

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2020**

The Moab City Council held its Special City Council Meeting on the above date. Per Executive Order 2020-5 issued by Governor Gary R. Herbert on March 18, 2020, this meeting was conducted electronically. An anchor location was not provided. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. A video recording is archived at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTE2c3\\_krY8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTE2c3_krY8).

**Special Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:** Mayor Niehaus called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Participating remotely were Councilmembers Mike Duncan, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Rani Derasary, Kalen Jones, and Karen Guzman-Newton. City staff participating remotely were City Manager Joel Linares, Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, City Attorney Laurie Simonson, Finance Director Klint York, and City Recorder Sommar Johnson.

**Resolution 23 -2020: A Resolution Appointing Four (4) People to Serve as Members of the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee—Approved Discussion:** Mayor Niehaus introduced the agenda item and reminded everyone that three members of Council were chosen to serve on this committee at the last meeting. She said the purpose today is to select the fourth member to serve on the committee. Councilmember Derasary requested confirmation that the Council received paperwork from three people who are interested in becoming the fourth member of the committee. She also inquired if the candidates are interested in both committees on the agenda today. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd said she had a short conversation with Joe Kingsley who is willing to be on both committees. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she did not receive confirmation if the other two candidates were interested in both committees. Mayor Niehaus asked if anyone else received correspondence from a person interested in joining this committee. She then asked how the information was shared with the public about joining the committee, besides the last Council meeting recording. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she contacted the individuals who had expressed interest previously. Mayor Niehaus asked if an email was sent to a larger group of people, or if the topic was noticed in the newspaper. Councilmember Derasary said that there has not been a process in place for this before, but it would be a good idea to implement the mayor's suggestions in the future. Mayor Niehaus said it may not have been directly advertised, but the Council had a series of meetings discussing this issue.

Councilmember Duncan said he knows Joe Kingsley well but does not know the other two candidates as well. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she would be comfortable serving on the committee with any of the candidates. She said Matt Hancock has experience with large engineering projects, and he has been very vocal in Council meetings regarding transparency and process. She said Wesley Shannon is an advocate for downtown businesses to be engaged in the process, and he could create a public forum with downtown businesses. She said Joe Kingsley has a world of experience and is interested in all transportation options. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd said Kingsley has a lot of historical perspective. She said it appears that the other candidates already have some representation on this committee through the Downtown Alliance.

**Motion:** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve Joe Kingsley as the representative to the Hotspot Committee. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilmember Derasary suggested that Hancock or Shannon should be on this committee and Kingsley should be part of the Utah Regional Transportation Plan Stakeholders

Group. Councilmember Duncan expressed concern regarding Shannon, because some of the projects on the list are outside of the downtown area. He said that Shannon might be biased towards the downtown area projects. He asked if Kingsley has time to commit to both committees, since he would be an asset on both. Councilmember Derasary said some of the criticism the Council has received from stakeholder/community groups is that people feel like they have not been given the opportunity to be on committees. She said the positions for the public should go to separate individuals. She said it would give the community more voices to be heard. Councilmember Duncan said Hancock should still be considered for this committee. Councilmember Jones said that, if Council and staff are doing a good job with public outreach, the committee members would not need to provide that.

**Vote:** The motion failed 2-3 with Councilmembers Guzman-Newton, Derasary, and Jones voting no, and Councilmembers Knuteson-Boyd and Duncan voting aye in a roll call vote.

**Motion:** Councilmember Duncan moved to nominate Matt Hancock for the fourth position on the Arches Hotspot Regional Committee. Councilmember Derasary seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilmember Derasary said all the candidates have something tremendous to offer. She said Hancock's resume is appealing because of the business experience assessing financing of projects. She said Hancock's letter expressed strong interest in ensuring the most viable project for the community is selected. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said Hancock has not indicated a project preference and is open to looking at the process. She said his experience is phenomenal and he is an engineer by trade. Mayor Niehaus said that Shannon has shown initiative in creating the Downtown Alliance and that being a voice for Moab businesses is very admirable. She said the three candidates bring a lot to the table. She said the project may or may not be associated with downtown, but Shannon has a unique finger on the pulse of the City as an employer who has two successful downtown businesses.

**Vote:** The motion failed 2-3 with Councilmembers Knuteson-Boyd, Guzman-Newton, and Jones voting no, and Councilmembers Duncan and Derasary voting aye in a roll call vote.

**Motion:** Councilmember Derasary moved to appoint Wes Shannon to the committee. Councilmember Guzman-Newton seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilmember Derasary said Shannon adds great potential which the mayor previously stated. Councilmember Guzman-Newton pointed out that Shannon was active in creating a list of projects that downtown businesses would be interested in. She said the projects on that list could potentially be accomplished with hotspot funding. She said the Downtown Alliance understands the congestion caused in the downtown area, and they have projects that could be more productive uses for the funds. Mayor Niehaus said Hancock is also a member of the Downtown Alliance. Councilmember Derasary said he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Alliance.

**Vote:** The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Knuteson-Boyd, Jones, Duncan, Derasary, and Guzman-Newton voting aye in a roll call vote.

