

Town of Leeds

Town Council Meeting for Wednesday, June 10, 2020

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Peterson called to order the electronic regular meeting of the Leeds Town Council on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
MAYOR: WAYNE PETERSON	<u>x</u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: ALAN ROBERTS	<u></u>	<u>x</u>
COUNCILMEMBER: DANIELLE STIRLING	<u>x</u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: LORRIE HUNSAKER	<u>x</u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: STEPHEN WILSON	<u></u>	<u>x</u>

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Peterson

3. Declaration of Abstentions or Conflicts: None

4. Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Stirling moved to approve tonight's agenda and meeting minutes of May 27, 2020. 2nd by Councilmember Hunsaker. Motion passed in a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
MAYOR: WAYNE PETERSON	<u>x</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: ALAN ROBERTS	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>x</u>
COUNCILMEMBER: DANIELLE STIRLING	<u>x</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: LORRIE HUNSAKER	<u>x</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
COUNCILMEMBER: STEPHEN WILSON	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>x</u>

5. Citizen Comments: None

6. Announcements:

a. Open fire and fireworks restrictions are in effect

Mayor Peterson said we have red flag warnings pretty consistently here in Southwest Utah and we have fireworks restrictions that are in effect and must be in a designated area. We will be designating that area this evening. The proposed area which we will find out shortly is the basketball court by the Town Park. The reason for that is to the extent if there is an issue it limits the number of places that are our Fire District would have to respond with equipment in order to bring things under control. If people see fireworks going off elsewhere, please do report it to the Sheriff because they will follow-up. They will get notification of what area is approved and it is important with this high fire danger to make sure we do not have any problems with that.

7. Public Hearing: None

8. Action Items:

a. Designating restricted area for fireworks

Mayor Peterson said we have historically done this with the basketball court. We are requested to do that so we can notify the Sheriff and Fire District as to where they should be looking for issues if they were to come up during the July 2 to July 5 window. There will be a similar window around Pioneer Day as well. Is there a motion to designate the basketball court in the Town Park as the restricted area where fireworks may be set off in Leeds in 2020?

Councilmember Hunsaker made a motion to designate the basketball court as the restricted area for fireworks in 2020. 2nd by Councilmember Stirling. Motion passed in Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MAYOR: WAYNE PETERSON	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: ALAN ROBERTS	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>
COUNCILMEMBER: DANIELLE STIRLING	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: LORRIE HUNSAKER	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: STEPHEN WILSON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>

Mayor Peterson said Peggy, please make a note to make sure that we do forward this to the Fire District and also the Sheriff's Department just so they have it as promptly as possible.

b. Resolution 2020-02, Adopt Final 2020-2021 Budget

Mayor Peterson said this is for both the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. The only changes that took place were the ones that I mentioned were going to be necessary. The County got back to us and our tax revenue for 2020/2021 will be \$65,731. That is up from \$64,147. That is an increase of \$1,584. That reflects the increased value of homes that have been built since this time last year. The State of Utah has a law that is tax equalization, where you are not able to raise the total tax dollars that you take in simply by market appreciation. They will re-access the properties throughout the community, but then they will make it a constant amount of dollars that will be provided in property tax revenue with the adjustment being for any properties that might have been demolished, which is not in our case, and also properties that were built and added. The effective rate for taxes to the Town, per assessed value, is .000627. This is something that I will be certifying to the County that we are agreeing with that. With that increase in the property tax revenues, the monies being transferred from accumulated surplus into this budget year go from \$60,607 to \$59,023. With those changes, can I have a motion to approve the budgets for 2020/2021 for both the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund?

Councilmember Stirling moved to approve Resolution 2020-02, Adopt Final 2020-2021 Budgets for General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund. 2nd by Councilmember Hunsaker. Motion passed in a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MAYOR: WAYNE PETERSON	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: ALAN ROBERTS	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>
COUNCILMEMBER: DANIELLE STIRLING	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: LORRIE HUNSAKER	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: STEPHEN WILSON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>

9. Discussion Items:

a. Resolution 2020-03, Capital Improvement Plan

Mayor Peterson said this is discussion of Resolution 2020-3 the Capital Improvement Plan which has been updated where it is expending the amount of money that might be used for purchasing land. Originally, we had identified the concept of cemetery land and park land. This adds additional money that could be utilized for other land within the Town that could be used for other purposes. Ultimately, perhaps a new location for Town offices. Initially, the thought we could potentially use it for some type of parking if we were able to secure appropriate space for that. This will require us to hold a Public Hearing which could be scheduled for our next meeting and after the Public Hearing, the meeting following that, we could approve the plan in order to allow us to move monies into that fund. Are there any thoughts from Council about other things that should be included or things that they feel should be changed from what is currently presented?

Councilmember Stirling said what is currently presented is adequate.

Councilmember Hunsaker said I agree.

Mayor Peterson said we will look then to have it move forward as a Public Hearing at our next meeting so we can get ourselves positioned for in a month or so to be able to move more quickly should an opportunity arise at a future date.

