

THE EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, STATE OF UTAH, MET ELECTRONICALLY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022, PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M., VIA ZOOM.COM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT: DAVID BREMS
ROBERT PINON
CATHERINE HARRIS
JENNIFER HAWKES, Deputy Mayor
JOE SMOLKA, Mayor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: CAMERON PLATT, LEGAL COUNSEL
NICHOLE WATT, DEPUTY CLERK



Mayor Smolka, Chair, presided.



Pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-202 the undersigned, as Mayor of the Emigration Canyon Metro Township Council, hereby declares that providing an anchor location for the electronic meetings of the Council will present a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location for the following reasons:

The Township is located in Salt Lake County and is still under a “High Level of Transmission” alert stage for the COVID 19 pandemic; and

The regular meeting place for the Council (the Fire Station in the Canyon) does not have sufficient space in the meeting room to provide for the recommended physical distancing to keep people safe from infection.



STAFF MEETING

The Council reviewed the following items:

- Review of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code.
- Mayor Smolka reported on the following:
 - Work continues up Pinecrest on the power.
 - Deputy Mayor Hawkes secured 1600 masks and distributed most of them.
- Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD) bond and projects in Emigration Canyon that will be funded.

- Consideration of returning to in-person meetings.



PUBLIC MEETING

Citizen Input

None.



Reports from Municipal Service Providers

Emigration Canyon Community Council Report (ECCC)

Bill Tobey stated the ECCC is waiting for the final report from the Wildfire Research team. They met with the research team in January to discuss how they can use the findings from the report to encourage residents and drive higher participation in the annual risk mitigation activities. Every home in Emigration Canyon was visually inspected by Dax Reid, a professional forester and wildland firefighter with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, using a list of 13 risk factors. The assessment is done from the curb or partially up a driveway and is not equivalent to the detailed assessment that UFA does as they walk around a home with a homeowner. This is the first time there has been a benchmark for household fire preparation and the outcome was not encouraging. Of 614 canyon homes, 90 percent of homes were rated as being high, very high, or at extreme risk, 10 percent were rated as moderate or low risk. Homeowners did their own property risk assessment and consistently underestimated the risk associated with vegetation within the fire defense perimeter and nearby combustible materials. The ECCC will meet with the forest service team on March 2, 2022, to draft a mailer that will review the survey findings and work on making household specific information available to homeowners. He continues to work with UFA and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands on fuel mitigation plans. The grant applications that were submitted last fall were unsuccessful and UFA support will depend on its budget. A letter was sent to the Salt Lake County Planning Commission expressing its support to amend its zoning ordinance to eliminate mining and minerals processing as conditional uses of county lands zoned for forestry and recreation. Firewise will be held on May 7, 2022, at the fire station from 9:00 to noon.



Unified Police Department (UPD)

Detective Jake Elsasser reviewed the January statistics for Emigration Canyon stating there were 32 calls for service with 9 initial reports. There are two events in the permitting process. The Run Emigration Half Marathon will be held on April 2, 2022, from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm with 250 runners expected. The uphill side of the road will be closed, and the downhill side will be free for travel. Utah Hill Climb Championship will be held on April 23, 2022, from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. No road closures are necessary as it is uphill only. UPD will staff both events.

Chief Wayne Dial stated UPD may do a bike education day at the April 23, 2022, Utah Hill Climb Championship event.

Unified Fire Authority (UFA)

Captain Michael Conn stated three candidates are going through the selection process to replace retiring Chief Dan Petersen. An Ad Hoc committee was formed in the fall to help with the selection process. In March there will be a meet and greet with the candidates, the board will discuss recommendations made by the Ad Hoc committee, and then make a final decision. The goal is to have a change in command on April 2, 2022. The budget process is underway with the individual divisions drafting their budgets. Recruit camp started on February 1, 2022, and graduation will be in May 2022. Lateral hiring process has started and will bring six paramedics to UFA from other organizations. Three individuals will be promoted to Captain this month. January calls were low with the majority being medical related. Tonight, is Captain Conn's last meeting. There are two candidates that are being interviewed to replace him and both are very good. He is committed to the community and will be available until his replacement is selected. He recognized and thanked Bill Tobey for the amount of work on fire prevention he has done in the community.



Council Business

Emigration Canyon Metro Township General Plan

Matt Starley, Planner, Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD), presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Emigration Canyon Metro Township General Plan. He reviewed what the General Plan includes, what public meetings and outreach were conducted, vision, goals, proposed revisions, and next steps.

Cameron Platt stated the Council can adopt the resolution and the General Plan with amendments. If the plan is adopted with amendments a notice will need to be published.

Mayor Smolka stated he is not happy with the case study on commercial development.

Council Member Harris stated she was not happy with the case study either. It takes away what the vision is for Emigration Canyon, which is entirely residential. Modifications can be made if residents are pushing for more commercial. Commercial has typically failed in the canyon.

Mr. Starley stated he can remove the case study page.

Mayor Smolka directed Mr. Platt to draft a resolution to adopt the Emigration Canyon Metro Township General Plan for consideration at the March meeting.

Emigration Canyon Restrooms

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated she met with the Division of Water Quality today. A year extension was given to spend the grant funds. She is in the process of getting the contract signed and should have it done soon. The ground was still frozen for the stie review. There is some settling and the slope behind the structure will need to be evaluated. She will contact public works to see if temporary fencing can be put up around the work zone to allow the contractor a staging location.

Hiring of Council Administrator

Council Member Harris stated she spoke with Brooke Barns, Human Resources and Payroll Specialist, Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD), regarding comments on the job description. Polly McLean also emailed Ms. Barns and if the comments can be merged into a formal job description, it would be ready to post. Nothing has been officially updated at this time.

Budget Items

Mayor Smolka reviewed the invoices for Clerk services, payroll, and legal counsel. Between the fund balance and capital improvement fund, there is approximately \$400,000 available that can be used for the restroom. The Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD) Board will be discussing limiting the fund balance and capital improvement fund to keep money in the MSD to be used more appropriately. The Council has not spent any money from the fund balance, projects that have come up have been covered with CARES Act funding or the administrative budget. He asked for the Councils feedback whether to vote in favor of or work it into the capital funds for projects.

Council Member Harris asked why there is a push to reduce the fund balance.

Mayor Smolka stated some of the metro townships have substantial fund balances, in excess of \$1 million. If the funds went to the MSD rather than the metro townships, it would be used for projects that would be prioritized throughout the MSD service area. This would allow for more road improvements, curb, and sidewalks projects. Between the metro townships, the available funds would be approximately \$3 -\$4 million.

Council Member Pinon asked if Emigration Canyon would get more money than it puts in.

Mayor Smolka stated he was not sure. There will probably be a restriction on how much can be put into the fund balance and capital improvement fund. The fund balance is regulated by the state at 5 percent of the annual operating budget.

Cameron Platt stated once money is put into the capital improvement fund, it must be earmarked for capital improvement projects. If the Council gives up control of the fund balance, it may limit the amount of input it would want to give; however, combining funds to allow for bigger projects, is not necessarily a bad thing.

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated voting to become a metro township allowed for Emigration Canyon to have certain say. It was structured to allow local control of how things are done and where the money is spent. Emigration Canyon will have some say in where the combined funds will be spent; however, it makes sense to keep it money and put it back into the metro township.

Council Member Pinon stated once the General Plan is in place, projects will be able to be prioritized more. If there is access to more money, that would be to the metro townships benefit but if projects have to be put up against other metro townships and put in a queue, it would not be beneficial.

Consideration of Minutes

Council Member Harris, seconded by Council Member Pinon, moved to accept the minutes of the Emigration Canyon Metro Township Council meeting held on January 25, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.



Council Member Reports

Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)

Council Member Brems stated the Board is negotiating the departure of Taylorsville City. SLVLESA is working on options to increase revenue at the legislature. The tax anticipation notes are ready to be issued, this will allow SLVLESA to pay bills as taxes are collected.

Emigration Canyon Metro Township Planning Commission

Council Member Brems stated he asked Dale Berreth, Emigration Canyon Metro Township Planning Commission, to be the point person for the dark sky discussion.

Mayor Smolka asked if Mr. Berreth could also lead the discussion on electing a new chairperson.

Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)

Council Member Harris stated UFA is hiring a new chief internally and hopes to have that person in place by April. The budget process is underway. UFSA bonded for the construction of new stations and the rebuild of other stations. The Millcreek fire station is on hold because FEMA has denied the construction due to the land being on a floodplain. There is approximately \$6.5 million that was allocated to the Millcreek station and the Board is trying to determine the best way to handle those funds. They have discussed returning the funds to the bond offerors or there is an option to put some in escrow.

Watershed Plan

Council Member Harris stated she is hoping that the report for the watershed plan will be available next week. Moving forward, the plan is that the preliminary report will be submitted for review and then a meeting with River Restoration will be held to make suggestions. A final best practices meeting will be held, and the project should be wrapped up around late March.

Utah Broadband

Council Member Harris stated she had a meeting with Utah Broadband about expanding internet in the canyon and hopes to have a follow-up meeting. There are some low-cost options like a repeater that can increase coverage. There have not been any decisions made at this time.

Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)

Council Member Pinon stated he was sworn in to the WFWRD Board and attended training. There may be a fee increase in the next year or two. They are going through the process of becoming a local district.

Records Officer

Council Member Pinon stated he went through the training to become a Records Officer and received his certificate.

Association of Municipal Governments

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated the Association of Municipal Governments invites guest speakers to address specific topics. Glenn Ricart spoke about broadband network and how

connective network and broadband are not the same thing. He discussed planning for the future and determining what the needs are and defining goals.

Website

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated she updated the website with information regarding UTA's free fare February.

Restrooms

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated she is working with Crystal Hulbert and Jefferson Thomas, Salt Lake County Engineering, on outdoor recreation grants. One application is for the restoration of Pinecrest and must incorporate trails and tie into a solution. The other application is for two additional restrooms, pit toilet, and maybe parking. The grant will provide \$15,000 that has to be used for planning and it must solve a need. In 2023 there will be a grant for \$1 million to implement the plan.

Community Renewable Energy Program

Deputy Mayor Hawkes stated the deadline to opt in or out of the Community Renewable Energy Program is approaching, the Council may want to consider discussing it further.

Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)

Mayor Smolka stated the focus of the MSD Board has been the bond which has been issued.

Landfill Council

Mayor Smolka stated the organization is progressing and improving substantially and there are no OSHA violations.

Wasatch Front Regional Council

DATE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Mayor Smolka stated he was appointed to the Transportation Committee which Emigration Canyon could benefit from. The state has a pot of money for bicycle improvements.

Council of Governments (COG)

Mayor Smolka stated a new chairperson was appointed and other appointed positions move up.

Legislative Update

Mayor Smolka stated there are a lot of election and water bills being discussed this year.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, METRO TOWNSHIP CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

MAYOR, EMIGRATION CANYON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

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