

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 8:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Kelly Wilson, Patricia Wise, Micah Gubler, and Chuck Hardy;
Staff: Kyle Gubler, Christy Ballard, Chief Ben Lee, and Kevin Bennett, Public: Blair Gubler, and Susan Lewis.
Councilman Ray Justice was excused.

A. Meeting Called to Order: Mayor Hirschi called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

B. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2021 General Election Canvass.

Susan Lewis passed out a copy of the General Election results.

The final count was completed yesterday by 5:00 p.m. La Verkin had a total of 704 ballots counted.

There were 94 ballots not counted because they either came in after the election, were undeliverable ballots, or ballots not cured. That means the individual was contacted because either the signature did not match, or the ballot was not signed. If the individuals do not come in to take care of that discrepancy the ballots are not counted.

La Verkin had a 32.46% voter turnout. Ballots are only sent out to active, registered voters. There are 2169 registered voters in La Verkin City.

Susan read the results.

Mayoral: Kelly Wilson 617

City Council: Blair Gubler 383, Patricia Wise 357, Ray Justice 298, Richard M. Hirschi 271.

The motion was made by Councilman Micah to accept the 2021 General Election Canvass, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Gubler-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve engineering expenditures for 560 West.

Kyle explained he, along with Councilman Wilson and Mayor Hirschi, met with Sunrise Engineering to discuss what could be done about the landslide along 560 West. Sunrise Engineering recommended the City do some core drilling in the area to try and determine where the water is coming from. They thought it may be as few as 5 different areas but could be up to 12. The estimated cost if all 12 areas need to be drilled is \$30,000. There is money available that would need to be replaced during the budget amendment.

The core drilling would go down an estimated 50 feet to find the basalt layer. This will determine what level the water is coming from. At that point, Sunrise will give us some options on ways to deal with the water.

They will drill 5-7 locations along 560 West and then possibly 5 more locations further east at various points. This will allow them to know if there is a cheaper way to capture the water before it gets to 560 West.

Mayor Hirschi stated we need to do something, and this is the first step in figuring out what can be done.

A french drain was one option discussed during the meeting.

Kyle said the French drain would go along the entire road from 200 North to 400 North and could cost as much as 8 million dollars.

They will also look at other options. The City would not be able to pay an 8 million dollar loan, we would need to get help from somewhere.

Sunrise Engineering is helping the City find sources to help financially with this issue.

Councilman Wilson said the core drilling would give them a better picture of where the water is coming from so they can figure out the best approach to mitigate the problem.

There are other options than the French drain, which is tremendously expensive.

Mayor Hirschi said according to Derek some of the later houses were required to put in a French drain in the back to move water to the street. He hasn't noticed a lot of water from that.
There must not be a lot of water coming from above the houses.

Kyle said the slide started 2 ½ weeks ago with a crack near the sidewalk that had dropped an inch or two. As of yesterday, it's dropped 18-20 inches.

Councilwoman Wise asked if the drilling would be on private property.

Kyle answered it would be in the street only. The hole will be about 2 ½ inches around. The street will be open to traffic. The gas line is being relocated now and Ash Creek SSD is discussing the possibility of moving their line as well.

Mayor Hirschi said Sunrise Engineering explained if there is a separation between the sidewalk and the asphalt, then we are in trouble. So far that hasn't happened.

Councilwoman Wise asked which areas in the budget would be affected by the \$30,000 and if approved, when would the drilling start and how long would the testing take?

Kyle replied most of the money would come out of the water budget with some coming from the General Fund. Sunrise Engineering is trying to get an application for the January CIB meeting so the testing would need to be done by the middle of December.
There are other options the City is looking into for emergency money.

Blair Gubler asked if the drill holes are going to be cased or just a core drill. He also asked if this came to litigation, could the \$30,000 be recouped?

Kyle said he did not know the answer to that.

Councilman Wilson did not know the answer either but said Joe with Sunrise explained that with the drilling, they would be able to identify the different layers.

Kevin stated he is not able to comment on potential litigation. He can say everything will be considered if it comes to that.

Kyle said if the City does get a grant from the CIB, the money could probably be used toward the grant match. The Engineers recommend the City do this drilling.

Councilman Gubler stated he feels the City needs to do this.

Kevin agreed and said litigation or not, the City should try and find out what, if anything, can be done to benefit everyone along 560 West as well as our infrastructure. It also goes toward the City's good faith in approaching the situation.

Councilwoman Wise stated she would like a report from Sunrise Engineering at the first meeting in December to get a detailed account on public record to help the average citizen know what the City is doing about the situation.

Kyle said he is still waiting on the email list from the concerned citizens who wanted to be kept updated. This does not require a motion. He would like direction from the Council on core drilling and wanted them to be aware the money is technically in the budget but would like their consideration during the budget amendment to replace that money.

The Councilmembers unanimously agreed to move forward with the drilling.

C. Closed Session:

1. The character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to move to a closed session at the location of 111 South Main Street to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, second by Micah Gubler. Wilson-yes, Wise-yes, Gubler-yes, Hardy-yes. The motion carried unanimously at 8:25 a.m.

D. Reconvene from Closed Session:

1. Possible action on subject matter from Closed Session.

The meeting reconvened from the closed session at 8:49 a.m.

E. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. The motion was carried unanimously at 8:49 a.m.

January 5, 2022
Date Approved

ATTEST: Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson

