NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2022

The North Ogden City Council convened in a Council meeting at 6:02 p.m. on June 7, 2022 at the North Ogden City Office at 505 East 2600 North. The meeting was also on 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 June 2, 2022. Notice of the annual meeting schedule was published in the Standard-Examiner on December 16, 2021.

PRESENT:	S. Neal Berube	Mayor
	Ryan Barker	Council Member
	Blake Cevering	Council Member
	Jay D Dalpias	Council Member
	Charlotte Ekstrom	Council Member
	Phillip Swanson	Council Member
STAFF PRESENT:	Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
	Joyce Pierson	Deputy City Recorder
	Jami Jones	Finance Director
	Tiffany Staheli	Parks & Recreation Director
	Dirk Quinney	Chief of Police
VISITORS:	Mike Dussol	Stefanie Casey

Mayor Berube called the meeting to order. Council Member Barker 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.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE APRIL 26, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Member Swanson motioned to approve April 26, 2022, City Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	**aye**
Council Member Cevering	**aye**
Council Member Dalpias	**aye**
Council Member Ekstrom	**aye**
Council Member Swanson	**aye**

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE BUDGET

Jon Call, City Manager/Attorney, used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to identify items of discussion regarding direction for Administration from the Council to allow for finalization of the budget document; if the Council decides to proceed with adoption of a final budget, that action can be taken on June 14, but if the Council decides to pursue a property tax increase, the items can be included in the tentative budget, which could be adopted as an operating budget until August 9.

Finance Director Jones identified the differences between the updated tentative budget and the budget document that was provided to the Council last week; the updated tentative budget has a $305,000 deficit which includes unfunded depreciation, additional salary adjustments, removal of the 23rd Officer, and replacement of the Events Coordinator position with a part-time or contracted employee position.

Mayor Berube facilitated discussion among the Council regarding their ideas for adjusting the budget in preparation. There was a focus on the potential for each resident to experience a property tax increase if each taxing entity were to maintain their current tax rate. The Council supported removal of the 23rd Officer position with the commitment to reconsider that decision in December when there is more concrete information about sales tax revenue available to the City at the mid-point of the budget year. They also supported the inclusion of the part-time or

contracted events coordinator position in the budget at a cost of $25,000. Parks and Recreation Director Staheli noted that the City receives $1 per resident in Weber County Recreation Arts Museum Parks (RAMP) funding; this money is combined with private donations or sponsorships to wholly or partially fund many special events – with the exception of the annual Cherry Days celebration. If these events are eliminated, the City will not truly be saving those funds because they will be reallocated to another event or program. Mayor Berube asked if Cherry Days could be RAMP funded. Ms. Staheli answered yes, the Council could decide to dedicate the entire $18,000 in RAMP funding to the Cherry Days celebration. However, that differs from the direction she has received in the past regarding the production of other special events in the community utilizing RAMP funding. Ms. Staheli indicated she is concerned about trying to find a part-time employee to perform the same duties as a full-time employee. Council Member Swanson stated it is important to listen to the advice of Ms. Staheli as an expert in her field; she, as a professional, is indicating that a part-time position will not be effective, and he wants to respect her informed opinion. He wants a clear understanding of what will be sacrificed if the Council chooses to proceed with a part-time or contract employee rather than a full-time employee. Mayor Berube stated that he also trusts Department Heads and wants to honor their requests and input, but the Mayor and Council are responsible to the citizens to make responsible funding decisions. Council Member Cevering agreed and noted he is willing to consider utilizing a part-time or contract employee in an effort to reduce costs in the City and arrive at a balanced budget.

Discussion then shifted to the difficulty in hiring seasonal staff and whether it is necessary to consider a wage increase for those positions in order to improve recruitment efforts. Ms. Staheli indicated it may be necessary to increase revenues to cover increased employee costs given the pressure that is currently on the North Shore Aquatic Center to be self-sustaining. Council Members spoke to the need to increase the entry level wage for lifeguard to $15 and implement a program to reimburse them for their self-paid training course to be certified as a lifeguard. Council Member Swanson asked Finance Director Jones to perform a calculation to determine the increase in the budget deficit if seasonal wages are increased to $15.

Discussion moved to mid-year salary adjustments; Mayor Berube stated that he is aware of other entities that are adding funding to their budgets to address mid-year salary adjustments if doing so becomes necessary. Mr. Call stated that he is aware of these same types of actions for 'at-risk' positions, which include public safety and parks and recreation employees. He suggested the Council include $150,000 in the budget to cover any necessary mid-year adjustments to prevent employees from leaving their employment with the City for better pay elsewhere. Ms. Jones stated there is approximately $70,000 in the budget for retention efforts.

