



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance:

Mayor Logan Monson
Council Member Cheryl Bowers
Council Member Chris Ewald
Council Member Len Gasser
Council Member Erik Grover
Council Member Kellen Nielson

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 7:00pm

50 West 100 South Street,
Blanding Utah 84511

Meetings are live streamed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNFa9ZNB3s>

Staff Members in Attendance:

City Manager - David Johnson
City Finance Director - Kim Palmer
City Engineer - Terry Ekker

City Police - Chief Bradford
City Recreation Director - David Palmer
City Community Dev. Dir. - Bret Hosler

Others: Michelle Palmer, Logan Shumway,
Mike Stagg, Jim Peters, Travis Erickson

Prayer was offered by Chris Ewald

Declaration of Conflict: None

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Councilmember Bowers moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022 City Council Meeting and consent agenda. Councilmember Nielson seconded the motion. Mayor Monson repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.**

Those voting Aye:	Councilmember Bowers Councilmember Ewald Councilmember Gasser Councilmember Grover Councilmember Nielson
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Those voting Nay:	None
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Those abstaining:	None
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Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Monson declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

REPORTS

1. Mayor Monson

Mayor Monson shared that he will be attending the Utah League of Cities and Town fall conference. He will also join the City Manager at the CIB meeting.

2. City Council

Councilmember Bowers reported that the Fall Festival/Dutch Oven Days had a great turnout.

Councilmember Grover asked for the weeds on 600 South be taken care of.

3. City Manager

Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation to Energy Fuels, San Juan PAC and USU for their support and sponsorship for the Fall Festival/Dutch Oven Days. He also shared there were 22 vendors and approximately 1500 attended the event.

Justice Court Clerk Diane Bradford will be retiring after 27 years of service.

Councilmember Bowers asked if it would be possible to put in tennis courts with pickleball courts drawn on them. This would give the high school additional places to play. In answer to the question, staff and the Mayor responded that would possibly change the scope of the project and could affect the funding. Mr. Johnson will follow up.

4. Staff Reports

a. Finance Report - Kim Palmer

Ms. Palmer reported that all expenses were approved in the budget. There were no questions.

b. Public Works Report - Terry Ekker

West Water Power/Water Project - Mr. Ekker reported that the power project has been completed. The community system was energized on September 1, 2022.

The tentative schedule for the bid opening for the deep well drilling phase of the project is anticipated for the first part of October. The project award will be presented to Council for approval at the October 25th meeting.

Street Maintenance Project - The seal coat project has been completed. A chip seal project is scheduled for 2023.

Natural Gas Master Plan Update - The RFP for this project has been completed. It is anticipated that a selection of a consultant will take place the second meeting in November.

Mr. Ekker also reported that the pump and motor on well A have been pulled. A cut in the conductor was found. A new conductor is currently being located. The anticipated cost of the replacement is \$69,000.

c. Forest Plan - Terry Ekker

Mr. Ekker told Council that the Manti-LaSal forest plan update has been in the works for sometime. Due to Covid, the process has been very slow. Currently

a draft environmental impact statement is being written. When completed it will be released for public comment.

The plan covers not just our local area, but the entire Manti-LaSal forest unit, which includes Sanpete county area forests. Because it is a plan for the “whole”, it may be beneficial for our local forest areas, stated Mr. Ekker.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Utah Local Governments Trust Award - Mike Stagg

Mike Stagg, Risk Manager from Utah Local Governments Trust presented the Silver Award to the Blanding Wellness Center Pool for 2021. Mr. Stagg complimented the staff and leadership at the Center for their attention to safety. He also stated that the Center has had zero claims in the past 5 years.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Justice Court - David Johnson

Mr. Johnson led the discussion of replacing the Justice Court Judge, who would be leaving at the end of the year. The hiring process for a new judge can take several months. Replacing the court clerk, will not be quite as difficult as a current part-time clerk can immediately fill that position.

Justice Court cases historically have served approximately 25 percent of local residents. The percentage has declined to 15 percent, mostly due to the increase in tourists driving through the community.

Mr. Johnson proposed two options for the Council to consider. The first option is to begin the process of hiring a new judge and maintaining the court; the second option is to dissolve the court and allow future court proceedings to be managed by the County.

Mr. Johnson introduced Jim Peters from the State Administration of the Courts who shared information regarding the process in selecting a new Justice Court. The process could take 5-6 months. A temporary, certified judge could be selected in the meantime to help keep things moving forward and reduce a backlog of cases.

Following a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of dissolving the court, the Council unanimously agreed that the Court should remain in operation.

2. Raw Water Commercial Sales - David Johnson

Mr. Johnson shared information regarding the raw water rates with Council. Institutional customers, such as the school district, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints and City properties are charged at a rate of 75% of culinary rates. The Cemetery is charged a rate of \$175 per acre foot and Energy Fuels is charged a rate of \$75 per acre foot. In comparing the rates, he told Council that the Mill is paying \$.23 per 1,000 gallons, while a City property is paying \$2.27 per 1,000 gallons. “The Mill pays 10% of the cost as the City for raw water, for 100 times the usage, at nearly the same price.” The Cemetery is paying about 23% of the rate compared to other raw water users. Neither the Mill or Cemetery rates are affected by the fluctuations in the tiered water policy.

Included in the discussion regarding raw water rates, it was noted that the Mill is the only customer served through a pipeline directly coming from Recapture. The infrastructure is

minimal and with the exception of a short distance, is owned by the San Juan Conservancy District.

Council directed staff to design and propose a draft policy that is fair to all those who use the City's raw water. Logan Shumway, Mill Manager, will also participate by providing historical data, documents and recommendations. It was determined that a policy be passed by early February 2023.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1. Resolution 09-27-2022-1 Contract for AMI Metering System - Kim Palmer**
Councilmember Grover moved to approve Resolution 09-27-2022-1 Contract for AMI Metering System. Councilmember Ewald seconded the motion. Mayor Monson repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Those voting Aye:	Councilmember Bowers
	Councilmember Ewald
	Councilmember Gasser
	Councilmember Nielson
	Councilmember Grover

Those voting Nay:

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Monson declared the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Grover moved to enter a closed session for personnel. Councilmember Ewald seconded the motion. Mayor Monson repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Those voting Aye:	Councilmember Bowers
	Councilmember Ewald
	Councilmember Gasser
	Councilmember Grover
	Councilmember Nielson

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Monson declared the motion carried.

Council entered a Closed Session at 8:58 p.m.

Councilmember Nielson moved to re-enter the open session. Councilmember Ewald seconded the motion. Mayor Monson repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Those voting Aye:	Councilmember Bowers
	Councilmember Ewald
	Councilmember Gasser
	Councilmember Grover
	Councilmember Nielson

Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Monson declared the motion carried.

Council re-entered the open session at 9:28 p.m.



ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Nielson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Grover seconded the motion. Mayor Monson repeated the motion and asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Those voting Aye:	Councilmember Bowers
	Councilmember Ewald
	Councilmember Gasser
	Councilmember Grover
	Councilmember Nielson

Those voting Nay:	None
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Constituting all members thereof, Mayor Monson declared the motion carried.

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

By:

Kim Palmer, City Deputy Recorder