

Click for Audio Recording of Meeting

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

BRIEFING SESSION

Attendance-

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

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

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Unified Police Department
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Ben White, City Engineer
Jay Ziolkowski, Police Transition Team Liaison

Others Present: Lynn Handy

6:00 BRIEFING SESSION

Chair Meredith Harker conducted the briefing session, which convened at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was conducted, wherein all councilmembers were present, including Councilmember Barbieri who had been appointed at a special city council meeting on September 30, 2020.

1. Swearing-In Ceremony for District No. 3 Councilmember Anna Barbieri
The city recorder administered the oath of office to Anna Barbieri who was then congratulated by all those in attendance.

2. Review Agenda

The agenda for the 6:30 p.m. City Council meeting was then reviewed.

Tracy Cowdell explained that he recommended the City Council approve an extension into January to match the states of emergency issued by both Salt Lake County and the State of Utah.

Councilmember Armstrong requested clarification regarding the reason for continuing to extend the local state of emergency. City administration responded that it allowed the city to receive CARES Act funding. Although the State had indicated that municipalities need not declare in order to receive the funding, he felt it best to do so.

It was determined that regarding agenda item 7.4, Mr. Cowdell would briefly summarize his policy recommendations rather than go through his presentation slide by slide. He would email the PowerPoint slides to the city council and they would be retained in the City's permanent record.

Councilmember Armstrong expressed interest in learning if Salt Lake County's Public Works Department was fully staffed and prepared for the winter, specifically regarding snow removal. Mr. Taylor responded that the department was not fully staffed but that the Taylorsville snowplow staff was complete.

Council Coordinator Kris Heineman pointed out that Salt Lake County Public Works was scheduled to make a report to the City Council on October 21.

Councilmember Burgess asked for an update on the renovations to the second floor of city hall. Mayor Overson responded that City Engineer Ben White would provide an update to the status of the work being done both inside and outside of the building in two weeks.

Councilmember Cochran inquired about the procedure for appointing a vice-chair. Chair Harker responded that she thought it made sense to wait until January to fill that position since there would be few meetings before the end of the year and she intended to be present for all of them. She thought it made sense to choose a vice-chair and address all committee and liaison assignments in January. To that end, she asked Ms. Heineman to provide the council with a list of current council assignments.

3. Adjourn

Chair Meredith Harker declared the briefing session adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance-

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

City Staff:

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

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Unified Police Department
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director

Others in Attendance: Mel Bennett, Lynn Handy, Gary Santy, Jared Smith and Maranda Weathermon

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Meredith Harker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A roll call was conducted wherein all councilmembers were present.

1.1 Opening Ceremonies – Pledge/Reverence – *Councilmember Cochran (Opening Ceremonies for October 21, 2020 to be arranged by Taylorsville Youth Council)*

Councilmember Cochran directed the Pledge of Allegiance before speaking for a moment about the importance of public service.

1.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Kristie Overson agreed that it was nice to have a full council of five again and she felt the councilmembers had made an excellent choice when they selected Ms. Barbieri to fill the vacancy in District No. #3.

Earlier in the day she had attended a Unified Police board meeting and would continue to attend those meetings through the end of June. Jay Ziolkowski would be making a presentation later in the meeting regarding the creation of the new Taylorsville Police Department.

It was two years ago that a ribbon cutting was held for Summit Vista's initial opening. They were now planning the opening of their healthcare building for May 2021.

The Mayor explained that the day before, she had met with the staff of the Legacy Village Golden Living Center and the Taylorsville Senior Center. Neither facility could allow visitors, but she was able to visit briefly at the door. Donny Gasu, Taylorsville's Emergency Preparation Manager had previously reached out to ensure both facilities had sufficient personal protective equipment. Although it was likely that the Senior Centers throughout the County would be the last of the County facilities to re-open, she was very grateful for their service and the way in which they interacted with those they served, even while maintaining social distance.

The City was sorry to hear that Regal Cinema was temporarily suspending operations, but she believed they would only be taking a step back and would open again once they were ready.

Mayor was happy to announce that the Taylorsville Library was open once again which gave everyone hope for the future. They were limiting the number of visitors they could accept at any given time, but it was great to see their doors open once again.

The walls on 3200 West had been painted and looked great. The sidewalk had been poured outside of city hall and there were some new trees and bushes being planted near the performing arts center.

