

**Adopted Minutes
Spanish Fork City Council Meeting
November 2, 2021
40 South Main Street
Spanish Fork, UT 84660**

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mendenhall, Stacy Beck, Shane Marshall

Elected Officials Absent: Mayor Steve Leifson, Councilmembers Brandon Gordon, and Chad Argyle

Staff Present: Vaughn Pickell - City Attorney; Chris Thompson - Public Works Director; Dave Anderson - Community Development Director; Steve Adams - Public Safety Director; Dale Robinson - Parks & Recreation Director; Division Manager; Tara Silver - City Recorder; Nick Porter - Public Information Officer; Scott Aylett - Library Director; Jordan Hales - Finance Director; Dale Robinson - Parks and Recreation Director; Tyler Jacobson - Assistant City Manager; Seth Perrins - City Manager

Staff Absent:

Citizens Present: Heather Youd, Kevin Oyler, Johan Stoop, Bret Bills, John Tyrrell, Dave Cebrowski, Alvin Oderment

5:15 WORK SESSION:

- a. Utility Billing Update - Changes to Utility Payment Due Dates

Discussion took place regarding the item(s) listed above; no formal actions are taken in a work session.

6:00 pm CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE, OPENING CEREMONY, RECOGNITION:

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6 pm and let us know Mayor Leifson, Councilmembers Gordan and Argyle were absent.

Prayer/Motivation/Inspirational Message by Tyler Jacobson

Tyler Jacobson wanted to thank all the candidates in the election and expressed Theodore Roosevelt's sentiments when he quoted, "Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat." Tyler told us it would be great for some

and not for others. Tyler felt like Tara Silver the City Recorder expressed it well in a previous candidate's meeting of the tribute of the volunteer spirit of those who live here in Spanish Fork City. Tyler expressed the great courage and sacrifice it takes to run in an election and try to make the city better.

Nick Porter led the congregation in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nick Porter gave a recap on the first-ever Spanish Fork University: 101 class completion. Nick reminded us that 15 residents came to the city to learn about each department for the previous 10 weeks at various locations throughout the city. Nick conveyed thankfulness to participants, departments, division managers, and those who helped put together the events each week. Nick revealed this group had a chance to splice fiber, work on a camera crew with SF17, ride horses at the fairgrounds, shoot guns at the Spanish Fork Gun Club, participate in mock traffic stops and use the jaws of life, fry a hot dog with high voltage electric shock, tour the airport, tour the wastewater treatment plant and much more.

Nick let us know graduation was held on Wednesday and invited the SF101 graduates to come forward to present them with a class photo. Nick asked graduate Bret Bills to tell us what he had learned.

Bret Bills indicated when he first learned of the class he thought it was the intent of the city to indoctrinate the residents on doing things their way, but soon learned it was much more. Bret stated when he saw the itinerary put together by Nick Porter he thought he had hit the jackpot or field trip heaven. Bret told us as the program went on what stood out to him most was the passion of City employees wanting to do a good job. Bret was grateful they were able to talk with all the department heads unscripted and ask questions, see the concerns they had, and the work they do for us. Bret expressed how impressed he was and how even though he is the cheapest person he would pay full school tuition for this course. Bret went on to say \$500 to \$1,000 dollars would not be enough to compensate for the things they were exposed to and the things they learned. Bret thanked the city and he couldn't have been happier with the experience.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall relayed this program would happen again and would have other graduating classes.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall welcomed public comment.

1. Alvin Odermatt, a resident, wanted to address the community, Utah County, and in a small way to Utah. Alvin expressed his experience with property taxes in California regarding property tax increases hurting those on fixed incomes. Alvin stated at first it worked to bring the property taxes down until a loophole was found. Alvin related how Proposition 13 limited the amount of property tax a new homeowner would pay to be a percentage of what they bought their home for,

Alvin stated here in the community we have pride and want affordable housing. Alvin was concerned the increase in property taxes and home values in Utah would need a proposition with Utah County and wanted to let the residents know they could do something similar to proposition 13 on a county level. Alvin gave another idea of controlling our spending to reduce property taxes and values. Alvin felt the cities can't control Utah County but the residents could. Alvin expressed concern for those on fixed incomes who would not be able to pay.

2. Seth Perrins wanted to address what Alvin expressed and thanked him for his thoughts. Seth wanted the public to know we have truth in taxation that requires tax rates to automatically adjust when property values go up or down so there is a balance. Seth explained that because property values have gone up there has been a decrease in the percentage of property tax assessed to keep it consistent from year to year with the addition of growth. Seth gave an example of when a farm field is turned into 20 homes there would be an increase because of growth from a different use. Seth invited residents to look at the history of their property taxes. Seth conveyed he thought our rates had only gone up 3 times in the last 10 years. Seth informed us the largest jump in property taxes is usually the school district. He elaborated that the highest jumps were for the school district bonds we vote in. Seth let residents know that the County voted to raise property taxes last year and how they have been talking about a decrease this year. Seth explained that everyone could look at the Property tax history and see how much is paid to the 5 entities who benefit from a property tax. Seth let us know when he started here the property tax rate was .002 something and it had gone down to .0009 with some fluctuations with building. Seth asked if Alvin was aware of the truth and taxation in Utah.

Alvin stated he was aware of it.

Seth continued by telling us it helps with the rises that can happen like sales tax. He gave the example of going to the store and buying a gallon of milk today for \$2 you pay sales tax on that. If it rises the next day to \$3 you would

pay the same percentage in sales tax. Seth pointed out that property is different than that.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall asked Seth to discuss options for seniors on fixed incomes.

Seth Perrins said there was a property tax abatement to seniors through Utah County.

Alvin wanted everyone to know that Proposition 13 would only raise the property tax with $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of the voters. He gave the example of when a property tax would increase is when an owner sells the property. He felt we did not have the rate in the control of the County.

John Terrell let us know this year has been the best year since he has been alive because he has gotten to know everyone. He expounded that there are only 3 things in life that matter to him. He told us it is his family, faith, and community and politics didn't play into that and he wanted to thank the city for the opportunities the city has given him this year. John went on to say that running for City Council has been great for him to get to know the Mayor, City Council, and candidates. He declared he had to play rock paper scissors when he voted this year. He declared he wanted to vote for everyone this year. John expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Mayor and Council to make the City run properly. John wanted to give a special thanks to Tara Silver for the way she ran the elections and kept us informed this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall stated Tara Silver was new but she didn't seem like one.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Marshall announced there is an airport and animal shelter board meeting this week so he would report on the next time. Shane revealed his appreciation for those who attended Spanish Fork University. He attended the Utah Valley Growth Summit and felt that we are not alone in tackling the growth in Utah because we have good people and strong leadership that we could all benefit from.

Councilwoman Beck started with Trick or Treating and thanked the Chamber of Commerce for a well attended great event. She let us know businesses, politicians, Miss Spanish Fork, and the Youth City Council were there. She highlighted Councilman Marshall's part in the Growth Summit where they talked about growth, transportation, education, affordable housing, water more. She pointed out it

brought together educators, politicians, and former Governor Hurbert. She felt it was a way to unite the county and grow.

Shane Marshall added it was a great way for cities to fulfill their needs and grow as a Utah Valley Community.

Councilwoman Beck voiced her appreciation for the help of the Youth City Council who relabel books and movies for 6 hours at the library to prepare them to move. She encouraged anyone who would like to volunteer to contact the library. Councilwoman Beck wished the candidates good luck tonight and couldn't come up with words to describe it.

Councilman Marshall helped her out by saying it has been terrifying.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall saw the value of Spanish Fork University and let everyone know it will continue. He reported the Rotary Club had the candidates come on Tuesday and thanked them, Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall told us that the Rotary Club would be losing a long time participant and president Dr. Tracy Frandsen and wife Pat; as they had been called to a mission in Mexico by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He honored them for their service in the Rotary Club and all aspects of Spanish Fork. He thanked Tara Silver for her job in running the elections in a time when politics is not easy sometimes. Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall expressed his gratitude for free and fair elections.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall went on to say this had been the first election since he had lost a good friend from the league board. He told us of the sacrifice of Mayor Taylor stepping down in Logan to serve in Afghanistan where his life was taken leaving a wife and 7 kids without a husband and dad and Logan without a Mayor. He implored residents to use the right to vote as Mayor Taylor expressed in his last Facebook post and let us know that is exactly what Mayor Taylor's wife echoes when supporting the National Guard.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall invited Heather Youd from the Chamber of Commerce to tell of the event coming up.

Heather Youd manifested her sadness for missing the Trick or Treat on Main Street, but she wasn't going to miss her daughter's graduation from basic training.

Heather gave us a Chamber of commerce event update on the last business summit which included Springville down to Santaquin. She was impressed that Desmond Lomax spoke. Heather let us know the Farmers Market wrapped up a great season and they loved the new location except there was no shade. She enlightened us on the program with the Farmers Market accepting SNAP Benefits and its success. She

told us on Thursday there would be a business continuity and preparedness meeting with Trevor Sperry but it needed to be canceled because the instructor had Covid so it would be moved to the next quarter.

Heather declared the business of the month was Blaine Hone Excavating. She reminded us about the Nov. 18th networking luncheon at the Ponderosa building. She communicated a night change from Friday to Saturday for the Winter Light Parade to show support for Salem City who also had an event on Friday.

SPANISH FORK 101

a. General Election Results Timeline - City Recorder, Election Officer

Tara Silver let residents know they had a little over an hour to vote then gave a presentation on where to go to get results for the election. She exclaimed residents had a little over an hour to still vote and where to go. Tara explained the mail-in vote process and it would take 2 weeks to get official results. She stated they would be presented at the November 16th City Council meeting. Tara emphasized the opportunity 16 and 17-year-olds have to register to vote now so when they turn 18 they will automatically be sent a ballot.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall asked what was one of the fun things about the election.

Tara Silver responded it was when a resident called and notified her that a candidate had come personally to her home and she had been so impressed she wanted to change who she voted for. Tara let us know we could not retrieve her ballot since it was already mailed but if she had still had her ballot we could have shown her how to change her vote. Tara felt it tied into the dedication and spirit of the election.

Seth Perrins responded as well by telling us that his experience this year had been he was asked who was the Republican and who was the Democrat candidate. He used this time to teach that municipal elections are nonpartisan. Seth expounded that some were upset and he wondered when was the last time these residents had voted in a municipal election as there has never been an R or D in a municipal election. Seth asked the candidates in the room if they had the same experience and there was a consensus it was a dominant theme.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- a. Minutes of Spanish Fork City Council Meeting - 10-19-2021
- b. Pacific Corp Consent to Common use Agreement for the East Bench Utility Project
- c. Spanish Fork Salem Arrowhead Sewer Main Agreement

- d. East Bench Canal Company Company Encroachment Agreement with Parkside Estate R5 Development, LLC & Spanish Fork City
- e. Wilkinson Electric Proposal Justice Center Lighting

Councilman Marshall made a **Motion** to approve Consent Items a - e
Councilwoman Beck **Seconded** and the motion **Passed** all in favor at 6:42 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 21-24 Adopting Optional Shared Solar Rate Resolution

Jordan Hales talked about the optional shared solar rate as a way for people to participate in solar energy without putting solar panels on their roofs. He explained how the Utah Municipal Power Agencies, of which we are a member, had purchased the old dump and put solar panels on it giving residents the option to use the proposed rate service option as part of their energy output.

Jordan let us know residents could buy solar blocks in 200 kilowatt increments. He let the residents know his energy bill uses around 600kWH for the winter months and around 1600-1700 kWH for the summer so residents could estimate how many solar blocks they may need for their own homes. Jordan cautioned homeowners not to buy more than their lowest month. Jordan went on to lay out the payment of .10620 per kilowatt and how the rate could go down to .66 with higher energy usage. He let us know if you are a high user you may pay more for energy and would want to consider this plan.

Jordan pointed residents to the Spanishfork/Solar website to learn more about the program and how to sign up. He told us one of the links would lead them to Renew Choice, the Utah Municipal Power Agencies website and by clicking on Shared Solar they could learn about the green programs they have. Jordan let us know we could also contact the Utility Manager, City Stone for information or to sign up. He informed us there are a limited number of 3000 solar blocks across all the participating cities.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall indicated this program was only for residential, not commercial properties.

Jordan Hales responded that a rate for commercial property owners could come later.

Councilwoman Beck **Moved** to **Approve the Resolution 21-24 Adopting Optional Shared Solar Rates**

Mayor Pro Tem Menenhall **Seconded** and the motion **Passed** all in favor at 6:48 pm with a roll call vote.

B. Proposed modification to Master Planned Development approval regarding setbacks for Escala, a Master Planned Development in the R-3 Zone located at approximately 1300 South Del Monte Road.

Dave Anderson told us this would need to be continued as not all the information had come in yet.

Councilman Marshall **Moved** to **Continue Approve the Proposed modification to Master Planned Development approval regarding setbacks for Escala, a Master Planned Development in the R-3 Zone located at approximately 1300 South Del Monte Road.**

Mayor Pro Tem Mendenhall **Seconded** and the motion **Passed** all in favor at 6:49 pm.

C. Airport Board Appointments

Dale Robinson told us of the proposed appointment and reappointments to the Airport board and they had been approved by the Mayor.

Seth Perrins informed the Council there was one new appointment and the reappointments were too offset expiration dates so they were staggered

Councilman Marshall **Moved** to **Approve the Board Appointment of Brad Mellor until December 31, 2023**

Reappoint Clair Anderson and Brian Park until Dec. 31, 2022

Reappoint Matt Taylor until Dec. 31, 2023

Reappoint Mark Patey and Duane Barr until Dec. 31, 2024

Councilwoman Beck **Seconded** and the motion **Passed** all in favor at 6:51 pm with a **Roll call vote**

Councilwoman Beck made a **Motion** to Adjourn

Councilman Mendenhall **Seconded** the motion and it passed all in favor at 6:51 pm.

ADJOURN:

ATTEST: November 2, 2021

Tara Silver, City Recorder