COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES – DAVIS COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 26, 2020

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for a Work Session at 2:45 p.m. on May 26, 2020, in room 303 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of UCA § 52-4-202.

ATTENDEES

Davis County Commissioners in attendance: Lorene Miner Kamalu, Chair; Bob J Stevenson, Vice-Chair; and Randy B. Elliott.

Davis County Staff in attendance: Shairise Bills, Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Shauna Brady, Commissioner's Administrative Assistant; Neal Geddes, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney; Curtis Koch, Clerk/Auditor; and Jeff Oyler, Planning Manager.

Members of the public in attendance were Tom Ross, Bountiful City Police Chief; Jeff Bassett, Fire Chief, South Davis Metro Fire; Jennifer Hansen, Fire Education Specialist, Uintah-Wasatch-Cache (UWC) National Forest, Tiffany Dennings, Salt Lake Ranger District Fire Prevention, Guido Smith, Fire Chief, Farmington City Fire Department; and Robert Sanders, Davis County Fire Warden.

AGENDA AS POSTED

2:45 p.m. Commissioner Elliott and Jennifer Hansen, U.S. Forest Service, presenting:
Discussion regarding proposed ordinance changes regarding fire restrictions for Farmington Canyon and Ward Canyon

DISCLAIMER

The meeting was an open dialogue. Critical points in the discussion have only been briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the publicly distributed materials for further clarification of content. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating points of discussion in the audio record. The audio recording for this meeting is available based upon the County's current retention schedule.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County (DC) Clerk/Auditor's office.

The meeting commenced at 2:50 p.m.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding proposed ordinance changes regarding fire restrictions for Farmington and Ward Canyons—Presented by Commissioner Elliott and Jennifer Hansen, U.S. Forest Service *(Minute 02:42)*

Commissioner Elliott explained the reason for the proposed ordinance change is to implement tighter fire restrictions for Farmington and Ward Canyons due to the continued fire threat to these areas. There are numerous ongoing reports of escaped or abandoned fires. The current fire restrictions are not meeting the needs.

The biggest issue is that the canyon road is not exclusively a service road. Visitors are using the pull-outs along that road for campfire sites. This is what happened most recently at the gun range when a fire broke out. It is difficult to issue citations along the fire break road because citizens are unsure of what is private property and what is used for service use, and it is not easily enforceable. The forestry service would have to have the land surveyed for the fire restrictions to be enforced.

It was proposed for the County to implement a new ordinance specific to the fire restrictions on the fire break road in Farmington and Ward Canyons. The current Davis County Ordinance Restricting Fires on Forest Service Lands/Urban Interface in Unincorporated County Area reads that fires are restricted[on or below the high Lake Bonneville shoreline watermark bench (approximately 5,200-foot elevation) to State Road 89,]. Still, fires are occurring and are problematic even below that elevation. The proposal does not change where legal fires are allowed in designated recreational areas and campsites. It only brings clarification to the current order and makes the laws more enforceable for illegal fires.

They prefer writing a new ordinance over amending the current one, but the Forest Service would have to write a new order to align with the county's, and have to renew it each year. Currently, it is in place indefinitely.

It may be difficult to determine the areas of restriction based on elevation guidelines, so It was suggested to add clarifying language like "within 1/2 mile adjacent to the fire break road." Other suggestions were offered, and they were discussed at length.

Neal Geddes, County Civil Attorney, thought instead of creating a new ordinance, the current one could be amended to include Farmington and Ward Canyons, and the new language. It was suggested to include restrictions from all motorized road access and not just the fire break road.

(See Attachments A1-A2, B, C, and D1-D2)

NEXT STEPS

Neal will work with Chief Bassett to review the language and draft an amended ordinance. Jennifer will discuss with the District Ranger, the implications, if any, of having the order in effect indefinitely as compared to annually renewing the order to determine whether it is better to amend or create a new ordinance. Once the ordinance is in effect, the infrastructure for signage is already in place, and the signs can be easily replaced.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

MATERIALS PRESENTED

All publicly distributed materials associated with this meeting are noted as the following attachments:

A1-A2	Davis County Fire Restriction Special Order
B	Davis County Restricted Use Area Map-Up to 5200 Feet
C	Ward Canyon Land Ownership Map
D1-D2	Davis County Ordinance Restricting Fires on Forest Service Lands

Minutes prepared by:
Shairise Bills
Deputy Clerk/Auditor

Minutes approved on: 06/09/2020

/s/ Curtis Koch
Curtis Koch
Davis County Clerk/Auditor

/s/ Lorene Miner Kamalu
Lorene Miner Kamalu
Commission Chair