

FILLMORE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK MEETING

July 26, 2022

Minutes of the work meeting of the Fillmore City Council held July 26, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the Fillmore City Building. Notice of the time and place of the meeting was posted on the Utah State Public Notice website, the Fillmore City website, the Council Chambers, the City Office bulletin board, and the President Millard Fillmore Library. Notice was also provided to the Chronicle-Progress, radio station KMTI and each member of the governing body on July 22, 2022.

Those present were:

Mayor:	Michael D. Holt	Council:	Curt Hare
			Kyle Monroe
Recorder:	Kevin Orton		Eric R. Jenson
Attorney:	Elise Harris		Michael B. Winget
			Dennis W. Alldredge

Others present were:

Evelyn Warnick, Bruce Beckstrand, Pat Finlinson, Ian Adams, Cynthia Beckstrand, Kris Ewert, Vicki Mitchell, Gina Dellapiana, Donna Starley, and Irene Carter.

Motion by Councilmember Alldredge and seconded by Councilmember Winget to appoint Councilmember Jenson to act as Mayor Pro Tempore until Mayor Holt arrives to this meeting. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

5:00 p.m. Welcome— Mayor Pro Tem Jenson

COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUESTS

Council Discussion Regarding Flooding Potential and Flooding Mitigation Efforts as they Relate to the Recent Halfway Hills Wildfire Near Fillmore

Brandon Winget of Millard County was asked to report on what Millard County is doing by way of flood mitigation work. Mr. Winget stated that the County is building retention ponds and catch basins along Pine and Dry Creeks.

Matt Haupt of Fillmore City Public Works reported that Fillmore City is working closely with Mr. Winget and other local contractors to complete the needed flood mitigation work. The city is currently working to protect the spring located up the Chalk Creek Canyon. A retention pond is being built on the Chalk Creek Irrigation-owned property, which is a temporary fix right now. Log jamming has been a problem just below the spillway, so the city has hired the Millard County inmates to clear that area of debris. Debris can only be pulled out of the creek bottom when in Forest Service areas. Currently the main goal is to fortify and protect the spring. Once immediate imminent threat areas are taken care off, then the city will move into developing a more long-term plan for mitigation work. Large equipment is staged at critical spots such as bridges. The city is welcome to volunteers helping in the effort, however, the city is assuming a

position that volunteer work be organized and directed by the city. Mr. Haupt reminded everyone that the mitigation effort will be a very long process.

Millard County Commissioner Bill Wright was asked to address the council. The Millard County Commission met with NRCS last week to discuss sources of funding to assist with flood mitigation costs. The NRCS will not participate with reimbursement activities until documentation is complete, and that is anticipated to take 8 weeks. Commissioner Wright stated that the County is hopeful that Fillmore City will be willing to share in the work and costs at this point. NRCS will reimburse at 75% of the total costs. A budget figure will also be set by the NRCS and provided to the County so that they will have a good indication on expected costs. Councilmember Monroe asked the County to provide the city council with figures of what has been spent so far by the County. Councilmember Monroe further stated that the city's main responsibility currently should be to pay for equipment that is located in and being used within city limits. The city is facing a monthly bill of \$15,000 per month for three heavy equipment units as long as they are located in Fillmore. With this in mind, there needs to be a clear expectation of what the city is expected to pay for work done by the County outside of Fillmore City limits. Councilmember Monroe stated again that the city is already paying the rental cost for the equipment being used, which will be a significant expense. If the city were to pay all these equipment rental costs, and then reimburse the County for a portion of their expenses, then it would be expected that the city would end up paying an amount not equitable to what the county would be paying. The council stated that they are willing to consider cost sharing with the County, but want to see the cost figures first before they make a decision on how much or if they will contribute. Commissioner Wright stated that the County will provide cost amounts to the city council within 10 days of today's meeting.

Commissioner Dean Draper stated that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does a 75% - 25% match, and they accept in-kind work for the 25% match portion.

At this point of the meeting, Mayor Holt arrived, and a motion was made by Councilmember Alldredge and seconded by Councilmember Winget to have Mayor Holt assume leadership and control of this meeting and release Mayor Pro Tem Jenson of that responsibility. Unanimous vote in favor. Mayor Holt apologized for arriving late to the meeting.

Lt Governor Henderson visited Fillmore twice during the fire to assess flood mitigation and fire progress. After Lt Governor's second visit on July 13, 2022, additional heavy equipment was provided to Millard County to use in flood mitigation efforts.

The fire went up the mountain and did not traverse Chalk Creek. Fortunately, the winds were not so strong and out of control to cause it to jump the creek. The final footprint of the burn area was over 11,000 acres. Brandon Winget of Millard County saw the fire right after it started and got into a bulldozer and cut the first line right away. Had Mr. Winget not acted so quickly, this fire could have been much worse than it was. This act alone saved Virginia Foothills.

Several debris catch basins are being installed in the area. The Burn Area Emergency Response Team (BAER) is doing a survey of the burn area and will provide a report to the County in a couple of weeks. This report will include details of work that will need to be completed to

adequately mitigate future flood and debris run-off risks. BAER can do work on this project, but only on Forest Service land, not in Fillmore city limits. BAER can also provide information regarding grants for reimbursement.

The local fire departments that responded to this fire did exceptional work in keeping this fire from becoming a “monster.” Mayor Holt acknowledged and thanked Millard County’s efforts in fighting the fire.

Councilmember Monroe stated that a local provider of heavy equipment can lend the equipment to the city for a cost of \$4,500 to \$5,000 per month. The council will need to decide if they want to pay this rate for the equipment to be available if flooding should occur.

The question was asked of how the community can be alerted if flooding activity happens. Citizens should sign up for the alert program through the Millard County Sheriff by signing up on their website.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winget and seconded by Councilmember Jenson to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m. Motion passed by a unanimous vote in favor.

APPROVED August 2, 2022

Michael D. Holt, Mayor