10. Citizen Comments

Kohl Furley with the Hurricane Valley Fire District said we are at 1,623 calls for service. We have had a really busy year. The Department broke our longstanding record on calls per day. We actually received 26 calls in a 24-hour shift. The crews are extremely busy right now. We are experiencing red flag warnings. This is when the National Weather Service gets in contact with our State officials and they basically say due to the dry grass, the fuel conditions and high winds, they issue a red flag warning which means no burning. If you need to burn anything, you need to wait until the Fall. We had someone this morning burning agriculturally. He described the difference between recreational burning and agricultural burning. Fires must be put out by 5 PM. To obtain an agricultural burn permit, you still have to call the Fire District office. The telephone number is 435-635-9562. During the last month and a half, we have had a fire incident almost every day. Yesterday, we had a fire where a lady was burning some weeds in her back yard and she lit her neighbor's haystack on fire. Now, she is responsible for all of the damage she caused. Today, we have a fire out by the pecan farms near Sand Hollow. On Sunday, there was a fire in Apple Valley that burned 50 acres all because someone was burning in their back yard and there was a fatality with that. Please be very careful. If you see something, report it.

Councilmember Stirling said one other aspect I would like to have on record is in the research that Stirling Fruit & Vegetables and David and Danielle Stirling have done, everyone we spoke with has highly recommended not doing agricultural burns at all. We will not be doing agricultural burns because if it does get out of hand, we would be 100% responsible, not only for the damage, but for 100% of the price tag on who comes out to fight that fire. This could be detrimental to the entire Town of Leeds; it is also detrimental to someone's pocketbook if they are a little irresponsible. If you do see a fire down our way, know it is not an agricultural fire. It is too dangerous to even try to control a fire at this point.

Mayor Peterson said Danielle, thank you for bringing this up. It is helpful to know this.

Councilmember Hunsaker said definitely. This is good information.

Councilmember Stirling said I do have another question for Kohl. Is there any way you can cancel agricultural burns during this time? The fire you went to today is right next to a 125-acre pecan farm in Hurricane. This agricultural burn is not actually looking like it is being utilized from an agricultural farmer's point of view because it almost burned our 125-acre pecan farm and we would like to express our appreciation to every single officer, whether a police officer or BLM or whomever is in the line of service. We would like to personally thank them for their duty and all of the sacrifices they make. Is there any way that Washington County can take a stand right now and say absolutely no agricultural burns? Truthfully, there is no need for anyone to be burning right now. It is too dangerous.

Kohl Furley said I agree 100%. I cannot say we can do anything about it. It is governed on a State level. I agree there is a hazard and it needs to be addressed. I will speak to my Deputy Chief and Chief at our next staff meeting to see if there is a route we can take. We cannot restrict agricultural burning.

Councilmember Stirling said I understand that. One other aspect is if there is any possibility you can inform the person you talk with when they call in to get an agricultural burn to relay if it gets out of hand, the person burning will be 100% responsible for all fees associated with it. Maybe that would make some people think twice before they burn a side of a ditch that did not need to be burned.

Kohl Furley said I agree 100%. I will bring it up to my bosses. It would be beneficial for us to emphasize that when people call in for a permit.

Councilmember Hunsaker said thank you for taking care of that this morning.

11. Staff Reports:

Mayor Peterson said one thing Councilmember Hunsaker put together was a welcome packet to inform people when they come to Town that burn permits are required. And I will include this in one of our future mailings to the Town to let them know some of the important rules and phone numbers, like looking to get a burn permit or reporting something on a non-emergency basis to the Sheriff and things like this that Lorrie has pulled together. I will look to get this distributed to both existing residents and also people as they arrive.

Mayor Peterson said I would like to provide a bit of an update on a few things. In the last month, there has been a quadrupling of the number of cases of Covid-19 in Southwest Utah and within the County there has been about a 350%, not quite 400%, increase in the number of cases. There was a joint letter

that went out from many doctors from the area. They asked the Mayors and County Commissioners to sign a letter encouraging people to make use of masks. The message is to try to get people to wear masks when they are out in public. The County did provide us with a supply of masks, hand sanitizer and gloves and we are encouraging people who come into Town Hall to use these.

Mayor Peterson said the other announcement I have, and it is with regret, and I did discuss this with Danny Swenson who has always been a great help in recruiting assistance with our 4th of July breakfast. Pretty much across the County, the meals have been cancelled. I spoke with Danny about it, and he agreed with this. Let's hope we can have something towards Labor Day or some other appropriate time towards the end of the summer where we can get together as a community and celebrate and enjoy it a little bit more without a nervousness of what might be happening. We will still have the flags on Main Street for the 4th of July, but unfortunately, we will have to hope our community celebration will be possible later in the summer.

12. Closed Meeting: None

13. Roll Call Vote to Close Electronic Meeting

ROLL CALL:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MAYOR: WAYNE PETERSON	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: ALAN ROBERTS	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>
COUNCILMEMBER: DANIELLE STIRLING	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: LORRIE HUNSAKER	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
COUNCILMEMBER: STEPHEN WILSON	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>x</u>

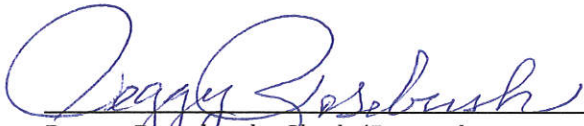
13. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

APPROVED ON THIS 24th DAY OF June, 2020



Mayor, Wayne Peterson

ATTEST:



Peggy Rosebush, Clerk/Recorder