

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Kelly Wilson, Council Members: Patricia Wise, Blair Gubler, and Chuck Hardy; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, Chief Ben Lee, Kevin Bennett, Troylinn Benson, and Christy Ballard, Public: Glena Wilson, Stacey & Downna Gubler, Jilene Gubler, Amanda Gubler, Norma Bettridge, John Valenti, Daniel McKeehan, Shelly & David Howard, Linda Howard, Kimber & Grayson Gubler, Kasey Wilson, Shaunna Pederson, Shane & Brandi Johnson, Judge Karlin Myers, Nicole & Jared Souders, Katherine Wilson, Lydia Wilson, Abbi Wilson, Josh Wilson, Sherman Howard, Jimmy Tanner, Stephanie & Aaron Gubler, Jacob Ruesch, Charles Gubler, Ray Justice, and Robert George.

Councilman Micah Gubler was excused.

A. Called to Order –The invocation/thought and Pledge of Allegiance were given by Richard Hirschi at 6:00 pm. Mayor Wilson recognized and welcomed Blair Gubler, who is new to the City Council. He also recognized former Mayor Richard Hirschi and former Councilmember Ray Justice and thanked them both for their service.

B. Appointments:

1. Judge Myers to swear in the newly elected Mayor and City Councilmembers.
2. Reappoint and swearing-in of City Recorder, Deputy City Recorder, and City Treasurer (2-year appointments)

Judge Karlin Myers administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Mayor, City Councilmembers, the City Recorder, Deputy City Recorder, and the City Treasurer.

C. Presentation:

1. Employee of the Year

Kevin Bennett was awarded the employee of the year by Mayor Wilson. Kevin was presented with a certificate of appreciation along with a gift card to Davis Market.

D. 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. Approval of LVC section 1-6-4; Public Official Bond and/or Insurance Coverage
4. Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2021, special meeting, November 17, 2021, and December 1, 2021, regular meeting
5. Checks and Invoices: \$317,714.66

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to approve the consent agenda as written, including the minutes of the November 10, 2021, special meeting, November 17, 2021, and December 1, 2021, regular meeting, and the checks and invoices in the amount of \$317,714.66, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Wise-yes, Blair Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

Dan McKeehan-He has lived in La Verkin for about 20 years. He is here because they are catching rumors that there may be a rezoning of the pasture on 300 South because there may be a resort coming in. He is here to speak against that. The Council has a hard job and does a great job. He rarely comes to these meetings because he feels like the City Council does what we elect them to do.

There are several folks attending this meeting who live in the same area and feel like him.

He would like the area to stay residential. Good, proper city planning keeps resorts and hotels in business districts and does not rezone residential areas for that.

He has heard this will be coming forward next month and is here to speak against it.

He encouraged the City Council to examine that and keep in mind what makes this a great city. It's families, and people who come here because they care about this place and stay. Developers do not share the same interest, they come here to make money and exploit what we have. There is a place for that, there is a nice set up on the north end of town where the hotels are at now and is a great place for another hotel or resort to be.

He would hate to see the same problems Hurricane City is having of growth unchecked in this city. We saw this with short-term rentals for a while. Growth unchecked created a mess, and our elementary school numbers shrunk. This year they have rebounded, which is nice. He would like La Verkin to be a city for families as opposed to a place for commercial interest to come in and essentially take over. He is against any rezoning or thought of rezoning to Commercial Tourist of that pasture.

Chase Gubler-Has lived in La Verkin his whole life on the south end of Main Street. He echoes Mr. McKeehan. He is just catching wind of things and doesn't know what the future is as far as property development around them. He would be against the rezoning to Tourist Commercial and the door that opens to their neighborhood. He feels that would not fit the area it is in.

David Howard- He has been in La Verkin for 19 years. He owns 3 properties that are close to the possible zone change. He was looking at the general plan for La Verkin City, which looks good. His understanding is changing the zoning would change what is stated in the General Plan and bring commercial closer to residential. He is not too excited about that change.

Several years ago, there was talk of other developments and they all moved in that area to change the zoning from R-1-10 to R-1-14 to stop some of that development. They would like that to continue, they like the neighborhood like it is. They know they can't stop all commercial, but they would like it closer to the road and away from their homes and their kids.

Stephanie Gubler-She lives on the south end of Main Street. She would like to echo what's been said. This is a wonderful residential area. Everybody says there is a place for commercial and they understand that they are not opposed to businesses coming. There is a place for resorts and hotels, and they don't want that to be in their back yard.

Linda Howard-She lives on 480 South. When she heard the City was going to allow a hotel she wondered how she would even get onto State Street if there are all those hotels with all those people trying to get on the road, it's hard already. She heard there were going to be 5 hotels in one spot and asked if that was the case.

Mayor Wilson said the people interested in purchasing the property are coming to the City Council to give a presentation of what they are interested in doing with it and the public is welcome to attend.

Linda continued; she is opposed to this. She feels the City has too many hotels as it is and no place for people to eat. Why is the City not asking for restaurants? We only have two in La Verkin. With all those hotels there will need to be places for all those people to eat.

Councilman Hardy thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting. He encouraged them to watch the agenda for the presentation the Mayor mentioned so they can be informed by what is actually being proposed and not just rumors.

Mayor Wilson pointed out a lot of times the rumor mill gets carried away and things aren't what people are saying. It may not be what we all like, but the City Council does try to do what is best for the City as a whole.

F. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution No. R-2022-01; a resolution revising and updating the cemetery fee schedule, and certain procedures and operations, for the City of La Verkin, as provided in the La Verkin City Code.

Kyle explained La Verkin is one of the cheapest places in Southern Utah for cemetery plots. We are getting a lot of people from out of state purchasing burial plots. The staff thought it would be wise to bring our fees and rates up to the same level as the surrounding communities.

Councilwoman Wise said she feels the increase is appropriate.

Councilman Hardy asked about the opening/closing fee for resident's item a. Weekday scheduled arrival 8:30-2:30 and b. Weekday scheduled arrival 2:30-5:00 and the cost difference.

Kevin replied that the current service fee states after hours but did not include what after-hours meant.

The City usually blocks out 2 hours for the opening and graveside service and then needs to go back to close the grave. If there is a 3:00 p.m. or later graveside service, this causes the employees to work past 5:00 p.m. and in the dark during some months. Limiting to 8:30-2:30 gives ample time for the guys to open/close the grave during business hours and keeps them from getting overtime and subjecting them to greater harm.

Mayor Wilson suggested July 4th and 24th as having no interments because the staff is busy with the City celebration.

Kevin agreed and mentioned Washington City doesn't allow interment on any of their recognized holidays.

Councilman Hardy agreed with adding July 4th and 24th to the list. He asked if the Council could add additional holidays later.

Kevin answered that the Council can revisit this Fee Schedule anytime.

Councilwoman Wise suggested adding Veterans Day to the list. This is a holiday the cemetery is impacted. She also mentioned Wreaths Across America as a potential day the City wouldn't want services either. That day won't be added at this time, but perhaps in the future if the City continues with the program.

Councilman Hardy asked if there were an exception clause for extenuating circumstances.

Kevin suggested adding the verbiage "there will be no interment on those days except by order of the mayor"

The motion was made by Councilwoman Patricia Wise to approve Resolution No. R-2022-01; a resolution revising and updating the cemetery fee schedule, and certain procedures and operations, for the City of La Verkin, as provided in the La Verkin City Code and include in the no interment dates July 4th, July 24th and Veterans Day, and give the mayor authority to grant exceptions, second by Councilman Chuck Hardy. Roll Call Vote: Hardy-yes, Wise-yes, Blair Gubler-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle passed out the La Verkin City scholarship application for the Councilmembers to review.

G. Mayor & Council Reports:

Wise: She encouraged the citizens to visit the new Power Plant Park. It is a work in progress but is still beautiful. This is a joint venture with the County doing work in Confluence Park and the City doing the work for Power Plant Park. Both the County and the City received grant money to help with this project. There is also a staircase into Confluence Park. We are also continuing work on the trails throughout the City with designs and plans. The Overlook Trail has a new kiosk. The Virgin River Program puts out a calendar every year featuring photos of the Virgin River. This year there are 3 La Verkin photographers are featured in the calendar.

Blair Gubler: Nothing to report.

Hardy: Echoed Councilwoman Wise comments on Power Plant Park. The trail and parking lot are paved. It has a great view of the power plant and the canyon.

Southwest Mosquito Abatement is continuing to monitor. There are not a lot of mosquitos this time of year, but they do find some. If you find a mosquito infestation, contact the City or Southwest Mosquito Abatement.

There have been no West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases this year.

H. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Councilman Chuck Hardy to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Patricia Wise. The motion was carried unanimously at 6:38 p.m.

February 2, 2022
Date Approved

ATTEST: Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder

[Signature]
~~Mayor Kelly B. Wilson~~
Mayor Pro-Tempore

