

NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2021

The North Ogden City Council convened in a virtual meeting on February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81590716624> Webinar ID: 815 9071 6624 Or Telephone Dial: US 1 669 900 9128 or 1 253 215 8782 or 1 346 248 7799 or 1 646 558 8656 or 1 301 715 8592 or 1 312 626 6799

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6felhQ/videos>. Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on February 18, 2021. Notice of the annual meeting schedule was published in the Standard-Examiner on December 13, 2020.

PRESENT:	S. Neal Berube	Mayor
	Ryan Barker	Council Member
	Blake Cevering	Council Member
	Charlotte Ekstrom	Council Member
	Cheryl Stoker	Council Member
	Phillip Swanson	Council Member
STAFF PRESENT:	Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
	Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director
	Lorin Gardner	City Engineer
	Katie Gerard	City Recorder
	Evan Nelson	Finance Director
	Dirk Quinney	Police Chief
VISITORS:	Julie Anderson	
	Brenda Ashdown	
	Dallin Barker	
	Robert Bolar	
	Stefanie Casey	
	Brian Child	
	Susan Clements	
	Steve Gibson	
	Cal and Sandy Heiner	
	Shawn Heiner	
	Terri McCulloch	
	Jaylene Redford	
	Julie	

Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Stoker offered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. READING OF DETERMINATION REGARDING CONDUCTING CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING WITHOUT ANCHOR LOCATION

Mayor Berube provided a reading of the determination of substantial risk to health and safety associated with holding in-person meetings amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. CALL FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Mayor Berube asked if any Councilmember had any conflict of interest to disclose. No disclosures were made.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER JANUARY 12, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Swanson motioned to approve the January 12, 2021 City Council meeting minutes. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Stoker	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER JANUARY 26, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Cevering motioned to approve the January 26, 2021 City Council meeting minutes. Council Member Stoker seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Stoker	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVE AGENDA

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Gibson, 3141 N. 325 W. Pleasant View, stated he is a member of the Pleasant View City Council. He noted he has sent a letter to the Mayor and Council and he would like for that letter to be included in the record of this meeting. He summarized the letter to communicate that the Pleasant View City Council respectfully requests that the North Ogden City Council reconsider their decision to close a portion of Pleasant View Drive. He noted the Pleasant View Council recognizes the safety concerns that have been expressed and are appreciative of the efforts to eliminate the left hand turn option on Pleasant View Drive onto Washington Boulevard heading north; however, they are concerned about the closure as this street serves as a major artery road to Pleasant View. He stated that Pleasant View would like to work with North Ogden to explore a safe right-turn only option from Pleasant View Drive onto Washington Boulevard. He noted the letter is signed by four Council Members, with the fifth unable to sign because he is out of town. The entire Pleasant View City Council sees this is a serious issue and would appreciate consideration of the request to continue dialogue regarding this matter. He concluded that the Pleasant View Council was somewhat surprised by the decision to close the road.

Mayor Berube stated that he is willing to continue dialogue with Pleasant View City, however, he has already had several conversations with the Mayor, and one with the City Manager when he joined their conversation. He said that he is unsure why the Pleasant View City Council was caught off guard by the recommendation. He stated he will share the letter with the entire Council in case they have not already seen it. He noted that the recommendation made by the Council recently was conditional upon being able to secure a traffic signal at the intersection of 2700 North and 300 East; North Ogden wants to improve the safety of both intersections.

Brett Hamblin, 963 Deer Meadows Drive, referenced agenda item nine; he was first made aware of House Bill 98 during a television news broadcast and he also read more information in this morning's edition of the Standard-Examiner newspaper. He hopes that the Council will approve the request to send a letter to the State Legislature opposing the bill; he disagrees with reducing the city's control over the design and construction of new homes in the city.

Mayor Berube stated that he has had conversations with the state representatives to express his opposition to the bill; the City of North Ogden also works with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) to negotiate adjustments to the bill. He understands it is being modified to give some concessions to cities across the State, but he has not yet seen the modified version.

Ann Arrington, 3256 N. 750 W., Pleasant View, stated she is also a Pleasant View City Council member and she wished to echo Mr. Gibson's comments about the closure of Pleasant View Drive. She noted she views North Ogden and Pleasant View as being

sister cities and hopes that North Ogden will seriously consider the request to reconsider their decision. Pleasant View Drive is an access to Pleasant View City that many rely upon and she is hopeful North Ogden will consider a right-turn only configuration at the intersection of the road and Washington Boulevard. She also expressed her concern about a traffic signal at 2700 North and 300 East; she views 2700 North as the best route for North Ogden and Pleasant View residents to access Interstate-15 and if more traffic signals are added along that road, the easy flow of traffic will be impeded, and the road could eventually look like Riverdale Road. She asked if the North Ogden Mayor and Council were aware of Pleasant View's opposition to the road closure before making their decision. Mayor Berube answered no; he had conversations with the Pleasant View Mayor, and he gave no indication that the Pleasant View City Council was opposed to the closure. He added that the City's General Plan, since 2015, has shown that the road would eventually be closed. He reiterated his surprise that the Pleasant View Council was caught off guard. Ms. Arrington stated she is not saying she was caught off guard; however, the Pleasant View Mayor came to the Council a few months ago and asked their opinion on the closure and the Council unanimously expressed concern about the closure and their desire to keep the road open. She stated that communication has broken down somewhere and she feels the decision to close the road is a huge disservice to Pleasant View as a sister city to North Ogden. She reiterated she hopes that the Council will reconsider. Mayor Berube reiterated he and the Council are willing to continue discussions with Pleasant View but noted that the decisions that were made were based strictly upon safety of motorists that frequent the area.

Dave Marriott, 3420 N. 1100 W., Pleasant View, stated he is a former resident of North Ogden and is also a member of the Pleasant View City Council. He echoed the comments made by Mr. Gibson and Ms. Arrington. He stated he is aware of residents who live on Pleasant View Drive and those who own businesses on Pleasant View Drive who are very concerned about the closure. This includes Lee's Market; these business owners and residents do not feel they have had a voice in the discussion, and he hopes that the Council will reconsider their decision and allow for valuable public input.

Mayor Berube asked Mr. Marriott who he has spoken with from Lee's Market. Mr. Marriott stated he has spoken with Jeff Price, the Manager of Lee's Market; when they spoke today, they reviewed the markings for the future closure and Mr. Price was surprised that the closure would be permanent as he understood it was temporary in nature. He stated that Mr. Price was very frustrated and planned to talk to upper management. He stated that he feels that more discussion and further vetting is appropriate before the decision is finalized. He stated he would hate for Pleasant View residents to decide not to do business in North Ogden based on difficulty in accessing the commercial areas of North Ogden. Mayor Berube added that the city has had conversations with other business owners on Pleasant View Drive, but he is happy to engage in continued discussion with them and with Lee's Market. He added that one of the reasons some choose not to shop at Lee's is because it can be dangerous to get in and out of the parking lot. Mr. Marriott stated that he appreciates the city's desire to improve safety, but the same could be said for access to Smith's Marketplace as well.

Sara Urry, 930 W. 3550 N. Pleasant View, stated she is also a Pleasant View Council Member and she echoed the comments made by her fellow Council Members. She stated that this issue was brought to the Council's attention several months ago and the Council was told that this was a matter that North Ogden was considering, but that no decision was being made at that time. The Pleasant View Council unanimously concluded the closure would not be in the best interest of North Ogden or Pleasant View and they were opposed to it. She stated she understands that this is ultimately a decision for the North Ogden Council to make, but Pleasant View residents' shop and dine in North Ogden, which contributes to the city's tax base. Closing the end of Pleasant View Drive would be very impactful to Pleasant View and forcing traffic to 300 East without a traffic signal would also be very concerning as making a left-hand turn onto 2700 North is dangerous. Forcing a right-hand turn onto Washington Boulevard from Pleasant View Drive would be much better in terms of safe and efficient traffic flow. She stated she would like for the city to continue their discussion and consideration of this matter before making a final decision.

Brenda Ashdown, 193 E. Pleasant View Drive, stated she is offended by Mr. Marriott's comments and she feels they were threatening, and she does not appreciate that. As a resident on Pleasant View Drive, she understands that if the road is closed, she will be forced to drive to 300 East, make a left turn on 2700 North, and another left turn onto Washington Boulevard to travel northward on that road. She stated she does not feel this will put any business out as residents will have other options for accessing those businesses. Parking for the professional offices near the intersection of Pleasant View Drive and Washington Boulevard has already been addressed and those businesses will have adequate parking space and access. She reiterated the Mayor's comments that closure of Pleasant View Drive is contingent upon the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of 2700 North and 300 East and she does not feel this will interfere with a motorist's direct line to the interstate because the speed limit in that area is just 40 miles per hour. She stated that the Pleasant View Council seems to be missing the point of the closure; it is based upon safety of motorists from both cities that frequent the area. She acknowledged that Pleasant View City is a sister city to North Ogden, but she is bothered that they feel they can ask the Council to reconsider the decision that has been made, though it is based upon a great deal of work and negotiations with businesses in the area. For Mr. Marriott to say that Pleasant View residents will no longer shop in North Ogden if the road is closed is an unfair threat. She appreciates that North Ogden is willing to discuss the matter further with Pleasant View, but she is hopeful that the final decision will be completely based upon safety of motorists regardless of the city they live in. She then asked why it is necessary for someone who speaks during public comments to give their address; she is concerned about retaliation from someone who may disagree with her comments.

Mayor Berube stated that he will look into the requirement for a speaker to provide their address. He then stated that one of the considerations of the Council related to the closure of Pleasant View Drive was the need for additional park space because of growth in the

city; the closure would also allow for the expansion of Bicentennial Park near the intersection.

Stefanie Casey, 2444 Barker Parkway, thanked Ms. Ashdown for her comments; she had the same feeling when she was listening to the Council Members from Pleasant View. It seemed they were 'ganging up' on North Ogden, though North Ogden has been having conversations about this issue for several months. She stated that she is part of the Committee that is discussing economic development and park growth in the city and the expansion of Bicentennial Park would be a great benefit to the community. Additionally, the closure would increase safety of motorists in the area. She concluded she interpreted Mr. Marriott's comments as threatening and she wanted to voice her support for Ms. Ashdown in her comments about that matter.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE GOLDEN WEST CREDIT UNION AS BROKER FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICES

City Manager/Attorney Call explained the city periodically requests proposals for qualified individuals or firms to provide employee benefits insurance broker services. City staff has reviewed proposals by several qualified firms and is recommending the Council approve Golden West Credit Union (GWCU) as the broker for employee benefit services. Staff recommends acceptance of GWCU as the employee benefit broker for a term of five years; an agreement should be executed to formalize the terms.

Council Member Ekstrom stated she has worked with GWCU in the past as a member of a non-profit entity and she appreciated the service they provided.

Mayor Berube stated that Mr. Call has performed sufficient due diligence to vet GWCU, and he is comfortable with the recommendation to contract with them for this service.

Council Member Ekstrom moved to approve Golden West Credit Union as broker for employee benefit services. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Mr. Call reported that a voice vote would be appropriate tonight and once Administration has finalized the contract, it will be brought back to the Council for consideration and a roll-call vote.

Mayor Berube called for a voice vote on the motion to contract with Golden West Credit Union as the City's employee benefit broker. All voted aye and the motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE/EXTEND CONTRACT WITH OLYMPUS INSURANCE

City Manager/Attorney Call explained the city periodically requests proposals for qualified individuals or firms to provide commercial insurance brokerage services.

Several firms reapplied to the RFP and three very qualified firms were interviewed. After considering all the options staff is recommending the city continue with the current broker: Olympus Insurance. Olympus has some specialization which helps the organization as well as some programs and other benefits which have helped the city elevate its risk management, including safety program upgrades. Staff recommends the Council approve an agreement with Olympus for continued brokerage services. Staff would also recommend the Council review the term of the contract and consider whether five years is appropriate. The minimum term the staff would recommend is two years and City Code requires a maximum term of seven years.

Mayor Berube stated he would recommend a contract term of no longer than three years.

Council Member Cevering inquired as to any losses the city has experienced during the time that Olympus has been the city's insurance provider. Mayor Berube stated that Mr. Call can comment on losses specifically, but he is aware of two major claims the city has had in the past two years. Insurance companies have been dramatically increasing premiums and the city has experienced an increased based on an increase in claims. Mr. Call stated that is correct; in addition to the two large claims, the city has also had several small claims. However, Olympus has offered tools aimed at increasing the city's risk management efforts and that has been very helpful. This includes a voluntary OSHA audit that has improved the city's insurance rating.

Council Member Swanson moved to approve Agreement A3-2021, a two-year agreement with Olympus Insurance for insurance brokerage services. Council Member Stoker seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Stoker	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

8. BUDGET 2022 INTRODUCTION

A staff memo from Finance Director Nelson noted the intent of this agenda item is to serve as an introduction to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget process. This is an opportunity for the city to look to the future and establish priorities and plans for city services and programs. The memo referenced the budget calendar and outlined upcoming dates for Council discussion and approval of the budget. Each of these are public meetings and at each meeting opportunity will be provided for public comment on the budget. A formal public hearing will be held on May 25, 2021 to receive comments on

the budget. The discussion at this meeting is for staff to hear initial Council budget priorities that can be incorporated into preliminary budget proposals. Staff is also seeking Council direction on employee compensation to guide budget proposals. The discussion may also reveal a needed budgetary analysis that can be initiated. More in-depth discussions will occur in subsequent meetings. Administration looks forward to a constructive and engaging process as they work with the Council to prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for North Ogden City.

Mr. Nelson reviewed his memo and reviewed the status of the city's revenue accounts; he presented a sales tax revenue report, noting that revenues remain strong, and the city's total revenues are 18.4 percent higher than last year's sales tax. We anticipated that revenues would be lower due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of January 2021, city sales tax revenues were \$350,000 ahead of projections in the amended budget. Mr. Nelson also facilitated a discussion among the City Council regarding their ideas for employee compensation and any budget priorities they have; relative to employee compensation, Council Members Barker and Swanson communicated their support for analyzing a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) city-wide, in addition to merit adjustments. Council Member Swanson also noted that he would like to allocate funding for the Barker Park Amphitheater to make it more useful for it to generate revenue for the city. Mayor Berube stated he understands that idea, but he would rather pursue private fundraising for the Amphitheater, as he feels the city's main priority in terms of capital improvements is the Public Safety facility project. He then noted that he would prefer compensation adjustments that are based upon the market and being competitive with other cities rather than offering a city-wide COLA adjustment; if employees are paid fairly and in line with the market, they will not be looking for employment elsewhere. He stated it is his opinion that a COLA is an arbitrary inflation of wages.

Council Member Cevering indicated that a priority for him is to make all parks functional; there has been a focus on parks infrastructure improvements in the past and he would like to continue those efforts. Mr. Nelson stated that Parks and Recreation Director Staheli is working to develop a list of capital projects in parks throughout the city and that will be analyzed in detail in future budget meetings. Council Member Ekstrom stated she also supports parks improvements, and she is aware that Ms. Staheli needs more storage space at parks throughout the city. Additionally, she wants to establish an identity for North Ogden City; she feels the city values residents and employees and investing in those things is good policy. She supports paying employees generously and listening to their input.

Council Member Stoker agreed with Mayor Berube's assessment that the Public Safety facility project should be the top priority for the city. She wants to do whatever possible to support the Police Department by appropriately equipping them.

Mr. Nelson thanked the Council for their feedback and guidance and indicated he looks forward to further discussions on the FY 2022 budget. Mayor Berube thanked Mr. Nelson

for his efforts and indicated he looks forward to hearing more information from Mr. Nelson as the budget process moves forward.

9. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO SUBMIT LETTER TO LEGISLATURE
OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 98 (HB98)**

A staff memo from City Manager/Attorney Call explained the state legislature is currently considering a bill which would allow for all residential home contractors to hire their own building inspectors to perform required inspections. Several cities are opposing this bill, and it is likely to be one of the most controversial bills in the legislature this year. The city has been asked if it would like to submit a letter to the governor expressing concerns over this type of legislation. If the Council would like to submit this letter or a letter similar to this one it should be discussed and approved by the Council prior to submitting this letter. Staff has some real concerns with the proposed language of House Bill 98 because it does not limit who the inspectors can be employed by or even require a third party to do the inspection. Staff would support sending an official communication to the Governor expressing concerns over this type of legislation.

Council Member Barker noted he expressed concern to the Council in a recent meeting regarding this legislation and he has been in communication with representatives of other cities who were seeking to join together in sending a message of opposition to the Legislature and the Governor. He summarized his concerns about issues that will arise if the bill is approved; private inspections will result in mistakes in construction throughout the city. The city will have just three days to respond to a request for an inspection before a developer can pursue an inspection by a third-party inspector and, for this reason, he feels the city needs to fund an additional inspector or plans examiner position.

Mr. Call added that he has been discussing the issue with City Managers throughout the State and all cities are opposing it; he is concerned that the legislation is being promoted under the guise of housing affordability. However, the private inspectors will not have governmental immunity, meaning they will need to have substantial insurance policies that will drive up the cost of inspections. This means that homes will be more expensive and contradictory to the position of housing affordability.

Mayor Berube stated that it is important to address staffing improvements that will help the city comply with the three-day inspection period included in the legislation. He stated that cross-training will be helpful, and Mr. Call has invited a retired inspector to provide support to the city. Mr. Call stated that is correct and three additional employees have indicated a willingness to being certified as inspectors to provide backup support when needed.

Council Member Barker added that the State Fire Marshall's Association is also opposed to the legislation and have communicated such to the State.

Council Member Swanson stated it is interesting to note that the sponsor of this bill is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Northern Wasatch Homebuilders Association. He stated he feels that is a conflict of interest. Another note of interest is that the legislation would also prohibit municipalities from requiring certain building materials and design standards in construction. This would limit the city's ability to employ a Development Agreement for certain projects as has been done in the past. He stated he feels the legislation is inappropriate and smells of deep-pocketed lobbying, which is very bothersome to him. Mayor Berube added a good number of the Legislature are employed in the development, homebuilding, and real estate fields; one Legislator even commented that the reason home prices are so high is because of the delay in permitting and inspections at the city level. However, the people working in these fields are making huge profits. He stated that the biggest concern is that the legislation will take authority away from local officials who know their community better than State representatives; additionally, protection for the consumer will also be negatively impacted. He then noted he is supportive of signing the letter and sending it to the Governor.

Council Member Ekstrom moved to approve a letter opposing House Bill 98 to be signed by the Council and sent to the Utah Governor. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Stoker	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion carried.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Berube reported there exists a vacancy on the Economic Development Committee; he has met with the Chair of that Committee and they recommend the appointment of Dave Meents.

Council Member Cevering moved to appoint Dave Meents to the Economic Development Committee. Council Member Swanson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye

Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Stoker	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion carried.

11. COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. COUNCIL MEMBER STOKER – POLICE

Council Member Stoker reported on staffing changes in the Police Department; since November 2020 there have been two retirements and one resignation, and the department has been busy finding individuals to fill the vacancies created by these actions. Two Officers have been hired, one is in field training and the other in the Police Academy. The Police Chief hopes to have the vacancy filled by March. Additionally, the Code Enforcement Officer resigned in December 2020 and the Chief decided to combine the animal control, code enforcement, and evidence technician positions into one Division called the Community Service Division. Creating this Division will allow employees in the Division to work more as a team, provide extended enforcement coverage, and increase efficiencies. The Department is also internally filling two vacancies in the Investigations Division; Detective Rhoades recently retired, and the Division is down an additional officer due to his assignment to the Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force. She noted that the Department asked her to remind the public that with warmer weather typically comes an increase in property crimes; she advised residents to remove valuables from and lock their vehicles, lock their doors on their homes, and report any suspicious activity. She added that the Department has seen an increase in scam phone calls to residents in the community; if someone gets one of these calls, they are advised to not provide private information and end the phone call. She concluded she has been happy to see an increased police presence in areas throughout the community and she thanked the department for all they do.

Mayor Berube noted that in a recent conversation with Weber County Sheriff Arbon, he commented that visibility of Police Officers is proven to deter illegal activities. He thanked Council Member Stoker for her report.

B. COUNCIL MEMBER CEVERING – PUBLIC WORKS

Council Member Cevering thanked the Public Works crews for their diligent service and keeping the city running well. They are preparing for the expansion of 450 East and are cutting down trees on the east side of that street. They will then begin infrastructure improvements. They are providing updated project information on the city's website and Facebook page and they have a hotline number that residents can call to report a problem or ask a question. He thanked Public Works Director Espinoza for his efforts to ensure that the 450 East widening project will run as smoothly as possible. He noted that he recently drove past a late-night water leak problem in the city and found that Mr.

Espinoza was working alongside his crews to solve the matter; this shows that Mr. Espinoza is incredibly committed to making sure the city is taken care of.

Mayor Berube added his thanks to Mr. Espinoza and the Public Works Department for their efforts at removing snow following recent storms; they even worked to address snow issues in cul-de-sacs by hauling the snow out of those streets.

C. COUNCIL MEMBER EKSTROM – PARKS & RECREATION

Council Member Ekstrom reported that Parks and Recreation Director Staheli recently gave birth to her daughter; both the baby and mother are doing well, and she offered her congratulations to the Staheli family. She noted the department will be accepting applications for seasonal positions starting March 1. They are also working with the Arts Guild and will be developing some sub-committees that will be charged with focusing on specific arts programming. The Department has also begun work on the Cherry Days celebration; it is her personal opinion that it is worth moving the Cherry Days parade to 2600 North as an experiment this year; she would like to keep the entire celebration smaller to keep residents safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic and she would like to stream as many events as possible. She then noted she would like for the Council to consider the possibility of hiring a grant writer for the department; this would be helpful to the city as it seeks outside funding for certain projects.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brenda Ashdown, 193 E. Pleasant View Drive, asked that her comments be relayed to the Police Chief; at the crosswalk near the intersection of Pleasant View Drive and 400 East cars heading south on Washington Boulevard do not slow to 20 miles per hour when school zone lights are flashing. She wondered if a police presence at that location would help to address that matter.

Chief Quinney stated that his officers will monitor that area.

Susan Kilborn, 3370 N. 400 E., stated she and her husband live in a cul-de-sac and for so many years they were neglected in terms of snow removal and pothole repairs, but that has recently changed, and she thanked North Ogden City Public Works for their efforts. She noted that during the recent snowstorm one of her neighbor's cats was in the roadway when the snowplow driver entered her cul-de-sac and the driver exited his vehicle and made sure the cat was out of the road before clearing the snow. She offered kudos to the Public Works Department and declared 'they are stellar'. She then noted she does not believe North Ogden City effectively taps the human resources available in the community to help with city issues; North Ogden is made up of many professionals who are retired or even working from home due to COVID-19 and these people could provide support and assistance. She would like to see more women involved in the day-to-day operations and decision making in the city. She understands how much debt the city is in due to some of the things that have transpired in the past and she wondered if the city

truly needs to hold the Cherry Days celebration this year. She noted that cancelling the event this year could help to save some money that could be allocated to an area where it is needed more. If the cancellation is presented to the community with that explanation, people will understand that accommodations need to be made for budget reasons and COVID-19 concerns. She would like to know what each Council Member feels about her proposal.

Mayor Berube stated that it may be most effective to include an item regarding that proposal on an upcoming meeting agenda to give the public the opportunity to listen to and participate in that discussion. Ms. Kilborn stated that is satisfactory; she would like the matter to be presented to the public in a way that communicates that an expenditure that covers entertainment and a non-essential program is being cut this year to help fund a public safety expense that will benefit the entire community for years to come. She stated she feels that the public will be understanding of skipping a tradition for one year in order to help the City in the long term. Mayor Berube noted that the celebration was cancelled entirely last year, and the city was considering a modified version of the celebration this year; this would give the public the chance to celebrate a very important event, but not be extravagant in difficult times amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He concluded he is happy to discuss that matter further in a future meeting. Ms. Kilborn thanked the Mayor and Council for their willingness to think outside of the box for the good of the city. She concluded by addressing the letter that the City Council has voted to send to Governor Cox about House Bill 98; she would like for the letter to also be sent to Senator John Johnson and for the City to extend an invitation for him to attend City Council meetings as many of his constituents live in this City.

Shawn Heiner, 681 E. 2600 N., stated that he knows there has been some discussion about moving the Cherry Days parade to 2600 North this year. He knows that Council Member Ekstrom is excited about the prospect, but there are many concerns that have not been addressed thus far. Having been in the parade on a fire truck over the years on Washington Boulevard, he can report that the decision was made to stop participating in the parade due to several safety concerns that could lead to possibly insurance claims and lawsuits. Moving the parade to 2600 North will make that issue worse because the route is steep and narrower than Washington Boulevard. He stated that a vehicle can be put in neutral at the intersection of 2600 North and 1050 East and travel on its own all the way to Washington Boulevard. This would necessitate a large vehicle operator using their brakes the entire way; brakes could fail, or vehicles could overheat, and this could cause them to run into the crowd or whatever is in front of them. Additionally, there are many trees and bushes lining 2600 North and this may cause kids to wander into the narrow street to see what is coming their direction. The Police Department does a great job of crowd control, but it is impossible to keep the crowd along the entire parade route from entering the street. He asked that the Council reconsider their decision on the parade route and perhaps opt for 3100 North, which is wider, less steep, and has accommodated other parades, such as the Weber High School homecoming parade.

Stefanie Casey, 2444 Barker Parkway, also referenced the parade route and noted she has not heard any information about the city conducting a crowd safety study, but this is likely something the city should conduct before making the decision final. She is concerned about the availability of parking for parade entries or citizens looking for a place to park along the street to watch the parade; in the past, the LDS Church has prohibited parking on their property due to liability issues and she asked if the city has checked to see if they will allow parking for the parade. She is concerned about the approach of experimenting with a new route before asking necessary questions; this event will draw a huge crowd and a crowd safety study is appropriate in this instance.

13. COUNCIL/MAYOR/STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Berube stated he is grateful for citizen participation in this meeting.

Council Member Swanson referenced House Bill 98, noting the Committee Hearing regarding the legislation will be held February 24 at 4:00 p.m. and the public can listen to the hearing and voice their opposition. He then addressed the comments from earlier in the meeting regarding Pleasant View Drive; this is an issue the North Ogden City Council has been talking about for nearly two years and the closure of the road has been on the city's Master Plan since 2015. The City has worked with private property owners and businesses to consider many different options and he did not hear a suggestion from the Pleasant View City Council Members that the North Ogden Council has not already considered. He is willing to discuss the issue with Pleasant View, but he does not want to spend a great deal of time rehashing something that has been discussed in depth for several years. He addressed Mr. Marriott's comments and wondered where the Pleasant View residents who will be boycotting North Ogden businesses will be shopping and how they will get there. He stated he was bothered by those comments. He concluded by noting he has spoken with the Mayor, Council, Mr. Call, Mr. Espinoza, and the City Engineer about the idea of restriping 2600 North for a year period of time as a trial for center turn lanes and left turn lanes at various intersections along the street, eliminating on-street parking, and shifting the travel lanes to the north and south. He would be curious to see how this impacts congestion, traffic flow, and residents and businesses. He asked if there are objections to including an item on a future agenda to discuss his proposal in depth. Mayor Berube stated he is supportive of studying the issue; no objections from other Council Members were voiced.

Council Member Barker also referenced the conversation about Pleasant View Drive and reminded the Council and those listening that the decision to close the road was conditional upon getting approval from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to install a traffic signal at the intersection of 300 East and 2700 North. Mayor Berube stated that he understands that and has asked Mr. Call to pursue that matter with UDOT. Council Member Swanson stated that UDOT has indicated there will be a light at the intersection as soon as traffic conditions warrant it. Council Member Barker stated that is correct and wondered if the city will move forward with closing Pleasant View Drive in hopes that will result in the warranting of a signal. Mayor Berube stated that he feels

modeling can be done to determine how much traffic will be routed to 300 East as a result of the closure and work with UDOT to determine if that satisfies the requirement of a warrant study. Council Member Barker stated that is acceptable but noted that UDOT's processes move very slowly, and the city needs to keep that in mind. Mayor Berube reiterated that Mr. Call will work with UDOT to address the matter.

Mayor Berube then asked Council Member Barker how first responders from the North View Fire District would access certain residential areas in the case of an emergency during the parade if the parade route is moved to 2600 North. Council Member Barker stated the District no longer places all its fire apparatus' in the parade; there will be first responders available to respond to calls at all times. However, any apparatus that will be in the parade is typically at the front of the parade and can leave the route to respond if necessary. Mayor Berube stated that he is simply trying to get everyone to think about the potential of creating an unsafe situation in terms of medical emergencies that could occur during the parade. Council Member Barker stated that the first responders have the ability to use other routes to access areas of the city during the parade.

Council Member Barker then noted that Don Waite is no longer a member of the Planning Commission and he wondered if that also impacts his position on the General Plan Advisory Committee. He asked Mayor Berube to consider that issue and determine if a new individual should be appointed. Mayor Berube stated that Mr. Waite is building a home outside of North Ogden City so it will be possible to replace him on the Committee. He asked Council Member Barker to seek a recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding who should be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Council Member Cevering stated that he has not come to a complete decision regarding the closure of Pleasant View Drive; he feels the comments from the Pleasant View City Council have some merit and if North Ogden were on the receiving end of a decision they were making, this Council would want to have open discourse about how it would impact both cities. He would like to discuss the issue further with them as requested. He then stated that he has been somewhat nervous about moving the parade to 2600 North because of the narrowness of the roadway; he is concerned about safety and would like for the City Council to consider that issue further.

Council Member Barker stated he has had concerns about the parade route as well, but as an employee of the Fire District he has participated in the Pleasant View Parade, which travels along Pleasant View Drive, which is a two lane-road, has a center median in locations, and also a roundabout. The road is narrow and tight in locations. He noted that 2600 North is even narrower than that road, and the Cherry Days parade draws larger crowds and that is something to consider.

Council Member Ekstrom stated there is no perfect route for the parade and she is not opposed to considering another route, possibly 3100 North as suggested by Mr. Heiner. However, it is difficult when the Council's decisions are second guessed without the person first reviewing the deliberations of the Council that led to the decision. She

acknowledged that the decision may not be perfect, but this is something that has been discussed over the past several years and was not a snap decision. She stated that she is willing to discuss the matter further, but she advised those that want to be involved in the discussion to get informed on the past deliberations of the Council.

Mayor Berube stated that no decision of the Council is perfect and he also expressed a willingness to discuss the matter further in order to address safety concerns related to the narrowness of the street and difficulty for spectators to socially distance along the parade route.

Council Member Stoker stated that 2600 North is a very narrow street, and with that in mind, safety needs to be discussed further. She then reiterated comments she made during the last City Council meeting that the city consider changing the name of the General Plan Steering Committee to General Plan Advisory Committee. She added that the Police Chief needs to be involved in any discussion of restriping 2600 North as recommended by Council Member Swanson.

Mayor Berube stated that he feels strongly that any decision made by the Council should be based upon research and careful consideration of the implications of an issue. He feels that additional discussion of both the Pleasant View Drive closure and moving the Cherry Days parade to 2600 North decisions is appropriate. He stated that everyone will not agree with one another on these issues, but it is important to be respectful.

Council Member Cevering asked that the Council take the next week to carefully consider the appropriate parade route for the Cherry Days parade and that an item be added to the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Call reported that curtains have been hung at the Barker Park Amphitheater. He then referenced a recent decision of the Council to grant an easement to a private property owner to construct an additional driveway on their property, noting the city has received a similar request from another resident in The Cove project. He stated that issue will be presented to the Council soon for review and discussion. He then addressed budget process and advised that each Council Member work with the team they have been assigned to in order to perform a detailed review of their budget before it is presented to the entire Council; this will make the group review of budget recommendations more meaningful as time will not be spent performing a line-by-line review of each budget. Mayor Berube added that he would also like Council Member Swanson, as the liaison of the Finance Division, to be involved in the review of the entire budget before it is presented to the Council.

Chief Quinney stated this will be his 26th year as an employee of the Police Department, and thus his 26th Cherry Days celebration; the number one concern of his Department is the safety of the kids that are chasing candy thrown during the parade. He stated he has recommended a barrier in the past. He knows this is expensive, but it is helpful to create a physical line that kids can not go past in order to ensure their safety. He asked that the

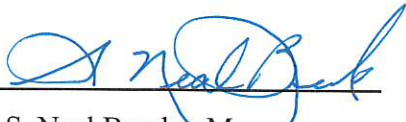
Council consider this recommendation again this year. Mayor Berube added that another option is to prohibit candy throwing in the parade. He also wants to make sure the parade is as safe as possible.

Mayor Berube concluded by noting that it is important to keep in mind that decisions made by the Council impact city staff as they are charged with carrying out policies and decisions; if the Council reverses a decision made, that does impact staff, but he acknowledged the importance of carefully deliberating all issues they are being asked to decide upon.

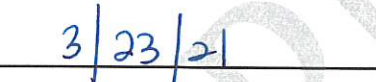
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Stoker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.


S. Neal Berube, Mayor


Katie Gerard, City Recorder


Date Approved