Council Member Swanson then discussed depreciation costs; the original depreciation amount included in the tentative budget was $455,000, but that has been reduced to $225,000. Ms. Jones clarified that the $225,000 amount is for depreciation in the General Fund; the $455,000 amount would have provided corrective action for deferred depreciation costs in past budget years. Council Member Swanson stated that fuel costs continue to increase, and he asked if there is sufficient funding in the budget to compensate for fuel costs. Ms. Jones stated that the budget

amount is based upon fuel costs at $5.00 per gallon. Mayor Berube added that insurance costs may increase in the coming year as well and it may be necessary for the Council to consider increased funding to cover such increases.

Council Member Swanson then referred to the next slide in the PowerPoint presentation; staff is looking for follow-up discussion and direction from the Council on specific capital improvement plan (CIP) projects and bond discussion for various parks and street projects. There was a brief focus on projects including storage at the Senior Center and the potential to seek financial support from Pleasant View City for shared use of the Center and any improvement projects; proceeds of the Crezee property land sale and use of those funds for the related street project; grant opportunities for various projects; parks projects that have been removed from the tentative budget document; and development of a long-term CIP project planning document that can be cross-referenced with the annual budget document.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Dussol stated that when former Mayor Muirbrook was in office, residents voted against the aquatic center project; however, he proceeded with having the project built and was later voted out of office. The Mayor who followed him had a role on the Weber County Sewer Board and during his tenure the Board heard from the Federal Government about needed repairs and this individual did not bother with those projects. That is why there is now a separation between the North Ogden sewer fee and the Weber County sewer fee. He then referenced the senior center and asked if it is operated by North Ogden or if it is a federal facility. Mayor Berube stated it is owned by North Ogden City; the City receives some sort of reimbursement for a portion of salaries, but the facility is maintained by the City. Mr. Dussol referenced the Council's discussion of the need to increase storage capacity at the Senior center; several months ago, there was a building on the east side of the Police Station and it was removed. He asked if it was a City facility and if someone bought it. Police Chief Quinney stated that one shed was repurposed, and the older shed was sold. Mr. Dussol then stated he has a weather radio that receives broadcasts from the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City; this morning at 9:00 a.m. he called the weather station and asked about water measurements from October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022. He asked for a comparison of 2020 water to 2021 water and the individual said there has been two to 2.5 inches more water this year than last year for the same time frame. He stated that he knows there was more water in May, but Pineview Reservoir's level is still much lower than in past years.

Mayor Berube stated that all Mayors who serve in Weber County have a position on the Central Weber Sewer District's Board; the allocation from each City has not been changed for years and years and it is based upon assessed value and population. The District has had to bond for federally required improvement projects.

Mr. Dussol stated that the tax he paid to North Ogden City is $160, which is $60 more than he paid five years ago. Also, he just paid earthquake insurance and flood insurance, both of which

have decreased in price. Mayor Berube stated that $160 per year is a great deal for the services he receives from the City. Mr. Dussol stated that he has contacted the County for a discount on his taxes given that he is on a fixed income and is of age to be eligible for a discount. Many people in his same situation do not know they are eligible for a discount on their taxes. Mayor Berube stated it would be good to inform residents of that program. Mr. Dussol then stated that he will provide Mayor Berube with the number for the person he contacted through the weather radio to get information on water levels. He concluded by asking the Police Chief if he ever received the rest of his 40 caliber bullets. Chief Quinney answered yes. Mr. Dussol stated it is pathetic that the Police Department had to wait a year to receive that ammunition.

6. COUNCIL/MAYOR/STAFF COMMENTS

Council Member Swanson thanked the Council and staff for their robust discussion on the budget this evening.

Council Member Cevering stated the Public Works Department was working to place signs in the foothills regarding prohibited activities; he asked Mr. Call to follow up on those efforts.

There was brief discussion about an occurrence over the weekend that is being investigated by the Police Department and the Fire District.

Mr. Call noted the Fire District is not recommending restrictions on fireworks for the 2022 summer; if that changes, he will inform the Council immediately. He added a resident has asked that the Council give some attention to the increase in the deer population in North Ogden. The only way to address the issue is to work with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to relocate or hunt the deer.

Parks and Recreation Director Staheli invited everyone to the grand opening of the McGriff Playground. Mayor Berube noted the Council has also been invited to a business grand opening this Friday morning.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	**aye**
Council Member Cevering	**aye**
Council Member Dalpias	**aye**
Council Member Ekstrom	**aye**
Council Member Swanson	**aye**

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

S. Neal Berube, Mayor

Susan L. Nance, CMC
City Recorder

July 26, 2022
Date Approved