

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Kelly Wilson, Patricia Wise, Ray Justice, Micah Gubler, and Chuck Hardy; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Christy Ballard, and Kevin Bennett, Public: John Valenti.

Derek Imlay has been excused.

A. Called to Order –The invocation/thought and Pledge of Allegiance were given by Micah Gubler at 6:00 pm.

B. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Minutes: October 6, 2021, and November 3, 2021, regular meeting
4. Checks and Invoices: \$96,771.74

The motion was made by Councilwoman Patricia Wise to approve the consent agenda as written, including the minutes of October 6, 2021, and November 3, 2021, regular meeting and checks and invoices in the amount of \$96,771.74, second by Councilman Chuck Hardy. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments.

D. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action on the proposed LANTIS Merchandise (Fireworks) Contract and Purchase Order for fireworks to be discharged at the City's Winterfest celebration.

Kyle explained this is an annual item. The contract is the same as last year for \$3,500.

The fire department will set the fireworks off for the City.

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to approve the LANTIS Merchandise (Fireworks) Contract and Purchase Order for fireworks to be discharged at the City's Winterfest celebration, second by Councilman Kelly Wilson. Roll Call Vote: Wilson-yes, Wise-yes, Justice-yes, Gubler-yes, Hardy-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentation and discussion on the possibility of a city pool.

Kyle passed out a proposal from the Colorado Springs group interested in opening the La Verkin Hot Springs. This is only a portion of a contract regarding a community pool.

As part of the second or third phase of the hot spring's development, they would like to build a swimming pool that they would donate to the City. There would be no charge for the pool, however, it would be the City's responsibility to maintain and manage it.

The contract states the development would manage it for a couple of years with a transition period of two additional years and the City managing it solely from that point.

The contract does have an option for the development to continue managing the pool with an approved agreement with the City.

A community pool, community center, or splash pad are the most requested items he hears. However, pools do not make money. They are usually only an amenity for citizens.

After talking with Hurricane City one of the biggest expenses is heating the pool. This pool would be a freshwater pool, but the development would use the hot springs water to heat the pool. That may also allow us to utilize the pool year-round.

He wants the Council to be aware that it would require a new, full-time position to manage it. Along with that, the City would need to hire lifeguards and possible concession stand employees if that was offered. There are some advantages to having a pool. He just wants the Council to be aware there are some disadvantages as well. This discussion is to let the interested group know the City's opinion on the possibility of a community pool. None of the details have been decided. If the Council was interested, he could have them present those details at a future meeting. The only cost to the City would be the maintenance once it was turned over to us. There may also be requirements to cover the water when it's not being used.

Councilman Wilson suggested having them make the presentation to the Councilmembers.

Councilman Justice would like them to include an estimated cost of the pool maintenance.

Kyle has been to the hot springs in Colorado during the winter and said the sidewalks are heated with the water and so is the pool.

Councilman Gubler said he thought the citizens would be disappointed if they found out we had the chance to get a pool at no construction cost to the city and we didn't look into it. He mentioned a lot of pool equipment is automated now so he wasn't sure it would require an additional full-time person, but it would require an additional part-time person to oversee it.

Kyle will let the group know the Council was interested in the possibility but would like to know the size of the pool.

Councilman Wilson pointed out if the pool was large enough the school swim team could use it for races that would generate a lot of interest.

Kyle said pricing would need to be determined by the Councilmembers as well. The development may want their patrons to have free access, he is not sure but would be a question that would need to be asked.

Councilman Hardy asked what the City's liability would be.

Kyle replied he thought it would be covered by the existing insurance. We would just need to let them know we have a new asset. The premiums would probably change but it shouldn't be too outrageous, a lot of communities have pools.

Councilman Justice mentioned we have a large senior citizen community that would benefit from having something close by to exercise in. Water is a lot less burdensome on the body.

Councilwoman Wise agrees with what has been said.

It does seem a little bit out of context. We don't officially know where a hot spring development is going to be or what it would look like and therefore what this pool is going to look like. If there were going to come and do a presentation, she feels the community pool should be part of the larger context of the planned resort.

She does also understand they are just trying to gauge interest to determine whether to include it in the design plan. She is in favor of pursuing more information but would like information on the whole plan at the same time.

The questions she would have specific to the pool would be the size. If there are swim lanes and a shallow end.

Kyle said the property has not been zoned yet and they are not going to spend any money until they know the development could happen.

He is pretty sure it will not be an Olympic size swimming pool.

Councilman Wilson stated the developer would come to the City Council to present the development at some point. He does think the Councilmembers should consider the possibility of a community pool.

Kyle mentioned the property rezone is on the planning commission's docket.

The pool will not be completed in the first phase. It will be several years into the development.

He has been to the Colorado resort a couple of times and the last time he was there, they are building a hotel and additional soaking pools.

Kyle will contact them. He is sure she will not want to come and make a presentation until they are comfortable it is going to happen.

E. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Hirschi-The Fire District had a meeting last night. It was mostly a budget meeting. Their fiscal year is a calendar year, and the budget is \$11,483,887.00.

Wilson-He will be meeting with Brad Last, Steve Lisonbee from the Governor's office, and Victor Iverson from the County Commission, to look at the landslide in hopes to convince Brad to approach the legislature to appropriate some money to mitigate the problem out there. Without that, he doesn't know how the City will be able to fix it.

He spoke to a local contractor who has looked at the slide and was told they could do just about anything the engineers would put a stamp on. Hopefully, it won't be as expensive as they are planning it to be.

Ash Creek Sewer District was planning on moving their line but at this point, they are waiting to see how far back the slide goes. If it takes the road, they will need to do something completely different.

Kyle reported Landmark started drilling yesterday.

Mayor Hirschi reported Ash Creek SSD met with the Confluence Park Board and there may be some trouble from the UDWR with moving the line.

The concern is whether it would be allowed under the easement agreement.

Councilwoman Wise thought it sounded like it was workable, they just need to meet and work it out.

Wise: Nothing new to report.

Justice-The Washington County Solid Waste District met last week. It was mostly a budget meeting. They did approve a 6% COLA for the employees. He was not sure about the number of employees the District has.

They are now capturing the methane gas produced by the landfill. The revenue from that will help offset some of the expenses.

Gubler-Nothing new to report.

Hardy-Southwest Mosquito Abatement discussed their budget as well. One of the concerns mentioned was the ability to find part-time employees.

The Historical Society is looking at documentation regarding the construction of the La Verkin Overlook Trail.

Mayor Hirschi reported Kathleen said during the Confluence Park meeting that there are several people from the Historical Society who are willing to do the necessary paperwork to get a plaque on the old hydroelectric power plant.

F. Closed Session:

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

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice 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 Councilman Chuck Hardy. Hardy-yes, Gubler-yes, Justice-yes, Wise-yes, Wilson-yes. The motion carried unanimously at 6:38 p.m.

G. Reconvene from Closed Session:

1. Possible action on subject matter from Closed Session.

The meeting reconvened from the closed session at 8:02 p.m.

H. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Ray Justice to adjourn, second by Councilman Chuck Hardy. The motion was carried unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

January 5, 2022
Date Approved

ATTEST:

Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson

