

THE EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, STATE OF UTAH, MET ELECTRONICALLY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021, PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M., VIA ZOOM.COM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT: DAVID BREMS
GARY BOWEN
CATHERINE HARRIS
JENNIFER HAWKES, Deputy Mayor
JOE SMOLKA, Mayor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: POLLY MCLEAN, LEGAL COUNSEL
SHERRIE SWENSEN, METRO TOWNSHIP CLERK
By: NICHOLE WATT, DEPUTY CLERK



Mayor Smolka, Chair, presided.



Pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-202 the undersigned, as Mayor of the Emigration Canyon Metro Township Council, hereby declares that providing an anchor location for the electronic meetings of the Council will present a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location for the following reasons:

The Township is located in Salt Lake County and is still under an “Yellow” alert stage for the COVID 19 pandemic; and

The regular meeting place for the Council (the Fire Station in the Canyon) does not have sufficient space in the meeting room to provide for the recommended physical distancing to keep people safe from infection.



STAFF MEETING

The Council reviewed the following items, which it will consider at its public meeting to be held tonight or at a future public meeting:

- Residential fire interview
- General Plan update
- River Restoration update
- Emigration Canyon Metro Township Administrator
- Project updates



PUBLIC MEETING

Citizen Public Input

Fred Swanson stated his continuing concerns regarding the road noise from loud vehicles. He would like to know what type of enforcement is taking place and what progress is being made from discussions last fall.



Municipal Provider Reports

Emigration Canyon Community Council Report (ECCC)

Bill Tobey stated a replacement for the fire danger sign that was stolen from the bottom of the canyon has been received and will be installed. Eighty-five households have signed up for chipping services. The services will be completed over the next 2 weeks; however, due to the fire season the schedule may change. The shaded fuel break project at Acorn Hills is still ongoing.



Unified Police Department (UPD)

Officer Jake Elsasser reviewed the May 2021 call for service statistics.



Unified Fire Authority (UFA)

Captain Michael Conn stated if the Council decides to start meeting in-person, the community room is available at the fire station, and they will need to book the room for the rest of the year. The chipping event and Acorn Hills project is coming up. Defensible space evaluation requests are up significantly this year. There is a high demand from fire crews to assist in various situations. The new fire danger sign is at the station and is ready to go.



Council Business

In-person Meetings

Mayor Smolka asked the Council what its view is on holding Council meetings in-person starting in July.

Council Member Brems stated he is ready.

Council Member Bowen stated he is ready.

Deputy Mayor Hawkes asked if a hybrid option is possible.

Council Member Brems stated meetings should continue on Zoom until all Council Members can be present.

Council Member Harris stated she is concerned that the Council does not have the proper technology to be able to conduct meetings in-person and on Zoom. Residents may not be comfortable attending meetings due to the increase in the COVID-19 Delta variant.

Council Member Brems stated to make a hybrid option work, the Council needs the right technology like a large TV or projection screen.

Mayor Smolka stated he does not think the Council has the capability to do a hybrid option at this point.

Council Member Harris stated she is not eager to go back to in-person meetings.

Council Member Brems stated he is okay with doing Zoom a little while longer.

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated she is okay with doing Zoom meetings as well.

Polly McLean stated the Council can continue meeting over Zoom and declare the monthly findings that there is a health risk as long as there is still one. The hybrid option is useful to the public and she has seen an increase in participation because of the online option.

Crosswalks

Council Member Harris stated she has read the studies from Salt Lake County Engineering and the Fehr & Peers studies, and both are recommending that other traffic calming measures are considered before lowering the speed limit. There is a line of site problem at the crosswalk near Ruth's Diner.

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated there have been various recommendations on to help with traffic calming and to make the crosswalk safer; however, there have been no decisions to implement those recommendations.

Council Member Harris stated if crosswalks is put on next months agenda, it would give the Council time to research the recommendations and costs.

Deputy Mayor Harris stated she would like cost estimates by line item.

Firework Restriction

The Council reviewed the following Ordinance restricting fireworks within all portions of Emigration Canyon Metro Township:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06-01

Date: June 22, 2021

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR MUNICIPAL RESTRICTION OF FIREWORKS
WITHIN ALL PORTIONS OF EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, Utah Code §53-7-225, prohibits the discharge of Class C common state approved explosives (fireworks) except around certain holidays including beginning on July 2 and ending on July 5, and beginning on July 22 and ending on July 25;

WHEREAS, the fire official for ECMT has found that existing hazardous environmental conditions exist within the entire ECMT (see *Letter From Fire Marshal* dated June 21, 2021, attached as Exhibit A);

WHEREAS, most of Salt Lake County is in the D-4, Exceptional Drought category with a historic dry line and explosive potential;

WHEREAS, the Council of the Emigration Canyon Metro Township (“Council”) finds that the Township, throughout all areas, contains innumerable mountainous, brush-covered, forest covered, and dry grass-covered areas which historically and existing today are in an extremely flammable condition;

WHEREAS, if existing or historical hazardous environmental conditions exist within the boundaries of Emigration Canyon Metro Township (“ECMT”), Utah Code § 15A-5-202.5 allows the Council to prohibit the ignition and use of fireworks while these conditions exist in the following areas: (1) mountainous, brush-covered, forest covered, or dry grass-covered areas; (2) within 200 feet of waterways, trails, canyons, washes, ravines, or similar areas; (3) wildland urban interface area, which means the line, area, or zone where structures or other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or land being used for an agricultural purpose; or (4) a limited area outside the hazardous areas;

WHEREAS, the Council finds the entire ECMT consists of the above listed hazardous areas and a map of the ECMT is attached hereto as Exhibit B;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF, UTAH, THAT:

SECTION I: Pursuant to the provisions of the Utah Code Ann. 15A-5-202.5, and based on the findings as noted above, the use of Class C fireworks is hereby restricted in all areas of the ECMT as shown in the attached map of the Metro Township in Exhibit B.

SECTION II: Due to the extreme drought conditions, the following are prohibited until November 15, 2021, unless earlier terminated by action of the Council.

1. No cutting, welding or grinding metal in areas of dry vegetation unless the areas where the work is being done is thoroughly wetting down and the areas are kept wet throughout the process.

DATE TUESDAY JUNE 22, 2021

- 2. No operating a motorcycle, chainsaw, ATV, other small internal combustion engine without an approved and working spark arrestor.

SECTION III: Effective Date. For the protection and preservation of public health and safety, this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and/or post this Ordinance forthwith.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Metro Township Council of Emigration Canyon, Utah, this 22nd day of June in the year 2021.

EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP

/s/ JOE SMOLKA
Mayor

ATTEST:
SHERRIE SWENSEN

/s/ SHERRIE SWENSEN
Metro Township Clerk

Council Member Smolka, seconded by Council Member Harris, moved to approve Ordinance 2021-06-01 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Signs to Indicate Fire Risk

Mayor Smolka asked the Council if they have any opinions on what the signs to indicate fire risk should say. There are signs that say no fireworks or fireworks prohibited, does there need to be more signs?

Mayor Smolka motioned to have signs that say, “No Fireworks in Emigration Canyon Metro Township” and reference Ordinance No. 2021-06-01.

Polly McLean stated the signs are legally required they would be for education purposes.

Mayor Smolka withdrew his motion and suggested using the signs that are currently there.

Council Member Harris asked if there are signs at each entrance to the Canyon. A sign that says “no fireworks” is a good idea.

Captain Michael Conn, UFA, stated the fire risk signs are all marked at the highest level and there are large banners that indicate fireworks are prohibited. He does suggest that if there is another sign that it says something like no open flame or burning.

Mayor Smolka stated he will get signs that indicate that there are no open fires.

Municipal Elections

Mayor Smolka stated there are two Council seats open for election this year, he and Robert Pinon are the only ones that have filed to run. Because there are only two seats open and two candidates that have filed, the Council may be able to cancel the election.

Nichole Watt, Metro Township Deputy Clerk, stated if there no more candidates than open seats, the Metro Township has the option to cancel the election. The deadline for write-in candidates is August 27, 2021, so any action from the Council would need to take place after that deadline.

Polly McLean stated since the Council will not have a meeting between the write-in candidate filing deadline and when the ballots go out, there may need to be a meeting to cancel the election in between those dates. She has sent an email to Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk, to verify how she would like the Council to proceed.

Mayor Smolka asked that this item be put on the next agenda.

Legal Issues

No further updates.

Budget Items

Mayor Smolka stated he approved expenditures from legal counsel, clerk services, and payroll. He is waiting to see what funds the Metro Township will be getting from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Salt Lake County Economic Development received a grant for \$50,000 from ARPA to study broadband in the township areas. They will be hiring a consultant to complete the study.

Minutes

Council Member Smolka, seconded by Council Member Harris, moved to approve minutes of the Emigration Canyon Metro Township Council meetings held on April 27, 2021, and May 18, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.



Council Member Reports

Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)

Council Member Brems stated the 2021-2022 budget was approved with amendments. SLVLESA met and approved the ability to set a new tax rate and accepted an independent audit that was completed.

Planning Commission

Nothing to report.

Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)

Council Member Bowen stated the 2021 -2022 budget was approved with one exception.

Animal Services

Council Member Bowen stated he received an email from the USDA, stating canyon residents have access to its services.

Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)

Council Member Harris stated there is nothing to report from WFWRD. She has dump vouchers if anyone needs one.

Watershed Plan

Council Member Harris stated she forwarded River Restorations' summary to the Council Members.

Website

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated she will add the USDA information and Animal Services' information is on the website.

CodeRED

Council Member Hawkes stated she has been working with Captain Michael Conn updating the residents on the red flag warning and will continue to do so. She may do a message on the electronic message board to remind people about CodeRED.

Restrooms

Nothing to report.

Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)

Mayor Smolka stated MSD has moved to hybrid meetings. The position for Executive Assistant has been posted and individuals are being interviewed.

Landfill Council

Nothing to report.

Legislative Issues

Nothing to report.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, METRO TOWNSHIP CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

MAYOR, EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

DATE

TUESDAY

JUNE

22, 2021