***Resolution 24-2020: A Resolution Appointing Six (6) People to Serve as Members of the Southeastern Utah Regional Transportation Plan Stakeholders Group—Approved***

**Discussion:** Mayor Niehaus said Joette Langianese and Joe Kingsley have expressed interest in this group. She asked if Council had received any interest from other community members; they said no. City Manager Linares said he made a list of potential staff members who would be appropriate to serve on this committee. He said the list includes himself, Assistant City Manager Castle, City Planner Shepard, Assistant Planner Shurtleff, and Assistant City Engineer Jolissaint. Mayor Niehaus said she is interested in serving on this committee for Council continuity; however, if City Manager Linares or Assistant City Manager Castle are selected as committee members, they would provide the same continuity.

Councilmember Derasary inquired if only one member of staff from the departments could be selected. She said that would fill three spots and leave three spots for either Council or community members. She said the two community members that the mayor mentioned would be great candidates for this committee. She suggested having a councilmember from the Hotspot Committee be selected for this committee, because the idea sharing could be beneficial.

Councilmember Jones asked City Manager Linares how much the staff will be involved with this process outside of the stakeholders' group. He said it appears that the planning and engineering departments will be involved behind the scenes. City Manager Linares said the engineering department will be involved to a degree, but he did not know how much the planning department would be involved behind the scenes.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd inquired if staff members have expressed a desire to be on this committee. City Manager Linares said that no one has leapt out of their seat at the opportunity, but he believes the staff members view it as part of their job details.

Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she would appreciate having the planning department on the committee, since it involves future development for our community.

Councilmember Duncan said he supports the two community members and two staff members. He said that he would prefer younger staff members since this group is long-term. He suggested that City Planner Shepard is nearing retirement and might be retired before this group reaches fruition. He expressed support for Assistant Planner Shurtleff. He said Assistant Engineer Jolissaint is quiet and may not actively participate in the group very much. He suggested the remaining two positions be filled by the mayor and a councilmember. Councilmember Jones said this committee is a 12 to 18 month group, and he thought that City Planner Shepard would not be retired within that timeframe.

Councilmember Duncan asked Mayor Niehaus and Council if anyone feels strongly about being on this committee. Councilmember Jones indicated interest in serving on the committee. Mayor Niehaus said she is happy to serve on the committee and she believes that future mayors should fill this responsibility also.

**Motion:** Councilmember Guzman-Newton moved to appoint Mayor Niehaus, Councilmember Jones, Joe Kingsley, City Planner Shepard, Assistant City Manager Castle, and Assistant Engineer Jolissaint. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Councilmember Duncan said Langianese should be considered as candidate because it would provide better distribution of responsibility. He said she was responsible for the pedestrian bridge. He suggested replacing City Planner Shepard with Langianese as a candidate. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said the planning department needs to be part of this committee, but she would consider swapping out a different candidate. City Manager Linares suggested replacing Assistant City Manager Castle with Langianese, since the mayor is also nominated as a candidate. He said the mayor provides the same administration representation for the group. Councilmember Derasary suggested a friendly amendment to replace Assistant City Manager Castle with Langianese. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she is friendly to that amendment. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the amendment to replace Assistant City Manager Castle with Langianese.

Mayor Niehaus asked City Manager Linares to reiterate who the current candidates are prior to the vote. City Manager Linares said the current motion includes Mayor Niehaus, Councilmember Jones, Joe Kingsley, City Planner Shepard, Joette Langianese, and Assistant Engineer Jolissaint.

**Vote:** The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Duncan, Derasary, Guzman-Newton, Jones, and Knuteson-Boyd voting aye in a roll call vote.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Niehaus said the regular Council meeting will take place next Tuesday and will include COVID-19 updates. City Manager Linares said in the next week or so the City will have a good idea of what the reopening process looks like. Councilmember Derasary requested a legislative update regarding Coronavirus at the next meeting. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said it is hard to get the information out because the situation is changing so quickly. Mayor Niehaus asked if the City website and Facebook page could summarize what is decided in the legislative session in plain English. Councilmember Derasary requested that clarification be included on the website and Facebook regarding if the legislative session is a done deal or if something can be done about it. City Manager Linares said it could take some time, but it will be done. Councilmember Duncan thanked Councilmember Derasary for sharing information about the House bills. Mayor Niehaus said it is fascinating that the legislature is in a special session for the first time.

Councilmember Jones requested confirmation that the health department is soliciting reopening plans from individual businesses. He said there should be a coordinated effort to protect our citizens, because it sounds challenging to reopen a little without some people moving beyond recommended behaviors to more mandatory ones. He suggested clear messaging for visitors about what the boundaries are to manage the risk as the City reopens. Mayor Niehaus said that information will be part of the update on Tuesday. City Manager Linares said he agrees with Councilmember Jones. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said she spoke with the health department regarding a new health chart. She said the health department has received 65 applications for businesses to reopen and 25 businesses have been approved so far. City Manager Linares said the businesses have submitted mitigation plans and the ones that are permitted to open are operating safely. Councilmember Guzman-Newton said that one of the gyms is opening today, and she wondered when the City pool would open. City Manager Linares said the MRAC has been going through a deep clean process. He said he will have a meeting with MRAC on Wednesday to discuss options. He said the City wants to be operational, but residents' safety comes first. Mayor Niehaus said Tuesday's meeting will provide financial and operational impacts on the City regarding coronavirus, updates from the legislature, and recommendations from the health department and hospital.

Councilmember Duncan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Niehaus adjourned the meeting at 1:52 PM.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emily S. Niehaus, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder