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**City of Taylorsville
Special City Council Meeting
*Minutes***

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129
6:30 p.m.**

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Attendance-

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

Council Chair Meredith Harker
Councilmember Dan Armstrong
Councilmember Ernest Burgess
Councilmember Curt Cochran

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Tracy Wyant, UPD Precinct Chief

Others in Attendance: Anna Barbieri, Troy Buchanan, John E. Gidney, Brad Manuel, Tamera Perkins, Dan Tibbitts, and Lynette Wendel.

1. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 Mayor Overson welcomed those in attendance and led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. INTERVIEWS FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT NO. 3

 Mayor Overson explained how the meeting would progress. She indicated that the applicants had drawn numbers before the meeting to determine in what order opening statements would be made. Having previously provided declarations of candidacy forms, a statement of qualifications, and a written description of his/her vision for the city, each applicant would be given up to three minutes to provide an opening statement, after which various questions would be randomly drawn by the Mayor and posed to the applicants. The previous day, the applicants had been provided with copies of the questions and would be given up to three minutes to answer each. There was

not a predetermined number of questions that would be posed. Instead, the council could choose to take a vote at any time.

Mayor Overson invited the first applicant to step forward and make an opening statement to the City Council.

Ms. Barbieri explained that she had grown up in Midvale, graduated from Utah State University with a degree in English as well as a certificate to teach secondary education. Upon graduating from college, Ms. Barbieri worked in retraining individuals who had been laid off and helped them prepare for new careers. She worked to help refugees secure employment as well. It was during this time period that she discovered a love of service. She and her sister later started a company called White Elegance which had been going strong for 27 years. She had been on the City's budget committee and had been a planning commissioner for ten years.

 Brad Manuel introduced himself to the Council and explained that he had lived in District #3 for about five years after moving from District #4. He and his wife had raised three kids and he was excited about the opportunity to serve the community, particularly at a time when a new police department was being formed.

 Troy Buchanan made his opening statement and explained that he was a life-long resident of the Taylorsville Bennion area. He had recently retired after working over thirty years in law enforcement for the state of Utah. He indicated this experience made him an ideal candidate to serve on the city council since a new police department was being formed. He had two grown children with families of their own, was chair of the Taylorsville City Amateur Radio Club, volunteered on search and rescue emergency response teams and wished to be a part of the positive team that was currently leading Taylorsville.

 Dan Tibbitts said he had grown up in Nevada before graduating from Brigham Young University. He had a background in accounting within the construction industry and thoroughly enjoyed his work. He was grateful for the opportunity to apply for the vacant council position in District No 3.

 Mayor Overson explained to the applicants that the questions had been crafted in order to allow the applicants to present information regarding their feelings and thoughts about themselves, the city and this opportunity to serve.

Please provide an example of your greatest accomplishment or an activity of which you are most proud.

Mr. Tibbitts responded that he earned his master's degree from Utah State University a full eighteen years after he earned his bachelor's degree, all while working full time and raising five children. He had worked his way from senior accountant, controller and now Chief Executive Officer. In that time, the company had grown from a \$70 million company to an over a \$150 million company with 280 employees in several states. During his tenure the company had

increased its bonding capacity and quadrupled their credit line. He was proud to be a part of the team that made that happen.

Mr. Buchanan explained that he had been a state employee for almost 31 years and had served on many committees. At one time he had met with the governor on a monthly basis and received a letter from that governor congratulating him on his service. Mr. Buchanan also pointed out that he had established numerous businesses over the years. He looked forward to doing more with Taylorsville.

 Ms. Barbieri explained that in 1992 she had seen a need and turned that need into a business that had now lasted for 28 years. The business was one of the early companies to create a website in 1998 and through that business she had learned a great deal about marketing, management, human resources and doing whatever was necessary to help the business ensure the business thrived. She hoped to bring that experience to the city council.

 Mr. Manuel said that his greatest accomplishment was his 23-year marriage to his wife wherein they raised three children and were now enjoying grandchildren as well.

 **In your opinion, what is going well in the City of Taylorsville and what would you change?**

 Mr. Buchanan responded that Taylorsville was a great example to other cities. He felt the city had been managed well and resources had been used wisely. Regarding what he would change, he believed the neighborhoods could be kept cleaner and he was a huge fan of the cleanup program. He wished to educate citizens on their responsibility to keep their own yards clean and to help them understand that what they did with their property affected those around them.

 Ms. Barbieri loved the synergy between the legislative and administrative branches of government—that everyone got along together. She pointed out how extraordinary that was in the current political climate. There was no one at the City that she would not enjoy working with. She would love to see more connectivity between the streets of the city. She would love to open more cul de sacs and neighborhoods so that children had safer routes to school. Additionally, as the demographics within the city changed, she wished to bring all ethnicities together for community activities, and encourage everyone to be better neighbors and be more welcoming, despite how busy our lives often were.

 Mr. Manuel admitted he had not been as involved with the city as he could have been, but he was impressed with the increased communication coming out of city hall. He was in full support of the plan to re-establish the city's own police department. Although he did not initially understand the reasoning behind that decision, after reviewing previous city council meetings online, he understood it now and believed it was the correct decision. He was also very excited about the cultural diversity committee. He saw changes on the horizon for Taylorsville and there was an opportunity for a great deal of community involvement. He hoped the City would continue to encourage that engagement.

 Mr. Tibbitts stated there were a lot of good things happening in the city and that in particular, the economic development taking place was amazing. He felt the taxes were reasonable with good services and sound infrastructure. The 2020 Vision was a great plan and he indicated he would not be on the council in order to change things. He had been told by others that sometimes the building inspections and code enforcement could be heavy handed and inflexible. He had no personal knowledge of that and acknowledged it might be hearsay.

 **If appointed, what legislative issues and priorities are you most interested in pursuing?**

Ms. Barbieri responded that safety and infrastructure were her highest priorities and that one could not build an inspired community without them. The new police department was a huge priority. While she agreed that the City's roads and infrastructure were currently in good shape, there was a time when that had not been the case. It was important to keep measures in place to ensure they continued to be maintained. She loved the economic development and entrepreneurship she was seeing in the City but hoped for more development of the commercial sites on Redwood Road. Finally, she felt the park on Redwood Road could benefit from some improvements.

 Mr. Manuel explained that he was most interested in the City's goal to establish a new police department and was excited to be part of the community outreach group formed to assist in that process. He wished to help civic engagement and believed that the community policing model would play a key role in accomplishing that. He was also interested in learning more about the City's efforts to address Utah's air quality. Utah had grown more than any other state in the previous decade and although growth was inevitable, he pointed out that the approach to it should be measured and should consider strategic high density housing projects along with improved public transportation coordinated with our neighboring government entities.

 Mr. Tibbitts felt that Taylorsville was on a great course, and he would not push for any legislative changes. However, he stated it was important to continue to pursue economic development opportunities since those drove everything else such as fixing up parks, keeping taxes low, spending money wisely and coming up with good policies that would protect both citizens and law enforcement personnel.

 Mr. Buchanan stated that he did not have any particular legislative issue to pursue. He agreed that public safety was a high priority. Regarding recent protests, he wished to educate people on how to protest responsibly and make better choices which would create a better environment. Although he believed in the right to protest, he believed in doing so responsibly.

 **Please share with the Council your past service to the City either as an appointed volunteer, a community project participant or in any other capacity.**

 Mr. Manuel responded that his wife had previously been chair of the ordinance committee and that he had assisted her. Additionally, he had recently become involved in the transition team for the new police department.

 Mr. Tibbitts explained that most of his service to the community had been in the positions he had held in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Through that service he had provided leadership, counseling, and compassion among other things. He had participated in Eagle Scout projects at the Sanderson School for the Deaf and Blind and at the Taylorsville Heritage Center. One of his favorite service opportunities was to help implement his church's new self-reliance program which involved meeting with residents throughout the city.

 Mr. Buchanan stated he was the chair of the Taylorsville City Amateur Radio Club. Since retiring he had begun devoting a great deal of his time on emergency preparedness and emergency communications, search and rescue and emergency response teams. He had served on many committees throughout the state and had recently provided a city map that included all amateur radio operators by council district.

 Ms. Barbieri stated how fortunate she had been to serve on the planning commission for the past ten years. She had also served on the economic development committee five years before and had been instrumental in starting the food truck league with the help of Councilmember Cochran. She also helped to create a display for Taylorsville Dayzz showing how to go about cleaning up one's yard. She was actively involved in the Mid-valley Active Transportation Plan which was a great opportunity since she was so interested in boosting physical connectivity within Taylorsville's neighborhoods. She and Lynette Wendel took Mark McGrath's U of U class on *The City in Literature* and decided to start a book club for the planning commission which in turn involved the planning commissions of some other municipalities in the Salt Lake Valley.

What is your fiscal philosophy? Under what circumstances would you consider tax increases or bonding?

 A fiscal conservative was how Mr. Tibbitts described himself. He said he had recently realized that all city revenue was required to be provided by residents and businesses. Therefore, any time public funds were used, they should be used wisely, judiciously and transparently. He felt Taylorsville had done a good job of doing so. While he was not adamantly opposed to increasing taxes or bonding, to do so he would need to be absolutely sure it was the best thing for the City.

 Mr. Buchanan stated that the most important thing was for the City to live within its means and he felt Taylorsville had done a good job of that thus far. He stated it was important for councilmembers to listen to the citizenry to learn what was most important to them.

 "Pay as you go," "stay out of debt," and "choose wisely" were phrases Ms. Barbieri used to describe her fiscal philosophy. She was very conscious of the fact that the city's revenue came from citizens' pockets. To increase taxes was a very serious thing and she hoped that economic development would be such that taxes would not need to be raised. She admitted that she was less familiar with bonding and how that worked but she would want to do line-item cuts before agreeing to increase taxes or bond. She also felt the City could save money by relying more heavily on volunteerism.

 Mr. Manuel indicated he was fiscally conservative, believed in staying out of debt and limiting government. He believed a city needed to sufficiently fund and budget for the services that were necessary, and he would consider increasing taxes or bonding if such services (like a new police department) required it.

 Please share your understanding of the separate roles of the city council, the mayor and the administration

 Mr. Buchanan admitted that he was not well-versed on the different roles within the city government. He knew that former Councilmember Brad Christopherson was over the Waste Management contract and had other responsibilities as well. He looked forward to learning more and sharing responsibilities with other councilmembers.

 Ms. Barbieri explained that the city council served as the legislative body and was responsible for the budget and creating laws and ordinances. The mayor was responsible for administering those ordinances and overseeing how the budget was spent. That is, the council determined where the budget should be spent, and the administration implemented that budget. She pointed out that the two were separate branches of the city government.

 Mr. Manuel agreed with Ms. Barbieri's response and indicated that the city had a "strong mayor" form of government, so the executive branch administered the laws.

 Mr. Tibbitts stated that he likened it to the President of the United States and Congress or the governor and state legislature, but on a smaller scale. The council was responsible for setting the budget and making the laws and policies which were then turned over to the administrative branch for execution. He pointed out how important it was for the two branches to work together.

 How willing are you to receive and implement constructive feedback from constituents and others you work with?

 Ms. Barbieri responded that she was very willing. She quoted Congressman Dan Crenshaw who, upon being the butt of a joke on Saturday Night Live said "I try hard not to offend people in life. I try harder not to be offended." She tried to live her life in the same way, and she believed one could gather more bees with honey than with vinegar. She admitted that she still had a lot to learn even after ten years on the planning commission.

 Mr. Manuel pointed out that oftentimes it could be difficult to receive feedback. However, he was very open to receiving it from citizens because they were the heart of the city. The council needed to encourage communication because the more that leadership was able to listen to that feedback and ideas, the more they could be applied. Walk the citizens through the process in order to see their ideas come to fruition.

 Mr. Tibbitts currently led his administration team at work. Because of that role, he was very visible to others who saw what he did and would critique his work. Therefore, he was used to

getting feedback and did not get defensive when he received it. Sometimes there were good ideas that came from that feedback and in the City's case, the citizens were the council's "customers"—they should be listened to and heard.

 Being an Information Technology professional for many years, Mr. Buchanan was used to getting a great deal of feedback from people who did not wish to take responsibility for anything. He had learned to let people rant and rave and not get riled up about it. Being reasonable in that manner often resulted in being treated with greater respect.

 **What is your availability to be at committee and board meetings during regular business hours?**

 Mr. Manuel responded that he was typically available after 12 p.m. on weekdays.

Mr. Tibbitts stated he had a great deal of flexibility in his current job. Because he intended to retire the following year, he was turning more of the day-to-day work over to his successor. He admitted that there were times he would not be able to meet because of prior commitments but generally he could work around most things.

 Mr. Buchanan reiterated that he was retired and spent most of his time with his children and grandchildren, volunteering with search and rescue and the amateur radio club. He had a lot of flexibility and looked forward to serving the city in any capacity.

 Ms. Barbieri stated she was available any time and could come and go as needed.

Knowing that the applicants had been provided with the substance of each question previously (more questions than had been asked thus far), Chair Harker wished to give each the opportunity to answer whatever question had not been asked but that they specifically wished to speak to before the council took a vote.

Mayor Overson suggested the applicants make any final remarks at the same time.

 Mr. Tibbitts wished to describe his experience with legislative matters. He was a director on a couple of boards including a homeowner's association in Washington County. Those boards got input from stakeholders and made decisions which then became policy. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to them that evening.

 Mr. Buchanan wished to explain why he should be appointed to fill the council vacancy. He had over thirty years of employment which could aid the city as it created its own police department. He had several revenue-saving ideas, as he had once established curriculum with agents in the field. Specifically, creating video court could allow agents to respond from their vehicles in the field so that they could stay in service and would not need overtime pay to appear in court. He had served in both state and federal courts and was a certified expert witness in federal court. He had served in many capacities in jails and prisons throughout the United States but primarily in Utah. He looked forward to helping create Taylorsville's new police department.

 Ms. Barbieri wished to explain why she had chosen to apply for the council vacancy. It was because she loved Taylorsville. She had chosen to move there partly because of the socio-economic and ethnic diversity. She also loved a good challenge to think outside the box in order to solve a problem. There were many opportunities for Taylorsville to do that and many, many opportunities for people to serve the community. She had thoroughly enjoyed her time on the planning commission and looked forward to the possibility of serving on the city council.

 Mr. Manuel chose to answer the same question as Ms. Barbieri. He explained that in 2016 he had returned to school to earn his degree in psychology. He was obsessed with human behavior and performance with young athletes. At the same time, he was witnessing a knock-down drag-out presidential election and the sharpest division in our society was on full display and had never left. That informed his choice in classes when he returned to school. He studied political ideologies, world religion, social psychology, race and ethnicity, health education and stress management. It was through those classes that he learned about human behavior and ultimately why he submitted his name for consideration. He wished to apply his knowledge and serve the community in a productive way.

 Mayor Overson asked the councilmembers if they were ready to make a decision and adopt an ordinance appointing someone to represent District No. 3 on the city council.

City Attorney Tracy Cowdell pointed out that the council could decide to take an informal vote now or simply hear a motion to appoint a candidate. Three votes were needed to approve an ordinance and he recommended that the vote be unanimous.

Chair Harker wished to first take an informal vote of the council. The individual councilmembers each selected a name on the ballots they had previously been given by the council coordinator. Ms. Heineman then collected those ballots, counted the votes and recorded them on a tally sheet. The votes and tally sheet were then shared with the city recorder who announced that all four current members of the council had voted informally for Anna Barbieri.

3. **Ordinance No. 20-17** – An ordinance of the City of Taylorsville appointing an individual to fill the District No. 3 vacancy on the City Council

MOTION: Councilmember Armstrong moved to approve Ordinance 20-17, appointing Anna Barbieri to represent District No. 3 on the City Council; and to swear her in on October 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran.

Chair Harker	Yes
Councilmember Armstrong	Yes
Councilmember Cochran	Yes
Councilmember Burgess	Yes

The motion passed 4-0

Chair Harker pointed out that applying for this position took bravery. She felt that each applicant had amazing talents and skills and she hoped that all would find some way to serve the community in one capacity or another.

Mr. Cowdell pointed out that the swearing in ceremony on October 7 was merely ceremonial. Ms. Barbieri had become a member of the city council immediately upon approval of Ordinance 20-17.

Councilmember Cochran offered congratulations to all the applicants. He explained he had been in the same situation previously and had to compete against ten other applicants. Like Chair Harker, he hoped that each of that evening's applicants would involve themselves in community service. The more involved you were in the city, the more you would learn and the better prepared you would be to serve.

Councilmember Armstrong stated that they had four very capable applicants to choose from that evening and he was impressed with each.

Councilmember Burgess expressed his appreciation to each applicant who had put themselves out there and pursued the opportunity to serve. Like his fellow councilmembers, he pointed out how very many different ways there were to serve in the city. Everyone was needed.

4. Other Matters

There were no other matters to discuss.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Armstrong moved to adjourn, Councilmember Cochran seconded the motion and Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Minutes approved: November 4, 2020