Mayor Overson had recently spoken with one of the City's building inspectors who had been displaced during construction and he told her that solar panels were keeping him very busy. She pointed out that regardless of desk location (or the lack of a desk), city staff was busy doing whatever was necessary to continue to serve the public.

She explained to the City Council that although the pandemic had kept the City from holding its annual volunteer appreciation picnic, she wished to thank the Council for funding the computer bags that were provided as a small token of appreciation to not only the volunteers but the planning commissioners, community councilmembers—so many people that had a hand in serving the city. The city was busy, and volunteerism was alive and well. It had been a rocky year, but everyone continued to move forward.

1.3 Citizen Comments

Chair Meredith Harker reviewed the procedure for making public comments

John Eugster wished to know if there had been any progress on the wall at 2700 West between 4500 South and 5900 South on the east side. He indicated he had been waiting for five years for the work to be completed.

Jared Smith of the Parks and Recreation Committee asked that the City Council direct the city administration to include budget at mid-year if possible, for lighted pickleball courts. He said that Murray, West Valley and West Jordan all had such courts and he felt that Taylorsville should have them as well. He pointed out that the courts at Millrace park faced east/west which meant that if they were being used in the morning or evening, the sun was always in one player's eyes. The courts should face north/south and have lights. Councilmember Cochran asked Mr. Smith how many courts he was requesting and at what cost. Mr. Smith responded that he hoped to see courts in most of the city's parks since they took up un-used grass which saved on water and maintenance costs. It was his understanding that the two courts at Millrace had cost about \$35,000.

Rachel Heatley, Advocacy Director for the Humane Society of Utah, stated that her agency thoroughly enjoyed partnering with West Valley Animal Services to improve animal welfare. The Humane Society assisted with treating non-contagious medical conditions of the animals.

Although they were happy to provide that assistance, she stated the veterinary medical need in the community, including contagious illness, was greater than what they could adequately provide. She asked that the City Council budget for a veterinarian for Animal Services as more than 10% of the Humane Society's total intake was from Taylorsville and West Valley. With an in-house veterinarian, the city could have greater success with shelter diversion—meaning fewer citizens would need to relinquish their pets due to an inability to pay for medical treatment. In short, it would keep animals out of the shelter and save the department significant costs. Having the services more widely available at a lower cost would increase total animal welfare which was the community's goal and responsibility.

There were no additional citizen comments, and Chair Harker closed the citizen comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

2.1 Appointment of Gary Santy to the Parks and Recreation Committee – Council Chair Harker

Chair Harker explained that Gary Santy had been volunteering in the City for quite some time and as the council liaison of that committee, she was excited to recommend him to serve on the Parks and Recreation committee. She invited him to step forward and address the council.

Mr. Santy pointed out that he had enjoyed his service to the City and looked forward to serving on the committee.

MOTION: Chair Harker moved to appoint Gary Santy to the Parks and Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Armstrong.

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

The motion passed 5-0

3. REPORTS

3.1 Property Watch Presentation – *Rashelle Hobbs, Salt Lake County Recorder*

Salt Lake County Recorder Rashelle Hobbs joined the meeting electronically. She gave a brief overview of her areas of responsibility. Her office had seen an increase of 43.5% in filings since the beginning of 2020.

Ms. Hobbs' audio cut out fairly early in her presentation and the Council lost contact with her. Mayor Overson said the city would reach out to Ms. Hobbs to get a copy of her slide presentation which would be retained in the permanent agenda packet.

3.2 West Valley Animal Services Report – *Maranda Weathermon/Melanie Bennett*

Ms. Weathermon wished to touch on improvements and pitfalls seen within the department since her last report. The shelter had seen a 6% increase from the previous year which meant there had been 237 more animals than the previous year, each of which needed at least 15 minutes of care per day. Officer response time had improved from 27 to 21 minutes for priority 1 calls and 26 minutes for weekend and overnight calls. The shelter was averaging 1000 calls per month which required a physical response by officers plus approximately 350 telephonic cases. All of these calls were answered by a single dispatcher.

- Removal of dead animals from roadways had seen a 184% increase
- Stray animal calls were down 4%
- Animal adoptions up 11%
- Taylorsville residents walking into the facility had increased slightly by 2%
- Animal death in the shelter was down 30%
- 432 cats had gone through the trap/neuter/release program which was up from 360 the previous year. 220 of the 432 were from Taylorsville.
- The return-to-owner rate had remained unchanged at only 30%
- Volunteering had been on hold in the early months of the pandemic, but the shelter now had a new Volunteer Coordinator (a volunteer himself). The volunteer population was now up 400% over the previous quarter
- Lack of medical care (for spay/neuter) was slowing down the processing of animals. Average length stay for adoptable dogs and cats was 22 days and 24 days respectively. The national average stay was just nine days. The addition of a veterinarian on staff would make the national average attainable.

The shelter lobby was open once again after having closed in the early days of the pandemic. They still tried to reduce shelter traffic as much as possible for the safety of both staff and the public

The virtual adoption fair had resulted in increased adoptions, increased donations and increased volunteerism. Creating an Amazon wish list had resulted in 700 pounds of animal food being donated in the first week.

Chair Harker asked if the shelter was fully staffed. Ms. Weathermon responded that unfortunately it was not. The Chair also asked her to expand on what Ms. Heatley had said regarding the need for a veterinarian. Ms. Weathermon responded that if there was a vet on staff, there would no longer be a bottle neck of cases waiting for a spay/neuter procedure before an animal could be adopted. Creating such a position could also result in more affordable vaccinations, resulting in a healthier, happier pet population while becoming a new revenue source for the City. Cruelty cases could be handled in house rather than outsourcing animal care to a private provider. For example, staff was not allowed to treat upper respiratory difficulties which could be taken care of onsite if there were a veterinarian on staff. West Valley/Taylorsville Animal Shelter was the second largest municipal jurisdiction in the valley. She stated that if we wished to be a progressive, well-rounded organization, it was time we started acting like one. Having a professional veterinarian on staff was the next, natural step toward doing so.

Councilmember Cochran asked how much money would be needed to fund such a position. Ms. Weathermon responded that average salary ranged between \$85k-\$100k per year plus benefits. Support staff (a veterinarian technician, for example) would be needed as well. Councilmember Cochran then asked how many communities would share in the cost of such positions. Ms. Weathermon suspected that at least four other animal control entities would utilize the services of a veterinarian on staff at her facility. Theoretically, the costs could be shared among those four entities.

3.3 Police Department Transition Update – *Jay Ziolkowski*

Jay Ziolkowski explained that a charter had been created which created an identity for the project management team. It provided timelines and benchmarks the team hoped to achieve prior to July 1. The community outreach meeting resulted in some great information and analysis for the team. Communication and marketing became very important as far as how the community would be able to interact with the team. They had also worked with Unified Police Department on policy content and identified a vendor for putting policies together for the City. Finally, they worked on some initial budget projections that thus far, appeared to be in harmony with what the city administration and council had already anticipated. He had been and would continue to work with Kim Horiuchi on updating the city website as the team moved along the timeline and reached the benchmarks.

Mr. Ziolkowski pointed out how crucial it was to identify and meet community expectations with the new police department. He had provided the Council with a list of community members who attended the first outreach meeting. They varied in experience, background, and ethnicity and together, the group conducted a SWOC analysis which addressed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of forming a new police department.

Councilmember Armstrong asked if the City was on track for the new department to begin operations on July 1. Mr. Ziolkowski responded that it was possible that the team was slightly ahead of schedule. He asked that the councilmembers review the document he had provided them and let him know if it accurately reflected what they were hearing from their constituents regarding what they wished to see in the police department.

Mayor Overson stated that the administration would make sure the Council received all information prior to publication. The website would also be kept up to date so that the community would be kept in the loop as well.

Mr. Ziolkowski pointed out that Unified Police had been very gracious and good to work with. He met with them regularly to discuss things from assets and liabilities to dispatch channels. They had indicated a preliminary willingness to share policy so that the City did not need to start from scratch.

Councilmember Cochran inquired about the current sentiment of UPD officers and support staff.

Mr. Cowdell interjected that the City had an agreement with Salt Lake County and UPD to be very careful with its relationships with their employees. The City needed to be very mindful to refrain from using UPD employees to do City business—no one could be employed by both entities simultaneously. The City had made some commitments to the County and UPD and intended to honor those commitments.

In response to Chair Harker’s question regarding what the administration needed at that point from the City Council, he explained that their most important role would be to provide advice and consent to the Mayor’s appointment of senior leadership in the police department. Funding was also a part of their role as the legislative body.

Mr. Cowdell continued by explaining that positions were not being promised. There would be a traditional hiring process wherein jobs would be posted, applications would be received and hiring decisions would be made. He anticipated that applications would be received from police officers from a variety of departments across the Salt Lake Valley.

