

Manti City Council Meeting

MINUTES

JUNE 29, 2022
6:30 PM

MANTI CITY BUILDING
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET

MEETING CALLED BY	Mayor Alfred C. Bigelow
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Council Meeting
ATTENDEES	Mayor: Alfred C. Bigelow Councilmembers: Gary Chidester, Jason Vernon, Mary L. Wintch and Jeff Killian City Manager: Kent Barton City Recorder: JoAnn Otten
ABSENT	Councilmember Darren Dyreng
WELCOME	Mayor Bigelow
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Led by Mayor Bigelow

Public Hearing

ITEM 1	Public Comments Relative to Continuation of the Urban Deer Control Program.
Mayor Bigelow welcomed all present for the public hearing. The Mayor then stated the following: <i>In August of 2019 the Mayor and City Council held a public hearing to take input from our citizens regarding a plan to help control the growing urban deer population in our city. For those that were here, you will remember that there was a lot of passion and emotion on display that night, as residents on both sides of the issue presented valid points. Perhaps contributing to the strong emotions that evening was a front-page article, which ran in the local paper the week prior with the headline “Manti City Aims to Eradicate Deer From City”.</i> <i>In fact, the plan all along was never to eradicate, but merely to control, a growing population of year-round deer, which were doing significant damage to trees, shrubs, plants and gardens of homeowners. Many of our citizens expressed their feelings</i>	

and positions concerning the matter at that hearing and the results, like the meeting, were very divided.

Thirty-six residents spoke at the hearing with the result being 19 supporting the urban deer control plan, 14 opposing the plan and 3 were neutral - agreeing that the deer population should be controlled but preferring the deer not be euthanized.

After processing the comments made at the hearing and further working with the Division of Wildlife Resources, the city council made the decision to implement the program for 3 years, which is the maximum time allowed by the DWR.

The program has allowed deer to be trapped and euthanized inside special frame and net traps. Relocation of trapped deer is not an option due to the prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease in many areas of our state.

The euthanizing method is considered humane by the DWR and does not require the discharging of a fire arm. Manti's target period for harvesting deer was confined to the window from August 1 (the earliest allowed by the DWR) to October 15 – a cut-off date that the previous council felt would keep from attracting mountain deer into the traps, as they migrate to lower elevations after snow accumulates on the mountain.

I will now summarize the results of the program since its inception 3 years ago. During 2019 we were not set up to implement the program due to equipment and training needs that were not able to be acquired in sufficient time to allow the program to begin.

In 2020, five deer were euthanized. In all but one case, carcasses were harvested and the meat put to beneficial use by citizens who had signed up to receive harvest meat. During 2021, seven deer were euthanized and all of the carcasses were harvested for beneficial use.

If this council chooses to renew the program, we will likely narrow the closing window to October 1st, as this has been recommended by the DWR.

I would like to recognize Rod Nielsen who is with us and oversees these programs throughout the State of Utah and invite him to make brief comments about the program. After Mr. Nielsen addresses us, I invite any public comment you desire this council to consider as we contemplate the renewal of the urban deer control plan for another 3 years in our community.

Mr. Nielsen stated that he had met with City Manager Kent Barton and reviewed the plan noting that Manti City had no issues and had run the program very well.

He mentioned that there will be a couple of small changes to the program, those being that there will need to be contact information as to who the meat is donated to in case a deer would test positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. Also, the removal date will be from August 1st to October 15th. He commended Manti City and encouraged the City to continue with the program.

Councilmember Killian inquired if there has been any public feedback. Public Works Director Cory Hatch said there has been a couple neighbor conflicts but nothing that couldn't be handled.

Mayor Bigelow then invited public comment.

CONCLUSIONS

As there was no public comment, the Mayor closed the hearing.

ITEM 2

Discussion and Consideration of Resolution #2022-06-29 to Adjust Manti City's Electric Rate Schedule

Mayor Bigelow read the proposed Resolution, which is attached to and made part of the minutes. The proposed rates are as follows:

Residential

Customer Service Charge (\$/month)	\$ 9.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$ 0.110

Non-Residential

Fixed Base Rate (monthly)	\$ 17.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$ 0.110

Irrigation Wells

Fixed Base Rate (monthly)	\$100.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$ 0.535
Demand Charge (@kWh)	\$ 11.00

He then asked if the Council desired any discussion.

Councilmember Vernon inquired if the proposed rate study had a stepping up, fixed rate increase that could be revisited in 2025 and the Mayor stated that the rate would be addressed once again in 2025.

As there was no additional discussion the Mayor called for a motion.

ACTION

Councilmember Gary Chidester moved to adopt Resolution #2022-06-29-1, Adjustment of Electricity Rates, as presented, seconded by Councilmember Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Jason Vernon, Jeff Killian and Mary Wintch. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

ITEM 3

Discussion Concerning Conditional Uses Moratorium.

Mayor Bigelow stated that the Planning Commission met and discussed conditional uses and they will be meeting again Thursday to possibly make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

ITEM 4

Discussion and Possible Property Lease Agreement with AT&T for Construction of Cellular Tower Near North Water Tank.

Mayor Bigelow referenced the agreement with AT&T for the construction of a cellular tower near the north water tank and inquired if there was any discussion regarding same.

Councilmember Wintch asked Councilmember Chidester what his thoughts are and he responded that it provides long term income to Manti City with minor impact to the city and residents. He also stated that there will be no liability with the tower and feels it is an opportunity that Manti should not pass up.

The Mayor then called for a motion

ACTION

Councilmember Jason Vernon moved to enter into an agreement with AT&T for the lease of property to construct a cellular tower north of the water tank, seconded by Councilmember Gary Chidester. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Jason Vernon, Gary Chidester, Mary Wintch. Councilmembers voting “nay”: Jeff Killian. The motion carried.

ITEM 5

Continuing Business.

None

ITEM 6

Councilmembers reports.

Councilmember Chidester reminded the Mayor and Council of the Fourth of July watermelon bust at the City Park, and said he would pick up the watermelon and supplies needed.

He then made note of the ATV ride that is scheduled for July 12th and 13th.

Councilmember Killian stated that he would like the Mayor and City Council to be part of the process of hiring a new city attorney and the Mayor confirmed this would be the process.

Councilmember Killian said he would be leaving July 13th on vacation and will be gone for six weeks.

Councilmember Wintch reported that the benches have been ordered from the same manufacturer as the Columbarium. She has also checked with other cities regarding a price range for the purchase of spots in the columbarium and will put together information so a fee schedule could be set.

Councilmember Wintch reported on the walking path meeting with the City Manager and Recreation Director at the ballfields. She said that the grant that has been received will require a resolution regarding the walking trail.

ITEM 6	Public Comment.
Russ Hatch stated that there have been several power outages on the southwest side of Manti and wondered if there was anything that could be done to stop this from happening. Public Works Director stated that some of these incidents have been due to natural causes such as branches or animals.	
The Mayor stated this item would be followed up on with the Electrical Superintendent.	

ITEM 7	Mayor Bigelow
Mayor Bigelow requested the City Recorder arrange the swimming pool for a city employee summer party.	

ITEM 8	Consideration of Minutes From Previous Meeting
The Mayor directed Councilmembers to draft minutes from the work meeting of May 31 st and the regular council meeting of June 22nd. After brief discussion, seeing there	

were no errors or changes noted, he called for motions to accept the minutes as presented of the meeting.

ACTION TAKEN

Councilmember Jason Vernon moved to accept the minutes from May 31st and June 22nd, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Killian. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Jason Vernon, Jeff Killian, Gary Chidester and Mary Wintch. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

Mayor Bigelow stated he had an issue for closed session dealing with property negotiation and legal matters.

Councilmember Jason Vernon made a motion to move out of regular session into closed session to discuss property negotiation and legal matters, seconded by Councilmember Gary Chidester. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Jason Vernon, Gary Chidester, Jeff Killian and Mary Wintch. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

Adjourned from closed session into regular session.

Councilmember Mary Wintch moved to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Gary Chidester. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Mary Wintch, Gary Chidester, Jason Vernon and Jeff Killian. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

ADJOURNED

7:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Council Meeting – July 6, 2022

General Account

Tristen Jessop	\$ 51.49
Zions First National Bank	15,354.14
Sunny Hammouri	79.74
Kevin Daniels	900.00
Lindsey Ipson	750.00

Alfred Bigelow, Mayor

JoAnn Otten, City Recorder