

NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2022

The North Ogden City Council convened in a work session meeting on May 3, 2022, at 6:01 p.m. at the North Ogden City Office at 505 East 2600 North and electronically through Zoom. Recording can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6fclhQ/videos>. Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on April 28, 2022. Notice of the annual meeting schedule was published in the Standard-Examiner on December 16, 2021.

CITY COUNCIL:	S. Neal Berube	Mayor	
	Ryan Barker	Council Member	arrived at 6:15 pm
	Blake Cevering	Council Member	
	Jay D Dalpiaz	Council Member	
	Charlotte Ekstrom	Council Member	
	Phillip Swanson	Council Member	

STAFF:	Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
	Susan Nance	City Recorder
	Jami Jones	Finance Director
	Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director
	Dirk Quinney	Chief of Police
	Scott Hess	Planning Director
	Tiffany Staheli	Parks & Recreation Director
	Dylan Hill	Public Works Inspector
	Jason Reney	Culinary Water Superintendent
	Casey Hunsaker	Street Supervisor
	Brian Galvez	Assistant Public Works Director
	Stacie Cain	Utility Billing Manager
	Clark Crowther	Lieutenant
	Jeremy Hindes	Lieutenant
	Nate Boyette	Sergeant

VISITORS:	Mona Wald	Stefanie Casey	Susan Clements
	Brenda Ashdown	Kevin Burns	DPTYD
	Sandy Cochran		

Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Dalpiaz offered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CALL FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Mayor Berube asked if any member of the Council had a conflict of interest to declare. No declarations were made.

ACTIVE AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Monalisa Wald voiced her support for any raise in pay the City is able to provide to City employees; they are worth it, and she does not mind her taxes being raised to provide adequate funding for fair pay – especially for the Police Department. She noted she was formerly employed by North Ogden, and she understands the message that is sent to employees when they are given a deserved increase in pay.

3. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON RECYCLING

Dave Espinoza, Public Works Director reported he has conducted research on current recycling service providers and costs; he presented a chart illustrating the cost for bi-weekly recycling, concluding the cost per resident per month would be \$2.41. Recycled earth has found a mill in Washington to which they can ship recycled cardboard; aluminum and steel is still being sent to an in-state vendor. Plastics are being sent to a mill in Canada and paper is being sent to an in-state broker. The Council and Mr. Espinoza centered their discussion on recycling trends in the area; the need to educate residents regarding the materials that can be recycled; whether it will be necessary to clean blue garbage cans that have been used for regular waste disposal since the recycling program was discontinued; and a comparison of the City's current costs for centralized recycling dumpsters versus a bi-weekly curbside recycling program; and other types of factors that affect recycling.

4. DISCUSSION ON FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2022-2023

Jon Call, City Manager/Attorney and Jami Jones, Finance Director, used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide information on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 budget. Administration is seeking feedback from the Council regarding plans to save for the future; the amount of funding to dedicate to public safety; including levels of expectations relative to snow plowing, park maintenance, lawn care, and streets.

a. CAPITAL PROJECTS

The General Fund includes funding for \$13.2 million in capital projects, including:

- PS Building
- Capital Project Reserve (City's rainy-day fund)
- Impact fee Study
- Lomond view Park
- Wadman Park
- Parking lot at Senior Center
- Trailhead Improvements (RAMP)
- Barker Park Audio & Theatrical Equip (RAMP)
- Close out of 2600 N/400E Intersection
- North Ogden Plaza (WFRC Grant)
- Water
- Sewer
- Storm Water

There was brief discussion among the Mayor, Council, and staff regarding the scope of various capital projects included on the list above – specifically water projects and the availability of water during the ongoing drought.

Mayor Berube noted, the Council will need to have further discussion regarding capital projects to determine prioritization and ranking; the Council has already discussed increasing property taxes to provide increased funding for certain projects, however, there is still a \$350,000 deficit if all capital projects listed above are included in the budget. Council Member Swanson suggested implementing a rotation or schedule for park repair or replacement projects in the City. Mayor Berube stated it would be good for the Council to discuss that concept. Mr. Call added that staff would like to implement a 10-year capital plan that will provide scheduling recommendations for several different types of capital projects in the City.

Parks and Recreation Director Staheli indicated she will be prepared to discuss parks projects in greater detail in the future, but she briefly provided information on the scope of a few projects that she feels are very important in the coming FY.

b. FUND BALANCE

Mr. Call then discussed proposed fund minimum balances as follows:

- General Fund 15% of Revenue (\$1,450,000)
- Capital Project Fund (\$1,000,000)
- Water Fund 100% of operation (\$1,775,000)
 - Project balance of \$2,000,000
- Sewer Fund 50% of operation (\$1,034,000)
 - Projected balance of \$1,150,000
- Storm Water Fund 50% of operation (\$351,000)
 - Projected Balance \$2,375,000
- Solid Waste Fund 50% of solid waste contract (\$300,000)
 - Projected Balance of \$395,000

He invited feedback from the Council regarding whether the minimum balances are sufficient or if they would like to increase the balances; he noted that any direction to increase the fund balances would require a revenue increase via a fee adjustment or property tax increase. The Council offered support for the recommended minimum fund balances and thanked Mr. Call and Ms. Jones for being cautious and conservative.

c. SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Mr. Call discussed Administration's salary strategy for the City's 81 employees, 12 of which are assigned to enterprise funds, and five of which are part time. The current proposal is to implement a minimum increase of five percent or \$1.00 per hour depending on those higher in their range for their position. The average increase per employee is 6.3 percent based upon the findings of a salary study using TechNet. The maximum increase an employee would be eligible for to receive is 10 percent. The fiscal impact for salary and benefit increases is \$285,000 in the General Fund and \$48,000 in Enterprise Funds. Relative to benefits, Mr. Call provided the following information:

- Benefits Strategy
 - No premium increase for Dental, Eye, Accident, or Life
 - 6.6% increase in Healthcare
 - Historically the City has covered 95% and 90% of the premiums.

Administration's proposal is to offer all employees the same amount per month based on the plan the City wants to support; family plan options are as follows:

- Traditional Value Care \$1,654.10
- Traditional Focal Point \$1,529.80
- HDHP Value Care \$1,563.00
- HDHP Focal Point \$1,441.80

Mr. Call then facilitated discussion among the Council regarding the recent trends in healthcare benefits; he indicated he is not sure that absorbing the annual increase is sustainable for the City and it may be necessary to consider other options, such as providing a monthly contribution for a family plan of \$1,369.71 or \$1,453.04 and have employees cover any additional expense; contributions would be reduced for single- and two-party plans. The maximum employee expense will go from \$168.01 to 201.06 per month. Other Options include increasing contributions by 6.6% or evaluating other coverages/percentages for employees and spouses. The Mayor and Council engaged in philosophical discussion and debate of the options, with a focus on the impact that some of the more extreme options would have on employees; they communicated the need to remain competitive with other municipalities in the area and concluded to maintain the current philosophy and perform further study of fixed cost benefit options.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Police Chief Quinney asked if the current deficit in the budget is due to the 6.6 percent increase in employee benefit costs. Mr. Call answered yes.

6. COUNCIL/MAYOR/STAFF COMMENTS

Council Member Barker stated he learned through the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) that there is a state-wide program called Utah Water Savers that will make all residents eligible for a rebate if they convert their park strip from grass to something that is drought tolerant. There is also a rebate program for smart controllers for irrigation systems. Information can be found at UtahWaterSavers.com.

Mr. Call stated there will be a budget open house meeting next week; it has been advertised on the City's website and through social media channels. This will give residents a chance to engage with the City in advance of a formal public hearing regarding the budget.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO ENTER A CLOSED MEETING FOR REASONS RELATED TO UTAH STATE CODE §52- 4-205(1)(A) REGARDING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIVIDUAL, §52- 4-205(1)(D) REGARDING STRATEGY SESSIONS TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY, AND §52- 4-205(1)(F) REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL, DEVICES, OR SYSTEMS

Council Member Ekstrom motioned to enter into a closed meeting. Council Member Swanson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. and the closed meeting commenced at 8:26 pm. The closed meeting adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:22 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Swanson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ekstrom seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Ekstrom	aye
Council Member Swanson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.


S. Neal Berube, Mayor


Joyce Pierson
Deputy City Recorder

7/5/22
Date Approved