Councilmember Barbieri mentioned that she had completed the UPD’s 13-week citizen’s academy and it would be great if that agency would be willing to share their presentations so that Taylorsville did not need to re-invent the wheel. She stressed that having a citizen’s academy was a priority for her.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes –September 16, 2020 City Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilmember Armstrong moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran.

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

The motion passed 5-0

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Resolution No. 20-37 – A resolution of the City of Taylorsville appointing a representative to the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District Administrative Control Board – *John Taylor*

John Taylor explained that Councilmember Christopherson's resignation left two vacancies in council assignments, one of which was the position on the WFWRD Board. He and the Mayor recommended that Councilmember Barbieri be appointed to fill that position. The Board met on Monday afternoons.

MOTION: Councilmember Cochran moved to approve Resolution No. 20-37 and appoint Councilmember Barbieri to represent Taylorsville on the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District Administrative Control Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Armstrong.

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

The motion passed 5-0

7.2 Resolution No. 20-38 – A resolution of the City of Taylorsville appointing an alternate representative to the Salt Lake Valley Emergency Communication Center Board of Trustees – *Tracy Cowdell*

Mr. Cowdell explained that the Administration recommended appointing Mr. Taylor to become the alternate to serve on the VECC Board of Trustees. This was particularly critical as the City moved forward with the formation of a new police department.

MOTION: Councilmember Armstrong moved to approve Resolution 20-38, appointing John Taylor as an alternate representative to the Salt Lake Valley Emergency Communication Center Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran.

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

The motion passed 5-0

7.3 Resolution No. 20-39- A resolution of the City of Taylorsville consenting to an eighth extension of the local state of emergency proclaimed in response to COVID-19 – *Tracy Cowdell*

Mr. Cowdell reminded the City Council that the country, state and county were all in states of emergency as was Taylorsville. It was his recommendation that the City remain in such a state through the remainder of the year and revisit the matter in January. He clarified that Mayor Overson did not currently have any existing orders related to the state of emergency, but he recommended it remain in force for a variety of reasons.

MOTION: Councilmember Armstrong moved to approve Resolution No. 20-39, approving an eighth extension of the local state of emergency proclaimed in response to COVID-19. The motion was seconded by Chair Harker.

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

The motion passed 5-0

7.4 Discussion regarding city council policies and procedure updates – *Tracy Cowdell*

Mr. Cowdell explained that he had asked Ms. Heineman to send them copies of his presentation which outlined the form of government under which the City operated as well as the separation of powers. He included a list of things that were required of the City Council as well as some things that they *may* do but were not required. The internal policies and procedures were spelled out for the council in his presentation. He proposed some changes so that the policies reflected actual practice and if the Council agreed, he wished to further polish and update the documents before getting an additional review by the councilmembers. He pointed out it had been twelve years since they were last amended.

Councilmember Armstrong pointed out that there was a great course offered by David Church and the Utah League of Cities and Towns. He recommended allowing Mr. Cowdell to make his recommended changes and then bring them back to the council for their review and provide them an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Cowdell and Chair Harker asked the City Council to read through it carefully and send any feedback to Mr. Cowdell. He reminded them that the final version would need to be adopted by resolution.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

8.1 Chair Harker – Stated that the City had received quite a few inquiries regarding fiber optic options. She asked that administration provide the Council with an update regarding what those options were. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cowdell both explained that that the City was already in communication with various providers and would plan to update the Council in the near future.

Councilmember Armstrong stated that 5g was going to be slow compared to what would soon be available. Mr. Cowdell responded that the City had been on the front end of the 5g network and he suspected that the community would happily trade antennae for speed. The Council would need to decide if it was a private sector issue or if there should be a public sector solution? Mr. Taylor stated that more information would be presented to the City Council at the first meeting in November.

8.2 Councilmember Armstrong - nothing for subsequent consideration.

8.3 Councilmember Cochran – nothing for subsequent consideration.

8.4 Councilmember Barbieri – nothing for subsequent consideration

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

9.1 Planning Commission Work Session – Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

9.2 Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

9.3 City Council Briefing Session – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

9.4 City Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

9.5 Planning Commission Work Session - Wednesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

10. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

11. CLOSED SESSION (*Conference Room 202*)

- For the Purpose(s) Described in Statute U.C.A. 52-4-205

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilmember Cochran moved to convene a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation; strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares; and a discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices or systems. Councilmember Armstrong seconded the motion and Chair Harker declared the meeting recessed at 8:13 p.m.

A closed session convened at 8:28 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Minutes approved: November 4, 2020