will be emailed.

D. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments were made.

E. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution R-2020-08; a resolution restricting the use of fireworks.

Kyle reported Kevin had emailed two additional options for the resolution. One of the options is to allow fireworks to be discharged in the streets only to prevent more than 20 people from gathering in the parks.

Kevin explained he included in all the drafts that the City would comply with the "then-current directive or order of the governor or local health department".
The options are, no restrictions, restrict fireworks to streets and parks only or restrict to streets only.

Councilwoman Wise said she doesn't feel that people have been in individual groups larger than 20 in the past while lighting fireworks off at the park. Restricting fireworks to the parks and streets is what has been allowed in the past. She is in favor of allowing it in both the parks and the streets.
If the City celebration is canceled, it would be nice for our citizens to have the ability to participate in at least one traditional portion of the holiday.

Kyle mentioned the Council will need to decide if the City is going to move forward with the holidays in July.
The estimation for the sales tax this year is a drop of about 25% over last year.

Councilman Justice pointed out the decrease in the Transient Room Tax revenue will be even more than the sales tax.

There was a discussion on whether to cancel the City's July 4th celebration and its portion of the July 24th celebration. Councilman Justice said he feels limiting fireworks to streets only is the wisest decision to avoid any issues with people congregating at parks, especially since the Governor has already said no groups larger than 20 people in any given location.

Kevin went over the different stages of firework restrictions.

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to approve Resolution R-2020-08, draft option 2; a resolution restricting the use of fireworks to streets only, second by Councilman Chuck Hardy. Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Hardy-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve Proclamation 2020-02; a proclamation encouraging fire restrictions.

Kevin explained the Hurricane Valley Fire District has asked communities to pass a proclamation in April/May. Unfortunately, the State has not issued any orders regarding fire restrictions for him to refer to. Because of that he took a different approach with this proclamation. It encourages our citizens to be careful and prudent and comply with any fire orders issued. For people that have property in the City that abut public lands, they must comply with public land fire orders.

The proclamation lets the Fire District know La Verkin City is trying to reduce and mitigate the chance of having unnecessary fires, particularly brush fires.

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to approve Proclamation 2020-02; a proclamation encouraging fire restrictions, second by Councilman Kelly Wilson. Wilson-yes, Hardy-yes, Wise-yes, Justice-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of the 2020 La Verkin City Scholarship applications.

Kyle reported there have been three applications, 1 male and 2 females, submitted. The council has approved two scholarships, one to a male and one to a female. A decision will need to be made between the two females.
We will invite the two recipients and their families to the next City Council meeting to receive this award.

Several Councilmembers inquired about offering a scholarship to all three applicants.

Kyle said if the Councilmembers would like to do that the budget would need to be addressed.

There was a discussion on awarding all three individuals a $500 scholarship.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Wise-Nothing to report.
Justice- They will be discussing the contracts for the landfill, garbage collection, and recycling collection for next year at the next Washington County Solid Waste District meeting.
Hardy-The pandemic has not affected the job Southwest Mosquito Abatement is doing.
Wilson-Nothing to report.

G. Closed Session:

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to adjourn to a closed session at the location of 111 South Main Street, La Verkin Utah for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Wilson-yes, Wise-yes. Justice-yes, Hardy-yes. Motion carried unanimously at 6:33 pm.

H. Reconvene from the Closed Session:

The Councilmembers returned to the regular meeting at 8:35 pm.

I. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to adjourn, second by Councilman Kelly Wilson. The motion carried unanimously at 8:35 pm.

Minutes were done by Christy Ballard.

May 20, 2020
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

ATTEST: Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder