

NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2021

The North Ogden City Council convened in a virtual meeting on March 2, 2021 at 6:01 p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84229469526> Webinar ID: 842 2946 9526

Or Telephone Dial: US: +1 253 215 8782, +1 346 248 7799, +1 669 900 9128 or +1 301 715 8592

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 25, 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
	Katie Gerard	City Recorder
	Jeremy Hinds	Lieutenant
	Dirk Quinney	Police Chief
	Evan Nelson	Finance Director

VISITORS:	Stefanie Casey
	Susan Clements
	Chris Heiner
	Randal Winn
	Julie
	385-405-6061

Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Barker 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.

ACTIVE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC SAFETY QUESTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

City Manager/Attorney Call reported Administration has been working on a "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" document and they are now interested in getting Council feedback regarding the document. Administration has also been in discussions with some residents who have experience in the building industry to better understand the process for moving forward with design and construction. Next steps for proceeding with the Public Safety facility project include engaging a contractor and architect, with the approval of the Council; Mr. Call noted he would like for the Council to act on that matter during their March 23rd meeting. Ultimately, the Police Department needs a facility that will enable them to keep the community safe and provide an adequate level of public safety service. He encouraged the Council to reach out to their constituents to see if they have questions in addition to those that have been included in the draft FAQ document; the goal of Administration and the Council alike is to create a transparent and honest process regarding this project.

Mayor Berube reported on efforts underway to negotiate the purchase of property to allow for the expansion of the facility; additionally, he and Mr. Call have met with a General Contractor who has worked on these types of facilities in the State of Utah in the past and he has provided a rough cost estimate based upon his recent experience and the rough plans for the project.

Mr. Call and Mayor Berube then facilitated a discussion among the Council regarding additional questions and answers that they would like to include in the FAQ document. Council Members offered their support for the questions included in the document but discussed opportunities for getting the document out to the community. Mr. Call stated that the document will be included on the project page on the City website, advertised in the City magazine, posted on social media channels, and include a link to the website on the utility bill. Council Member Cevering suggested that a flyer be printed and made available for pickup at public places throughout the City, such as restaurants and grocery stores. Mr. Call noted the City could also do a bulk mailing of a flyer and he offered to gather costs for that service. Council Member Cevering stated he would be supportive of combining repetitive questions into one question to reduce the length of the list in order to reduce costs associated with printing a flyer. Council Member Stoker acknowledged that some of the questions may seem repetitive, but the answers to some of them have

different information and all of it is important; she does not support reducing the length of the list.

Council Member Swanson stated it is very important to get as much information as possible out to the public, but he advised the Council to keep in mind that no matter how transparent the Council is and how thorough they are in providing information about the project, there will be some that oppose it or later claim that the City has not been transparent. He stated it is important to be prepared for that. He noted that in regard to mailing a flyer, he would support mailing it to each home in order to verify that each resident did receive a copy and had access to the information. Council Member Ekstrom agreed, but noted she still favors making as much information publicly available as possible. She added she also would like for the Council to be united in any decision they make in order to avoid a change of course down the road if there is a great deal of public clamor regarding the project.

Mr. Call then facilitated discussion about funding options for the project; Mayor Berube noted that regardless of the loan/funding option decided upon by the Council, Administration would like to make a sizeable down payment using general fund revenues, surplus revenues, and capital projects funding that is available. This would help minimize the property tax increase the City may need to pursue to help in funding debt service payments for the project.

Council Member Ekstrom asked if the audit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 budget is complete. Council Member Swanson answered no, but indicated it is nearly completed and he will provide detailed information regarding the reasons for the lateness of the audit when the report is presented to the Council in the near future.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE RESTRIPING OF 2600 NORTH

Public Works Director Espinoza reported he has been asked to review the road striping along 2600 North from 400 East to 1050 East; he provided drawings of alternate striping configurations responsive to this request. These drawings include a left turn pocket to keep the flow of traffic going. They also include the removal of the on-street parking, which will open an additional lane for traffic to legally pass on the right. This will also include Utah Transit Authority (UTA) bus pull-offs so traffic is not impeded by bus services. Public Works believes this is a very good option to keep traffic flowing along 2600 North without making huge construction changes that would impact all the homes along that stretch of road. He noted he also understands that by changing the striping on this road it will take away on-street parking from the residents but feels that this is a better option than taking property from these homeowners to widen the road.

Council Member Stoker asked if the adjustments would impact bicyclists on the road given that the width of the road shoulder will be narrowed. Mr. Espinoza acknowledged that the shoulder will be narrowed to four feet. Council Member Stoker asked if green striping could be used to signal to motorists that the shoulder may be occupied for bikes.

Mayor Berube stated that he has been contacted by some property owners who live on the south side of the road; given the shortness of their driveways they are unable to park more than one vehicle on their property and they or their guests often park on the street. They are concerned that on-street parking may no longer be an option. Mr. Espinoza stated that is an issue that has been discussed in the past and is a policy issue for the Council to make; he does not see another solution aside from acquiring property to widen 2600 North to preserve on-street parking options. Mayor Berube stated this is an example of how important it is for infrastructure to keep pace with the growth of the City. He noted that the cost of doing nothing is somewhat higher risk than doing something as existing residents are now going to be impacted by growth and increased traffic on 2600 North. Mr. Espinoza agreed.

Mayor Berube then polled each Council Member to determine the level of support for the adjustments that Mr. Espinoza has presented; there was discussion among the Council regarding the pros and cons of the adjusted striping of the road. They acknowledged that eliminating on-street parking will be an issue for some residents, but they communicated that this is the best option available to the City given all circumstances present. Council Member Swanson stated that he supports moving forward with the configuration presented by Mr. Espinoza but indicated that he would like to review it in one year's time to determine if it is working as intended.

Mayor Berube asked if the City consulted with a traffic engineer about the proposed adjustment. Council Member Swanson stated that the City Engineer has a great deal of streets expertise and he has been heavily involved in this discussion. Mr. Espinoza added that when this matter was discussed a few years ago, the design was based upon a traffic study. He noted that vehicle trips per day have increased dramatically since that time.

Council Member Barker stated he understands that the purpose of the restriping is to increase safety on 2600 North, but he feels that it will limit the ability of residents living on the street to utilize their property as desired. He would prefer to wait until the completion of the Washington Boulevard project to determine if it reduces traffic levels on 2600 North, which may eliminate the need to pursue this change.

Council Member Cevering stated he feels that the proposal will maximize traffic flow while minimizing the impact on properties in terms of widening the road. He feels it is a good compromise at this point.

Mayor Berube stated that it is not necessary to arrive at a decision tonight, but he performed a straw poll to determine whether the Council supports the plans presented by Mr. Espinoza; he noted he would like to have an additional discussion about the matter at the next Council meeting and give the public the opportunity to provide input. Council Member Stoker stated that she is a 'maybe' at this point but wants to hear public feedback. Council Member Ekstrom stated she supports the idea, but also wants to hear public input. Council Member Cevering stated he has the same position as Council Member Ekstrom. Council Member Swanson stated he hopes the plan will accomplish

what is desired. He noted, however, that he appreciates Council Member Barker's comments. If too many changes are made at one time, it is difficult to know which adjustment resulted in change or a solution to a problem. He stated that it may be good to wait until the completion of the Washington Boulevard and 2600 North intersection project and while he supports the design presented by Mr. Espinoza, he is open to considering delayed action on the change. He suggested that a decision on the issue be pushed out until late summer, perhaps August. Mayor Berube stated he is comfortable with that timeline and he invited residents, especially those living along 2600 North, to provide input on the matter.

6. **DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CITIZENS HOME ADDRESS
(FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION)**

City Recorder Gerard noted that during the last City Council meeting, a resident asked why it is necessary for them to provide their home address when making a public comment. She indicated she reviewed the North Ogden City Council Rules of Procedure for a public hearing, and all parties interested in an issue are invited to speak before any discussion is held by the Council; each individual who speaks will state his/her name and address before proceeding. The Rules also address public comments; time is made available to anyone to address the Council and/or Mayor pertaining to City business. When a member of the audience wishes to make comments, they are to state his/her name and address. Additionally, citizens are expected to keep their comments to five minutes each. She asked for the Council's thoughts on whether changes should be made to the Rules of Procedure employed by the City Council.

Council Member Swanson stated that he would like to continue to require a speaker to provide their home address when speaking during a public hearing; topics discussed in a public hearing are typically of greater significance to the City, i.e., budgeting or land use matters. He would like to understand if someone speaking for or against an issue being discussed in a public hearing is actually a resident of North Ogden as he values the opinion of those living in the community over those living outside the City. For regular public comments, he does not personally feel that providing an address is necessary. He also indicated he feels that it is appropriate to allow people to speak for five minutes during a public hearing, but for typical public comments he would propose reducing the length of time for each speaker to three minutes.

Council Member Barker suggested the option of allowing a speaker to indicate whether they are a resident of North Ogden or providing a general area of the City in which they live rather than a full street address.

There was no opposition voiced regarding the recommendations provided by both Council Members Swanson and Barker; Mayor Berube advised Ms. Gerard to utilize the feedback to make adjustments to the Rules of Procedure document and present it to the Council in a future meeting for action.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Heiner, 972 E. 2650 N., thanked those who took time to read and respond to an email he sent last week. He addressed the matter of restriping 2600 North; he grew up on that street and his parents still live there and he is concerned about narrowing the shoulder or completely eliminating on-street parking given that this will cause difficulties for delivery truck drivers, garbage trucks, and other types of vehicles that must pull over on the road shoulder. He then noted that on his drive home today he came across two little girls on skateboards riding down a hill; one stopped before she reached the corner and the other stopped shortly past the corner in the area where a park strip should be. He stated he had plenty of time to stop, but if the road shoulder is narrowed and cars are moved closer to the intersections with side-streets, the outcome may have been different and that second girl would have been in a traffic lane. He stated there are some safety concerns associated with the restriping configuration that was presented tonight; while he is not saying that options should not be explored, he is hopeful the Council will carefully consider the matter. He offered an additional suggestion for the Council to consider and that is making 2600 North a one-direction only road.

Stefanie Casey, 2444 Barker Parkway, used the Zoom chat feature to address criticism from the community. She noted criticism is healthy and everyone in the City should be asking questions and sharing concerns; it is not right to assume that criticism comes only from those who are uninformed.

Susan Clements, 668 E. 3125 N., stated the conversation about restriping 2600 North was interesting; she noted she has travelled 2100 North many times and has compared the two streets using Google Earth. She noted 2100 North has fewer homes and it would be nice if it would be possible to somehow route 2600 North traffic to 2100 North; this may occur during the 2600 North/Washington Boulevard road widening project and it would be great if that resulted in a permanent shift in traffic. She stated it seems that 2600 North widens once it passes Fruitland Drive heading east and she asked if that is correct. She also asked if the General Plan calls for the widening of 2600 North in the future. Mayor Berube stated that he believes widening is called for in the General Plan, but that document is currently being reviewed and will eventually be revised; the Council is very concerned about impacting homes along 2600 North and he feels that all of these matters combined will lead to a much broader discussion about traffic routing in general in order to respond to growth. Ms. Clements then addressed the conversation about whether to require speakers to state their home address when offering public input; she noted she likes the idea of simply stating that she is a North Ogden resident rather than providing her entire address.

Dirk Quinney also addressed the discussion regarding restriping 2600 North; he noted that the area of the street where it's most congested is the portion closest to the Smith's ingress/egress point, but traffic backups can extend much further east on the road during heavy traffic times. He noted his top priority relative to the configuration of the road is safety; second is traffic flow; and third is convenience. He stated that most of the

comments from the public relate to convenience, but it is not prudent to reduce the safety of the street strictly for convenience. He stated he does not feel that waiting for the conclusion of the 2600 North/Washington Boulevard intersection widening will provide much clarity and he would like to address the issue sooner rather than later.

8. COUNCIL/MAYOR/STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager/Attorney Call reported on City projects on the horizon; construction costs have been steadily increasing due to increases in costs for common construction materials and staff is doing their best to secure all materials needed while prices are lower; however, this will require Council approval because it is not covered in the adopted budget. He asked the Council if they are willing to consider an action in the coming weeks that will make it possible for the City to begin purchasing pipes and other materials needed to complete projects in the City in the coming months. Public Works Director Espinoza noted that he has been told that pipe costs are expected to increase anywhere from five to 30 percent by the end of the year. Pipe can be stored at the Public Works Facility for well over a year before it is installed. There was a brief discussion about the projects planned for the coming year that would benefit from purchasing pipe right now; there was also a discussion about the action that the Council needs to take to give staff the ability to acquire the pipe now. The Council indicated they would like to authorize staff to buy all the pipe they can at this time for City projects.

Council Member Barker moved to authorize staff to proceed with acquiring pipe as soon as possible to avoid price increases. Council Member Swanson seconded the motion.

Council Member Ekstrom asked if it is necessary to buy a large amount of pipe now; she wondered if the increases would level off once demand reduces. Mr. Espinoza stated he expects that prices will increase and then stay high for over a year; buying pipe now rather than at 20 to 30 percent more in the next six months could potentially save the City \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Mayor Berube asked if contractors bidding on the jobs will be required to purchase their pipe from the City; he wondered if bidders will be increasing their costs to cover the anticipated materials price spike and then refuse to buy pipe from the City. Mr. Espinoza stated that he can look into that matter further. Mayor Berube stated he would like assurance that the contractors will buy pipe back from the City. Mr. Call stated that any project RFP can be crafted in a way to communicate that contractors who refuse to buy their pipe from the City will not be selected as the contractor.

Mayor Berube stated there has been a motion and second to authorize City staff to begin to acquire pipe for upcoming capital improvement projects; he suggested that a motion be made to cap the amount to be spent at \$250,000.

Council Member Cevering restated the motion to authorize staff to begin acquiring pipe and to cap the amount to be spent at \$250,000. Council Member Barker seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Mr. Call stated that the only item on the agenda for next Tuesday is discussion on the Cherry Days Parade Route; he asked the Council if they want to hold the meeting for that single item or delay that discussion until a future meeting. The Council communicated they would like to discuss the matter and make a decision as soon as possible given that planning for the Cherry Days celebration is underway.

Council Member Stoker stated she was contacted by a citizen who asked about the closure of Pleasant View Drive at Washington Boulevard and whether there will still be a school crossing guard in that area. Mayor Berube stated that children will still cross the road there and there will still be a crossing guard in that area. Mr. Call stated that is correct. Council Member Ekstrom asked if the sidewalk will still be in place if the park area is expanded. Mr. Call answered yes.

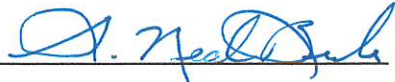
Council Member Barker also addressed the Pleasant View Drive closure; it is temporarily closed, and this will give the City a good idea of how traffic will flow in the future if the decision is made to permanently close the road. Mayor Berube agreed; the City will be able to monitor a shift in driving habits as people look for other ways to navigate the City around the Washington Boulevard construction. Council Member Barker stated that the Fire District will avoid Washington Boulevard during construction.

Mayor Berube stated that he has communicated with Pleasant View Administration about the possibility of scheduling a meeting with their Mayor and two Council Members about the Pleasant View Drive closure; he will invite two members of the North Ogden Council to participate once a meeting date is selected. He then reported he met with County Commissioners about County islands throughout North Ogden City; there was a discussion about motivating the owners of these properties to annex into North Ogden City.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Stoker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Barker seconded the motion.

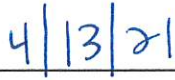
The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



S. Neal Berube, Mayor



Katie Gerard, City Recorder



Date Approved