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City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

BRIEFING SESSION

Attendance:

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

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

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Asst. City Administrator/C.F.O.
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Richard Rich, Unified Fire
Jay Ziolkowski, Consultant

OTHERS: John E. Gidney, Bob Knudsen, and Kevyn Smeltzer

6:00 BRIEFING SESSION

Chair Curt Cochran conducted the briefing session, which convened at 6:03 p.m. A roll call was conducted, wherein all councilmembers were present except for Councilmember Dan Armstrong who arrived at 6:08 p.m.

1. Review Agenda

The agenda for the city council meeting was reviewed.

1 Tracy Cowdell introduced prosecutor Michael Green to the city council. Chair Cochran invited
2 Mr. Green to step forward and tell them a bit about himself which he did.

3
4 Chair Cochran asked if councilmembers had any new items for subsequent considerations.

5
6 Councilmember Harker indicated that she wished to discuss the traffic problems surrounding
7 Taylorsville High School. Both Mayor Overson and John Taylor acknowledged the problem and
8 in fact, the Youth Council was preparing to address the school board on that very topic. Chief
9 Cottam pointed out that by adding 9th graders to the high school, the student body had gone from
10 1700 to almost 2900. On top of that, the number of parking stalls on site had been reduced. The
11 school detective had already expressed his concerns to the Chief.

12
13 Councilmember Armstrong stated there were similar problems at other local schools. He felt that
14 having drivers enter the traffic from the south and exit to the north, the problem would be greatly
15 reduced.

16
17 Councilmember Burgess mentioned an email he had received about the lack of lighting provided
18 at parks on the west side of the city. Councilmember Cochran indicated he received the email as
19 well. He and Mr. Taylor agreed that park hours in Taylorsville were currently 6:00 a.m. to dusk.

20
21 Councilmember Harker mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Committee had been discussing
22 the issue and noticed that posted park hours were not consistent throughout the city. However,
23 they felt that 6a.m. to 11 p.m. in all city parks made sense. Mr. Taylor pointed out that would
24 require a change to city code but that it would not be difficult to do so. Chief Cottam felt the
25 suggested hours were reasonable. Mr. Taylor stated that if the parks were allowed to remain open
26 after dark, the city would need to address lighting and safety issues. He felt parks should be closed
27 at dusk and Councilmember Harker felt that the word "dusk" was subjective. It was agreed that
28 further discussion was needed.

29
30 Councilmember Armstrong wished to discuss an operational issue involving Valley Emergency
31 Communication Center (VECC.) He explained that earlier that day, he had an emergency, and it
32 took three separate calls to 9-1-1 before the call was answered. Scott Harrington asked to speak
33 with him after the meeting to get the number he had called from him so he could investigate this
34 specific situation.

35
36 Chief Cottam pointed out that there had been a very heavy rainstorm earlier in the day which
37 unfortunately, tended to tie up all emergency lines. Multiple traffic accidents and other
38 emergencies took place during such storms resulting in many people calling 9-1-1 to report the
39 same incident, resulting in difficulties reporting other emergency situations.

40
41 **2. Adjourn**

Chair Cochran declared the briefing session adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

6:30 REGULAR MEETING

Attendance:

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

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

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Asst. City Admin/C.F.O.
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Wayne Harper, Econ/Comm. Development Director
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Jay Ziolkowski, Consultant

Others: Kent Burggraaf, John E. Gidney, Becky Guerther, Wendy Hart, Tony Henderson, Bob Knudsen, Michael Green, Kevyn Smeltzer, Barbara Riddle, and Doug Stowell

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Cochran called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

1.1 Opening Ceremonies – Pledge/Reverence – *Mayor Overson* (Opening Ceremonies for September 1, 2021 to be arranged by *Councilmember Harker*)

Mayor Overson directed the Pledge of Allegiance before offering a reverence.

1.2 Mayor's Report

 The mayor stated that she had recently attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at The Local Greek which had opened at the former Cubby's location. She expressed appreciation to all those who took time to attend the event.

1
2 The city's membership and participation in ChamberWest activities was critical to ensuring the
3 success of local businesses. Taylorsville was heavily engaged with the Chamber by having a
4 councilmember on the board of directors and a seat on committees such as Legislative Affairs, the
5 Housing Committee, and several others.
6

7 The Mayor and Wayne Harper had recently met with Utah Transit Authority (UTA) members as
8 well as officials at Salt Lake Community College and Congressman Burgess Owens at the future
9 location of the Bus Rapid Transit hub. Congressman Owens had driven what would be the BRT
10 route in order to understand the need for this line. Those who met with him sought his support
11 and commitment for federal funding. He appeared to be quite supportive.
12

13 Outside city hall, the new Centennial Plaza was looking beautiful and the rain that had fallen earlier
14 that day was very important to help the grass take root.
15

16 City administration had met with Salt Lake County regarding maintenance of the outside of the
17 performing arts center which would be the city's responsibility to maintain. She was thrilled that
18 something planned so long ago had finally come to fruition.
19

20 Mayor Overson explained that new security measures were now in place in city hall. There was
21 also a new phone system which was a big improvement over the older system which had been
22 limping along for some time. She expressed her appreciation to Scott Harrington for his work on
23 getting the system up and running.
24

25 Having students return to school had brought new challenges. She encouraged everyone to take a
26 breath and allow a little time to get used to new traffic patterns, particularly near Taylorsville High
27 School. She reminded those gathered to slow down for children in crosswalks which were now
28 manned by city employees since they worked for the new Taylorsville Police Department.
29

30  Taylorsville's Youth Council had met earlier in the day to discuss many issues, one of which
31 was the traffic problem at their school. Another issue discussed was increasing recruitment for
32 their group.
33

34 Mayor Overson reminded the council that they had allocated funds for the repair and maintenance
35 of the Taylorsville Museum. A meeting had been held to determine repair priorities which
36 involved facilities personnel, the city engineer, and members of the Historic Preservation
37 Committee. It was a productive meeting and she appreciated everyone's involvement.
38

39 Every ten years, our electoral boundaries were adjusted, based on new census data. This resulted
40 in new boundaries for congressional, state senate, house, and school board districts. Uirc.utah.gov
41 was an interactive website where residents could provide their ideas of what the redistricting

should look like. Taylorsville would also have the opportunity to re-draw the boundaries of the council districts, with the goal being to maintain relatively equal numbers within each district. This was likely to happen that fall or the first of 2022.

Mayor Overson closed her report by thanking the council for all they did for the city. She appreciated it when they forwarded citizen concerns to the administration and stressed the importance of good communications between residents, council, and staff.

1.3 Citizen Comments

 Chair Cochran reviewed the citizen comment procedures for the audience. He then asked if any citizens wished to be heard. There was no one who stepped forward, so the chair closed the citizen comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

2.1 Resolution No. 21-33- A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville re-appointing Kent Burggraaf to the Planning Commission as an At-Large Representative – *Wayne Harper*

 Wayne Harper explained that Kent Burggraaf had been doing a great job serving on the planning commission and although his term would soon expire, he was eligible for reappointment. Staff and city administration recommended the Council reappoint Mr. Burggraaf for an additional four-year term. Chair Cochran invited Mr. Burggraaf the opportunity to address the council.

Mr. Burggraaf stated that he sincerely enjoyed serving on the planning commission and would appreciate being re-appointed.

Councilmember Barbieri expressed great appreciation for Mr. Burggraaf for serving and pointed out that he was particularly adept at translating complex code into language that was more easily understood by laypersons. She was very grateful that he was willing to continue to serve.

MOTION: Councilmember Burgess moved to re-appoint Kent Burggraaf to the Planning Commission as an At-Large Representative. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barbieri.

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

The motion passed 5-0

3. REPORTS

3.1 Salt Lake County Public Works Report - *Kevyn Smelter*

 Mr. Smeltzer presented information on the Annual Traffic Signal Preventative Maintenance Report, including four recommended repairs for the city to consider budgeting for in the future.

Mr. Smeltzer described a new app called CitizenVue which had been created for citizens who wished to report issues on roadways. Mr. Smeltzer provided a brief description of how the app functioned. He hoped that the city would share the information with city residents. It was useful county wide—not just in Taylorsville.

Councilmember Harker asked if Mr. Smeltzer had any suggestions on how the traffic issues at Taylorsville High could be handled. He said he agreed with the comments of others who suggested giving everyone a week to settle into new schedules and traffic patterns before reassessing. He also mentioned that both roads were state owned so UDOT might need to be consulted.

Chair Cochran asked administration if the city should advertise the new app on its website. Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director for the city indicated it was already on the website and would also be sent out on the city's social media accounts.

3.2 Public Safety Committee Report – *Tony Henderson*

 Mr. Henderson explained that most meetings continued to take place remotely. Jay Ziolkowski had regularly been keeping the committee updated on the transition to TVPD.

The committee had been focusing on the neighborhood watch program. They had also reinvigorated their booth for Taylorsville Dayzz, adding a spinning wheel so that people could win prizes. This was done to bring more people in so that they could share safety information with them.

For the second year in a row, they had been unable to participate in the annual Night Out Against Crime but hoped to be involved next year. They would continue to focus on neighborhood watch support and had plans for a committee member to be on the police department's citizen advisory board

Mr. Armstrong expressed his appreciation to Mr. Henderson and his committee for the work that they did on behalf of the community.

1
2 **3.3 Prosecutor/Defense Report – *Michael Green/Doug Stowell***
3

4  Michael Green explained he was an associated attorney with Cowdell & Woolley, P.C. which
5 contracted with Taylorsville to provide prosecutorial services. He had been with the firm for about
6 three years and with the Attorney General's office before that.
7

8 Mr. Green explained his prosecutorial philosophy, evaluating every case on its own merits. He
9 also believed in escalating where repeat offenders were involved, while also understanding the
10 difference between being a bad person and being a good person having a bad day.
11

12 He felt that the prosecutor's officer had already developed a good working relationship with the
13 new Taylorsville Police Department.
14

15 Doug Stowell of Stowell & Crayk reintroduced himself to the council and reminded them that he
16 and his firm provided legal counsel to indigent defendants in the justice court.
17

18 Mr. Stowell explained that his office was working in a hybrid capacity—that is, some cases were
19 heard virtually via WebEx while others were heard in person. Bench trials which had been on
20 hold since the early days of the pandemic had since resumed but there was still a backlog of dozens
21 and dozens of both bench and jury trials still in need of adjudication. That was true throughout
22 the state—not just in Taylorsville.
23

24 He mentioned that Judge Bown was an easy person to work with and assured the council that he
25 would treat everyone fairly.
26

27 Case numbers had stayed consistent, but Mr. Stowell suspected they would be increasing. He and
28 his associate attorneys had handled 80-85 cases earlier that day.
29

30 Like Mr. Green, he invited councilmembers to visit the justice court and asked that it be on a public
31 defender day so that they could see what took place on those days. Judge Bown had instituted
32 electronic filing which moved things along at a slightly quicker pace.
33

34 City Attorney Tracy Cowdell pointed out that Mr. Stowell's office did its best to keep cases
35 moving forward despite all the challenges presented by very adverse conditions, particularly in the
36 early days of the pandemic. They were working harder for each case but receiving the same per
37 case fee.
38

39 **4. CONSENT AGENDA**
40

41 **4.1 Minutes –August 4, 2021**

MOTION: Councilmember Barbieri moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021. Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Burgess.

Councilmember Barbieri	Yes
Chair Cochran	Yes
Councilmember Burgess	Yes
Councilmember Armstrong	Yes
Councilmember 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 Discussion Regarding the Shop Local Program – Mayor Overson/Wayne Harper/Barbara Riddle

 Mr. Harper reminded the council that some CARES Act funding had been used the previous year for a *Shop Local* Program that had been highly successful. Some business owners had reported that it had saved their business from closing or in some cases, allowed them to refrain from laying off employees. Tourism, hospitality, and personal care services had been hit particularly hard.

Staff and administration wished to repeat the program beginning in September and continuing through Thanksgiving. To do so would require a \$150,000 allocation to be approved by the city council. He asked if the council was interested in allocating the funds and if so, where do they want the funds to come from? Mr. Harper believed American Recovery Act funds could be used if the council so chose.

 Mayor Overson indicated the program had been a win for both small businesses as well as city residents. For some residents it wasn't just discretionary spending but money they were able to use for critical needs. She felt ChamberWest administered the program very effectively.

1
2  Barbara Riddle, CEO of ChamberWest shared some comments she had received from
3 participating businesses as well as from some residents who had utilized the program. A lot of
4 energy was created by the program on all sides. It had provided both short- and long-term benefits
5 for the community. Although other cities had sponsored similar programs, she stated Taylorsville
6 had taken it to a much more impactful level. They showed the difference between *talking* about
7 doing something and *actually* doing something. It brought the community together and provided
8 a great economic stimulus.
9

10 Ms. Riddle pointed out that as much as we would like it to be, Covid was not over yet. During the
11 first tranche, \$5,421 *Shop Local* "bucks" were spent which was 11.56% utilization. They had only
12 anticipated a redemption rate of 3% to 5% so they were thrilled with the actual result. Texas
13 Roadhouse, Leatherby's and Great Harvest were the top three businesses who benefitted from the
14 first *Shop Local* program.
15

16 Councilmember Harker mentioned that several residents did not know to watch for the local bucks
17 and therefore did not recognize what they had received, inadvertently throwing them away. What
18 can we do to reduce that occurrence if we fund a second tranche of local bucks? Ms. Riddle
19 responded that the Chamber was prepared to market the program so that residents would know
20 what to watch for in the mail. The city could also push the information out on social media.
21

22 Councilmember Armstrong stated that only 50% of the funds actually went to the businesses after
23 administrative costs (printing, postage, etc.) and taxes. If the goal was to get money into local
24 businesses, 11.56% was a failure. But he said that if there were ancillary goals such as creating a
25 sense of community, perhaps that was where the success lay. It was a 100% savings to the residents
26 but only 50% to the businesses. Ms. Riddle responded that some businesses reported that they got
27 new customers in their doors. And even if it was 50%, it was still more than what they would have
28 otherwise received.
29

30 Mr. Taylor pointed out that the program benefitted both residents and businesses in a variety of
31 ways. Councilmember Burgess agreed. Councilmember Harker reminded the council that the
32 city's motto was "Where Community Connects." She felt the *Shop Local* program connected the
33 community and Mayor Overson agreed. She felt it was the connections and the relationships that
34 were most important. While she agreed that the numbers were important, the relationships were
35 equally important.
36

37 Councilmember Armstrong expressed concern about businesses that offered personal services
38 (hair/salon services) that had not been able to open, therefore could not benefit from this program.
39 Mr. Harper responded that the Chamber had visited every business, but Councilmember
40 Armstrong was correct that personal care businesses might not have been there to speak to. Ms.

1 Riddle said that perhaps ChamberWest could make a special effort to reach out to those businesses
2 and others that were particularly impacted by the pandemic.

3
4 Mayor Overson pointed out that the council might not be aware that the city had made
5 accommodations to businesses that had reached out about having their business licenses extended.
6

7 It was determined that since a resolution had not been placed on the agenda, the council could not
8 vote on a resolution to fund a second *Shop Local* program. However, the council did indicate a
9 desire to authorize \$180,000 for a second tranche. The item would be placed on the next agenda
10 for a formal resolution. Chair Cochran asked where the money would come from. Mr. Harper
11 stated that American Rescue Plan Act funds could be used but it was a call for administration to
12 make. Ms. Riddle commented that an ad would need to be sent to the Valley Journal by the
13 following day in order to meet the publication deadline for the next edition. Mr. Taylor asked if
14 the council was comfortable using money from the general fund now, knowing that this
15 expenditure would be addressed at a mid-year budget adjustment. He also indicated that if that
16 was the direction the council wished to take, he would need to know that each of the five council
17 members agreed. Chair Cochran wished to take a roll call for the record (although no formal
18 motion was made).
19

20 Councilmember Armstrong	Yes
21 Councilmember Burgess	Yes
22 Councilmember Harker	Yes
23 Councilmember Barbieri	Yes
24 Chair Cochran	Yes

25

26 Each member of the council agreed. Mr. Taylor stated that administration would bring the issue
27 back with the mid-year budget adjustments and confirmed \$180,000 would be covered by the fund
28 balance until it was confirmed that American Rescue Plan Act funds could be used.
29

30 **8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)**
31

32 **8.1 Councilmember Burgess** – Nothing for subsequent consideration
33

34 **8.2 Councilmember Armstrong** – Wished to hear about what was being done to
35 address the time it took for some 9-1-1 calls to be answered by VECC
36

37 **8.3 Council Chair Cochran** – Nothing for subsequent consideration.
38

39 **8.4 Councilmember Harker** – Wished to address park hours in general
40

41 **8.5 Councilmember Barbieri** – Nothing for subsequent consideration.

1
2 **9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)**
3

- 4 **9.1 Board of Canvassers Meeting – Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
5 **9.2 Planning Commission Work Session – Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**
6 **9.3 Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, August 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**
7 **9.4 City Council Briefing Session – Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
8 **9.5 City Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**
9 **9.6 Planning Commission Work Session – Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:30**
10 **p.m.**
11 **9.7 Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**
12 **9.8 City Council Briefing Session – Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
13 **9.9 City Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**
14 **9.10 Planning Commission Work Session – Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00**
15 **p.m.**
16 **9.11 Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**
17 **9.12 “Let’s Talk Taylorsville” – Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
18

19 **10. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

20 *(For more Details on Events, Visit the City’s Website)*
21

- 22 **10.1 Movies in the Park – Saturday, September 11, 2021 “Trolls World Tour” Movie**
23 **begins at dusk**
24

25 Chair Cochran mentioned that the Arts Council would be presenting *Peter Pan Jr.* in Studio
26 5400 within the new Mid Valley Performing Arts Center. This would take place on August
27 25th through August 27th at 7:30 p.m.
28

29 **11. CLOSED SESSION (*Conference Room 202*)**

30 *- For the Purpose(s) Described in Statute U.C.A. 52-4-205*
31

32 A closed session was not needed.
33

34 **12. ADJOURNMENT**
35

36 **MOTION: Councilmember Burgess moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by**
37 **Councilmember Harker and Chair Cochran declared the meeting adjourned**
38 **at 8:22 p.m.**
39
40
41

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Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Minutes approved:

Minutes Prepared by: Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

DRAFT