

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLANDING CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Mayor:

City Councilmembers:

Joe B. Lyman

Kd Perkins

Cheryl Bowers

Logan Monson

Robert Turk

City Manager:

Jeremy Redd

City Finance Director:

Kim Palmer

City Engineer:

Terry Ekker

City Police Chief:

JJ Bradford

City Recreation Director:

David Palmer

Economic Development Specialist:

Pratt Redd

Absent: Councilmember Logan Shumway

Others: Valarie Turk, Kara Laws, Nikki Safrit, Robert Ogle

Prayer/Thought - The prayer/thought was offered by Robert Turk

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Councilmember Bowers moved to approve the minutes and financial disbursements of the August 25, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Perkins seconded the motion. Mayor Lyman repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Voting was as follows:**

Those voting AYE

Councilmember Perkins

Councilmember Bowers

Councilmember Monson

Councilmember Turk

Those voting NAY

NONE

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Lyman declared the motion carried.

3. **OPEN FORUM**

None

4. REPORTS/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Terry Ekker presented the August 2020 Water Report

Precipitation is 86.9% of normal. The 3rd and 4th Reservoirs are mostly full. Dry Wash is at conservation level reported Mr. Ekker. Recapture is also dropping as a result of irrigation.

B. Chief Bradford presented the August 2020 Police Report

Chief Bradford reported the total number of incidents during the month of August were consistent with 2019 numbers. The number of domestic assaults have declined over the past month. The San Juan County Jail is still discouraging the booking of some prisoners due to COVID, which is creating a lot of repeat offenders.

Councilmember Monson asked if this was a procedure created by the State or the County. Chief Bradford responded that it is current County procedures, to keep the numbers low and protect against a COVID outbreak. Council requested a letter be sent to the County expressing the concern over the inability to place individuals in the facility. Later in the meeting, information was received that the County is holding a meeting on Thursday to discuss the intake of prisoners at the jail. Jeremy let the Council know he would contact the Sheriff and give them an update.

C. David Palmer presented the August 2020 Recreation Report

Mr. Palmer reported that the pool is now closed for the season. Even with the added precautions in place to protect against COVID it was a successful summer. Soccer season has finished and flag football will begin next week. Monticello has been able to field a few teams to play in the league also.

In a discussion regarding the upcoming basketball season, Mr. Palmer asked for Council's recommendations on how to safely run the program. He shared information on procedures in place at the local school functions as a suggestion. After considerable discussion, Council recommended asking individuals to wear masks, having different entrance and exit routes, a longer period between games to allow crowds to clear out, and additional hand sanitizers in the facility to meet guidelines and keep those attending the games safe.

5. AGENDA

A. Public Art Installation - Logan Monson

Councilmember Monson turned the floor over to Kara Laws, spokesperson for the project. Ms. Laws explained the request was for an art installation at Central Park. The art installation would be dedicated to three local men recently killed in an auto accident. The total cost of the project, set at \$40,000, is being funded by donations. Ms. Laws continued to explain the benefits to a community of having art installations, including increased tourism and economic benefits. The proposed art includes wagon wheels, antlers, rock and fish. Four different versions were shared with Council. When questioned about placing the art on private rather than public property, Councilmember Bowers responded that although she is very supportive of the project she did not feel her business was the best fit for it. Ms. Laws also stated that was the sentiment of other local businesses that had been approached about the project.

Council discussed and expressed concerns about the long term care of the project and the precedence this might set for future requests. The City does not currently have a policy in place for art installations. Mr. Redd was asked to gather more information on what other Cities are doing in regards to art installations. Council will continue its discussion on the request at a later meeting.

B. Statement of Ethical Behavior & IT Security Policies - Kim Palmer

Ms. Palmer explained that the two policies included in the packet were required from the fraud assessment done a few months ago. The two policies will be included in the personnel policy and discussed with employees. Employees and Councilmembers will be required to sign a commitment to ethical behavior yearly as directed by the policy.

C. CARES Act Funding - Jeremy Redd

Mr. Redd informed the Council that the City has received two CARES Act funding distributions for a total of \$215,458. The Department of Treasury has determined acceptable uses of the funds to be “expenditures incurred due to the public emergency”. Funds can not be used as revenue replacement. \$107,729 has been spent by the City as of August 31st on health expenses and payroll as a result of the COVID emergency. Another \$24,000 is anticipated to be used for health expenses during the next few months.

Mr. Redd asked the Council for their recommendation of the best possible way to spend the remaining \$83,729. Possible uses of those funds might include police payroll, a business grant program, utility support to qualified residents and tourism marketing. These are all approved uses by the treasury. In addition, the County is expected to disperse another \$250,000 in business grants to area businesses and the HEAT program has been very effective in supporting local residents who need help in paying their utilities stated Mr. Redd.

The Council discussed mitigating increases in garbage, suicide prevention, and business grants as possible uses of the funds. Mr. Redd will check to see if these are approved uses of the funds.

Pratt Redd shared several marketing ideas including focusing on weekend getaways, friends and family activities, safety and cleanliness. Marketing the area would help struggling tourism businesses going forward.

Councilmember Perkins moved to approve the use of \$30,000 in CARES Act Funding for marketing.

Councilmember Turk seconded the motion. Mayor Lyman repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE

Councilmember Perkins

Councilmember Bowers

Councilmember Monson

Councilmember Turk

Those voting NAY **NONE**

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Lyman declared the motion carried.

D. Illegal Trash Dumping Discussion - Cheryl Bowers

A discussion on how to deal with the increase in illegal dumping was had by the Council. Councilmember Bowers stated that she has been in contact with Waste Management, who told her they could not enforce fines. Chief Bradford told the Council that if those doing the illegal dumping can be identified, offenders can be charged with theft of services and fined.

Councilmember Perkins stated that those doing the illegal dumping probably are doing so because they can't pay for garbage so they probably can't pay the fine either. She recommended being proactive and educating people on recycling opportunities in the community and the cost of an additional garbage can. She also recommended there be more free dump days at the transfer station for City residents. Councilmembers were in agreement of the suggestions.

Mr. Redd suggested that Council look at the issue of illegal dumping on a broader scale. The increase in dumping fees at the County has resulted in many County residents not purchasing dumpsters from Waste Management and holding their trash for longer periods of time. There has also been an increase in illegal dumping in the unincorporated areas, such as the old dump site in West Water Canyon. One option the City may consider is charging an additional few dollars to City residents and then allowing them to dump at the transfer station for free. This is a common practice throughout the State. It may help reduce the amount of illegal dumping, the storing of garbage and also promote a cleaner and healthier community.

E. City Manager Items - Jeremy Redd

Mr. Redd shared the following:

1. The ATV Safari will be held this Wednesday - Saturday. Approximately 100 riders have registered.
2. The inspection of City reservoir dams was held on September 2. Everything went well.
3. The request for the approval of the FBO agreement has been reviewed by legal council and will be on the next Council meeting agenda.
4. Public hearings for the property annexation discussed at the last Council meeting and the Travel Plan will be held at the next Council meeting.

6. INFORMATION

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Perkins moved to adjourn. Councilmember Turk seconded the motion. Mayor Lyman repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a

vote. Voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE

**Councilmember Perkins
Councilmember Monson
Councilmember Turk
Councilmember Bowers**

Those voting NAY

NONE

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Lyman declared the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

By:_____

Kim Palmer, Deputy Recorder