

**MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 6, 2022**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Electronic meeting broadcasted on YouTube**  
**Helper, Utah 84526**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Lenise Peterman

**Council Members:**

David Dornan  
Michelle Goldsmith  
Gary Harwood  
Malarie Matsuda  
Amanda Wheeler

**City Staff**

City Recorder: Zack Tonic  
Chief: Chris Gigliotti  
Attorney:

Citizens: Barry Horsley, Traci Bishop, James McCourt, Amy Anderson, Lita Riley, Kimberly Kuehn, and Allie Farnham.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2, 2021.**

Council Member Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes from December 2, 2021. Council Member Harwood seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council vote is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Wheeler, Dornan, and Matsuda, all voting yes.

**UPDATE ON RIO GRAND HOTEL.**

James McCourt gave an update on the progress of the Rio Grand Hotel. They met with the architect to finalize the interior and exterior of the Rio Grand Hotel. Also, an addition will be needed for the restaurant area allowing room for a bar/nightclub area. Restaurant equipment is 12 weeks to 13 months out, to get the restaurant up and running. The start date is still April based on the current availability of materials. A 12 to 18-month total completion timeframe. A 10 to 14-month time frame for the hotel side and a 12 to 18-month time frame for the restaurant area.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ALLOWING ANTHONY TOREZ TO PLACE A SCHOOL PROJECT BENCH ON MAIN STREET.**

Council Member Matsuda spoke about this project, Anthony Torez was not in attendance.

Council Member Matsuda stated the bench is for Anthony Torez's Eagle Scout project. The bench will be made out of the trunk of a vintage car. He was hoping the bench could go next to Vintage Motor Company, where you pull into the new City Office. The dwarf flowering cherry tree would have to be removed and possibly a new tree can be planted. Council Member Matsuda stated the project has to be approved before Anthony Torez's birthday later this month.

Council Member Wheeler asked if it would have to be concreted in place. Council Member Matsuda stated yes but was hoping Council Member Harwood would give direction on how to install the bench. Council Member Wheeler asked if it would be theft-proof, Council Member Matsuda responded, yes.

Council Member Dornan stated by approving the bench on city property, the city would be held accountable for the liability of the bench. Also, Council Member Dornan is concerned with the aesthetics of the bench with Main Street.

Council Member Goldsmith stated with the time limit she suggests approving the bench but finding better placement for the bench. She is not a fan of cutting down trees and suggested placing the bench in one of the parks, like the boulder park, where she thinks the bench would get more use.

Council Member Wheeler agreed with Council Member Goldsmith and stated the Tree Board would not be happy about cutting down a tree. Council Member Harwood stated that the tree is Ellie Jones's favorite tree, and also suggested placing the bench in the Boulder Playground.

Council Member Wheeler stated she thinks we all are in favor of his project, but we just need time to find a good spot to place the bench.

Exhibit A Photos of the bench.

Council Member Goldsmith moved to accept the construction of the bench with placement to be determined at a later date. Council Member Matsuda seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Matsuda, Dornan, and Wheeler all voting yes.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONTRACT APPROVING CRIMINAL SERVICES WITH TRISTAN THOMAS.**

Mayor Peterman gave an update on the situation. Dominique Kiahtipes has resigned but is still helping us out. She has recommended splitting the job into two, criminal and civil because the job can be very daunting. She recommended Tristan Thomas for the criminal half, so we can keep the criminal side moving. We are still pursuing a civil attorney, and have not found one to present to the council.

Council Member Goldsmith asked how much criminal work do we have, and what is the payment. Mayor Peterman stated the payment would be a flat \$1,500 a month.

Attorney Tristan Thomas stated Helper City had about 12 cases on the calendar today.

Attorney Tristan Thomas gave a background on his education and work experience.

Council Member Dornan asked Attorney Tristan Thomas if everything happens in Price would he be working in Price. Attorney Tristan Thomas responded yes, all of the court cases take place in Price at the Carbon County Courthouse.

Council Member Wheeler asked about the contract and the payment. Mayor Peterman explained the contract would take place for one year and the payment would be \$1500. Council Member Goldsmith interjected that if Helper has 30 cases a month at \$1500 a month, that would be \$50 a case.

Council Member Wheeler moved to approve the contract for criminal services with Tristan Thomas. Council Member Dornan seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Dornan, Matsuda, and Wheeler all voting yes.

## **UPDATE ON FIRST FRIDAY.**

Council Member Matsuda asked Ashley Hardy for an update on First Friday because she has received an email stating First Fridays have been canceled until April. Ashley Hardy responded, due to COVID First Friday has decided to forgo the winter months. First Friday does not want to encourage crowding in small places without masks. She noticed that at November's event at the Rio Theater, masks were not worn and that is a great concern, this is why First Friday is canceled until April.

Council Member Matsuda stated she did not know what was going on. Also, she asked who is on the committee, and who is making those decisions. Ashley Hardy responded, she does not know why she has to explain that to Council Member Matsuda, but she will. Ashley Hardy listed the names involved in the First Friday Committee and are as follows. Mark Montoya, Mayor Peterman, and Kate Kilpatrick-Miller.

Council Member Matsuda asked if Ashely Hardy was looking for committee members. Ashley Hardy responded we will be later in the year.

Council Member Matsuda asked if the street will need to be closed in April. Ashley Hardy responded yes, and she will come to the council closer to the event so it will be clear and will work for everybody.

Council Member Goldsmith thanked Ashley Hardy for her work.

#### **UPDATE ON UNITA RAILROAD.**

Item tabled due to Pam Juliano being ill and unable to attend.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR SEALED PROPOSALS FOR RENTING 69 S. MAIN.**

Mayor Peterman stated there have been several organizations asking to rent the 69 S Main building. She wants everyone to have a fair chance to rent the building.

Council Member Wheeler asked Mayor Peterman to explain the process. Mayor Peterman explained the city will publish a request for a sealed proposal in the paper for a couple of weeks. The proposals will stay sealed until the February meeting where they will be opened. The council can then ask for time to review the proposals until the next meeting and we will register the proposals. The council can take the time needed to review the proposals. Then the council at the next meeting can select the proposal that has the best interest of Helper City.

Council Member Matsuda asked if the Arts Festival has a contract for the building already. Mayor Peterman responded no, it was the Arts Festival that helped the city get the grant to update the building, so the city has been letting the Arts Festival use the building. The city owns it and can not sell the building for 10 years without breaching the grant. However, the grant does allow renting the building.

Council Member Dornan asked about what will happen to the Arts Festival office and where will it be. Mayor Peterman responded the Arts Festival group will need to come up with a plan. She thinks we could ask in the proposal if the renters would work with the Arts Festival.

Council Member Matsuda asked if the bids would include a description of activities they would be doing in there. Mayor Peterman responded yes.

Council Member Dornan asked if the lease can be for at least one year. Mayor Peterman responded yes we can.

Council Member Wheeler asked if we should include the old City Hall in this process as well. Mayor Peterman responded yes we can create an RFP for both buildings. Council Member Wheeler stated she would like to keep the process uniform.

Council Member Dornan asked if the city has any interest in the old City Hall. Council Member Harwood responded the city has storage in there.

Council Member Goldsmith moved to table item. Council Member Matsuda seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council vote is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Wheeler, Dornan, and Matsuda all voting yes.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ALLOWING SATURDAY VIBES AN EXTENSION ON NOISE ORDINANCE UNTIL 10:30 PM ON EVENT DAYS.**

Allie Farnham would like to adjust the noise ordinance from 10 pm to 10:30 pm on Friday and Saturdays on Main street only. This will help all other events on Main Street, not just Saturday Vibes. Mayor Peterman responded that an adjustment would be needed for the existing ordinance, and we need a Civil Attorney for this. Council Member Goldsmith expressed some concerns about residents that live on Main Street. Council Member Matsuda agreed and stated her concerns about moving on without consulting with an attorney.

Council Members Wheeler and Dornan both stated they are on the fence about this.

Council Member Wheeler asked if other cities have separate noise ordinances for downtown. Kimberly Kuehn responded that Summit County does have noise ordinances specific for downtown.

Council Member Wheeler moved to table item. Council Member Goldsmith seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council vote is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Wheeler, Dornan, and Matsuda all voting yes.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RENTING OLD CITY HALL SUITE 102 TO SATURDAY VIBES.**

Item tabled.

## COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Members reported on various projects being worked on.

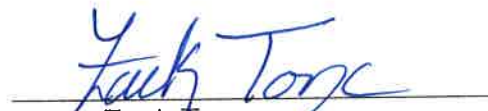
## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Council Member Matsuda moved to adjourn. Council Member Goldsmith seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows: Goldsmith, Harwood, Wheeler, Dornan, and Matsuda all voting yes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council meeting held on Thursday, January 6, 2022



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lenise Peterman  
Mayor



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Zack Tunc  
City Recorder

Approved on February 3, 2022

## Exhibit A



