

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Patricia Wise, Ray Justice, Chuck Hardy, and Kelly Wilson; Staff: Christy Ballard, Chief Ben Lee, Kevin Bennett, Derek Imlay, and Kyle Gubler; Public: Brian Stewart, Joni Lyman, Mykal, Bailee and Kyson Shirley, and Dana Randall.

Councilman Micah Gubler was excused.

- A. Called to Order** –The invocation/thought and the Pledge of Allegiance were given by Mayor Richard Hirschi at 6:00 pm.

B. Presentation:

1. Piano performance by Kyson and Bailee Shirley-Dana Randall

Dana Randall invited two of her students to play the new piano for the City Council in appreciation of the purchase of the new piano.

2. Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs-Joni Lyman

Joni Lyman gave an update on the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs. The umbrella group name has changed to Americorp Seniors. They have also added a new program called Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP does not have the same low-income qualifications as the other two programs. Due to COVID19, the programs had been placed on hold in March. However, the Senior Companion program started shopping for clients in May and transporting in September.

Foster Grandparents are not able to go into the schools yet.

The Corporation has been paying the volunteers anyway since many of them need the income.

The programs are still in place and waiting for the opportunity to go back to work. Last year the City donated \$700 to these programs.

If people are interested in volunteering, they can contact her through the Five Counties website under Programs and Aging Services.

- C. 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. Minutes: September 16, 2020, regular meeting
4. Review Checks and Invoices: \$164,328.81

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to approve the consent agenda as written, including the minutes of the September 16, 2020, regular meeting and checks and invoices in the amount of \$164,328.81, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments were made.

E. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve a donation to the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs.

The motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve a \$700 donation to the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Wilson-yes, Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Hardy-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and direction on the possibility of selling City property on 300 South between State Street and the animal shelter.

Kyle explained Jim Soria, the owner of River Rock Roasting Company, has approached the City about purchasing a section of property. The parcel is not large enough for anyone else other than the adjacent property owner to do anything with. Mr. Soria has also agreed to give the City an easement for a trail into Confluence Park. This item was discussed during a previous work meeting.

Derek reported Mr. Soria will have an appraisal done on the parcel before approval. This is not an action item. Mr. Soria didn't want to spend money on an appraisal if the City Council was not interested in selling him the property.

Councilwoman Wise wondered if this would be a cash purchase or a trade situation.

Kyle said Mr. Soria would be purchasing the property but the trail easement would be part of the agreement.

Kevin explained the property would be surplus and normally anyone can bid on it. However, there is a specific public interest that is being addressed by the City by entering the trade. The exchange will help Mr. Soria but it will also benefit the City by getting a trail in addition to the cost of the property.

This will also give visitors another way to get into Confluence Park without having to park in his parking lot or going through the Dwellings.

Kyle reported this exchange will also give the City a recorded drainage easement. The property has always been a drainage from State Street, but it has never been a recorded easement. Having that easement would be a benefit to the City.

The exchange will benefit both parties.

Councilwoman Wise asked if the money received from the sale could go toward building the new trail.

Kyle explained the money would go into the General Fund and the Council will determine where to put it.

Kevin explained the triangle on the map is the section of land Mr. Soria would like to purchase. It is a little over .3 of an acre. It still leaves enough room for a trailhead and a parking area.

The Councilmembers were all in favor of selling the property to Mr. Soria.

3. Discussion and possible action on the 2020 Subaru Loves Pets Marketing Agreement.

Chief Lee explained this organization approached Cathy Freitas, our animal control officer, with the agreement right at the deadline. Staff has decided to move forward with it to see if the City can qualify.

Subaru has agreed to donate \$100 (up to \$3,100) to La Verkin City for every dog adopted in October.

Kevin reported this agreement has been offered before but the contract is new. After speaking with the organization, he made some changes to meet the needs of the City.

Councilwoman Wise asked if COVID has changed the number of pets getting adopted and surrendered.

Chief Lee answered that the shelter has noticed a difference. There have been several days the shelter has been empty. When a dog does come in the owner picks them up or they have been adopted rather quickly.

Councilman Hardy asked if the money is specifically for the animal shelter.

Kyle replied it would be handled the same way selling the property would be. The money would go into the General Fund and the Council would determine where to spend it. It makes sense to put it back into the shelter, but an outside organization cannot tell the City where the money will be used.

The motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve the 2020 Subaru Loves Pets Marketing Agreement, second by Councilman Chuck Hardy. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve a purchase/lease of two police vehicles.

Chief Lee reported two of the trucks have a one-year lease which has expired. After looking into several different options, he found Ken Garff was the most cost-effective. They are willing to do a three-year lease which will save money on moving equipment from truck to truck every year.

Ken Garff will sell the vehicles to the City at a concession price, which is about \$35,000 per vehicle. At the end of 3 years, Ken Garff will buy back the vehicles at the negotiated price which is about \$25,000 per vehicle.

We are still waiting on the contract from Zions National Bank who will loan us the money for the vehicles. The annual payment would be \$8,400 for 3 years. At the 3-year mark, the City can either purchase the vehicles or sell them back to Ken Garff.

Zions Bank needs approval before they would create a contract.

The paperwork in the packet is for the exact vehicles Ken Garff will sell to the City. One of the trucks will be silver instead of white due to a lack of availability.

The lease limits the mileage to 15,000 per year or 45,000 at the end of the lease. The trucks they currently have both have about 10,000 after one year so this shouldn't be an issue.

Kyle explained Zions Bank is loaning us the money to purchase the vehicles. Ken Garff intends to buy the vehicles back at the end of the 3-year lease agreement. He is good with the Ken Garff agreement and will monitor the mileage, so we are not paying anything extra at the end.

He will ask Zions Bank to have the contract ready for the next City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Wise asked if there was a concern with the bank.

She also asked how much money it takes to equip a new police vehicle.

Kevin answered there is. Right now, the leases are year to year so we know we can afford them before we agree to it. If an agreement happens to be longer than a year, there is usually a savings clause that goes into agreements that state for the convenience of the government we can back out at the end of each year if the money is not available. We can't do that in this agreement, it is irrevocable for 5 years with Zions Bank. Ken Garff can buy them back after 3 years but if they don't, the City's payments would be \$25,000 for two years. We don't know what the interest rate will be, they think about 2 ¼ %.

Once the Council determines to move forward, Zions Bank will begin the process of preparing the contract.

Once it comes to the Council, both agreements will need approval and will be "married together".

Kyle said the interest rate will be locked in tomorrow when they talk to the bank representative.

Chief Lee reported it takes about \$3,500 to equip each vehicle. The equipment can be re-used.

Councilman Hardy asked how many vehicles the department has. If trucks are the best option. Who moves the equipment over and if this was included in the budget?

Chief Lee replied the City has six vehicles and five officers. One vehicle is a reserve officer vehicle.

Trucks are better for the value because the trade-in is much better and the cost is similar to a car.

A company in St. George moves the equipment over.

Kyle reported there is money in the budget for the vehicles.

Councilman Justice pointed out the \$200 difference between the trucks.

Chief Lee explained it is the paint color difference.

The motion was made by Councilman Kelly Wilson to approve the pursual of the purchase/lease of two police vehicles, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion on the 2021 La Verkin City scholarship award.

Kyle went over the time frame for releasing the applications to the seniors, submitting the application, and the award ceremony. The application is the same as last year, only the dates have changed.

Councilwoman Wise suggested moving the deadlines up so the students could know as soon as possible.

Kyle explained last year was different because the award ceremony at the high school was canceled. Normally, the students are awarded their scholarships/awards at the ceremony and that is when they find out what exactly they received.

Councilwoman Wise was fine with leaving the dates if they don't find out until the awards banquet.

The Council was fine with the qualifications and dates.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Wilson-He is meeting with Derek and Sunrise Engineering tomorrow regarding upcoming projects. The work release agreements should be ready for approval by the next City Council meeting. The work release will give Sunrise Engineering approval on moving forward with designing the projects. It will probably be springtime before the actual projects are started.

The 100 South project is still the number one priority. The Earl property will probably be part of that project.

Kyle reported the Earls have not signed the MOU yet. He has met with the family and the Council may be hearing from them again with other items they would like to add.

Derek found out UDOT may be more inclined to work with the City on improving SR17. He will be meeting with them and we should know more after that meeting.

Councilman Wilson reported Toquerville is projected to begin work on the bypass road in April and eventually UDOT wants to make SR17 four lanes all the way out.

There was a discussion on possible ways the road could increase to four lanes and the location of the bypass road.

Wise-Reported the County did approve their contribution of \$9,500 to the Zion Regional Collaborative (ZRC) so the independent contractor position will move forward.

Hopefully, there will be an environmental study funded for the multi-use trail. The study will be from La Verkin Creek along SR9 to the connection between Rockville and Springdale. Once the study has been completed construction of the trail can begin.

Kyle, on behalf of the ZRC and La Verkin City, met with the MPO who approved taking a loan request to the next level for approval. The loan will cover part of the environmental study cost. UDOT has taken the lead and will cover most of the cost of the study. The communities involved with the ZRC will be responsible to cover \$5,000.

This trail should start in La Verkin.

She met with Interstate Rock Products, Derek, Mayor Hirschi, and Kyle to discuss possible routes of the trail to come down off the twist. She explained the proposed location of the trail, but nothing is definite. It would require a lot of easements before it could move forward but it is a great first step for La Verkin.

Kyle said the biggest challenge of the trail is getting it off the hill, so the old road makes the most sense. The trail will parallel SR9 most of the way through Virgin.

None of the funding has been committed but UDOT seemed confident they would get approval and the MPO unanimously approved moving the request on to the DTAC board and they usually follow the request of the MPO.

Councilwoman Wise passed out a handout of the proposed La Verkin Overlook Trailhead kiosk. This is not the format, just review the content and let her know if they would like anything changed. Canyon Media is going to design the kiosk. Once they have done that, she will know how much information can be placed on it. She hopes to put a description of the trail, a map, and personal stories about working on or maintaining the canal. The only trails that will be listed on the map are ones that don't go through private property.

Justice-Nothing to report.

Hardy-The Hurricane High School award ceremony is May 19th.

Mosquito Abatement has treated several spots where mosquitos were multiplying. They have not found any West Nile Virus in the area but did find positive strains of Saint Louis encephalitis. They are waiting for confirmation from the CDC.

G. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously at 7:24 pm.

Minutes were done by Christy Ballard.

October 21, 2020
Date Approved

ATTEST: Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder

Richard M. Hirschi
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

