

Town Council Regular Meeting

August 17, 2022

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Marty Larson, Councilmembers Neil Brown, Grant Lundberg, Stan Judd

Councilman Hale Robison was absent

Staff Present: City Recorder Lucinda Thomas, Deputy Clerk Nicole Preston, Town Attorney Josh Nielsen, Fire Chief William McMullin, Santaquin Police Chief Rod Hurst, Planning Commission Chairman John Rosenberger

Public Present: Chad Coburn, Alisa Morford, Ivy Allred, Renae Gheen, Mark Gheen, Chris McMullin

1. Call to Order - Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

- a. Ivy Allred gave the opening prayer
- b. Councilman Neil Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes for July 20, 2022

- a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to approve the minutes for July 20, 2022. Councilman Grant Lundberg **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor
 - i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
 - ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
 - iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
 - iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
 - v. Councilman Hale Robison - absent

3. Approval of Expenditures

- a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to approve the expenditures in the amount of one hundred ninety-seven thousand, nine hundred and three dollars and four cents. Councilman Grant Lundberg **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
 - i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
 - ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
 - iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
 - iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
 - v. Councilman Hale Robison - absent

4. Approval of Work Orders

- a. Structure PPE's for the fire department in the amount of \$2500.00.
 - i. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to approve the purchase of one set of PPE's for the Fire department in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars. Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
 1. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
 2. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
 3. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
 4. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
 5. Councilman Hale Robison - absent

5. Commission and Staff Reports

- a. **Police Report – Police Chief Rod Hurst** – there were 31 reports including 3 accidents, 10 animal problem, citizen contact, drug offense, weapons offense, and a welfare check. 6 citations with 7 total offenses. With 19 officer generated and 20 public generated.
 - i. Mayor Larson asked Chief Hurst if he felt that the police department was fully staffed and if our contract was sufficient for the town. Chief Hurst responded that the department is

well equipped, but as all the other departments in the valley they struggle to keep officers on staff with the labor market that it is. He mentioned that unfortunately they do have a high turnover rate because of the pay scale/wage gap that Santaquin has, but that he and the Santaquin council are trying to change that. They are looking at raises for the officers in hopes that they will be able to keep these new officers that they are training instead of them going somewhere else because they can make more money. Chief Hurst mentioned that it has become difficult to keep up with the unfunded but mandatory training that the legislature requires, and how this affects the budgets of all police departments. Mayor Larson asked about what happens when the department is short on officers. Chief Hurst responded that the consequences of this is that there are longer response times and they cut programs, he continued that because of staffing issues they haven't taught dare in an elementary school in several years. The other sacrifices that get made are they do less zoning enforcement or speed enforcement and just have to stick to the mandatory calls for service.

- b. **Fire Chief Report- Chief William McMullin** – Chief McMullin started out by stating the Genola Fire Department has a good relationship with the Santaquin Police Department and that he felt that they are good to work with. He stated that they are working on the hydrant testing and doing it by zones. This is a requirement for the ISO rating, and they will continue on different zones as they complete. They found one hydrant that wasn't working efficiently, and they have left Chris Steele know of the problem. They are trying to GPS all the hydrants so that they have everything computerized. The council asked Chief McMullin if the hydrant by Hwy 6 had been fixed, he reported that as far as he knew that it hadn't yet.
- c. **Planning Commission Chairman – Chairman John Rosenberger** – He reported on the action items from their last meeting. He reported that they are still working on the master road plan, and that the accessory apartment amendment was set up for a public hearing.

PUBLIC FORUM – There was no one signed up for the public forum.

PUBLIC HEARING

6. Motion to open the public hearing on Resolution 2022-07 a proposed increase to the property tax revenue for the city.

- a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to open the public hearing on Resolution 2022-07 a proposed increase to the property tax revenue for the city. Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
 - i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
 - ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
 - iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
 - iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
 - v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent
- b. Renae Gheen got up and asked the council to give an explanation regarding the purpose and reasoning behind the tax increase. Mayor Larson started by explaining how the taxes would increase to the average resident and the reasoning as to why they need to keep the taxes at a consistent percentage. Councilman Brown then explained a little bit more about how the taxes are dispersed from the County. He explained that they are simply keeping the rate at the same level, not raising the taxes dramatically the town is simply trying keep their share of property taxes the same as before. There are several large expenses that will be needed very quickly including a new snowplow which would be over \$200,000 and a new firetruck in the next four years which will be at least \$700,000. These expenses are things that we will have to pay for within the next couple of years.
- c. Mayor Larson then explained that he feels that the town is in a good financial state, but where we see some services will cost more in the future like the police force, etc. the town needs to make sure that they have adequate funds to continue to pay for those required services as he doesn't

112 want to see the town have to reduce its services because there isn't adequate funds to pay for
113 the needed services.

- 114 d. Councilman Stan Judd Second the opinion that its important to make sure that we have adequate
115 to pay for the needed public safety services that are going to cost more.
116 e. After the council gave these explanations, they opened up to the public for any questions or
117 comments that they may have. Ms. Alisa Morford got up and stated that she felt that it was
118 extremely important that we support our public safety programs and felt that this relatively small
119 tax increase is acceptable if this is what the money would be used for. She even questioned if
120 the town members themselves could do more to help support our town programs. She is hoping
121 to use the Citizens Preparedness committee could help get the word out that this is what the tax
122 increase will be used for.
123

124 7. Motion to close the public hearing on Resolution 2022-07

- 125 a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to close the public hearing. Councilman Grant Lundberg
126 **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
127 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
128 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
129 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
130 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
131 v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent
132

133 8. Motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-05 a proposed amendment to the electronic
134 meeting ordinance.

- 135 a. Mayor Larson asked City Attorney Josh Nielsen to give a brief clarification about what this public
136 hearing was for. Mr. Nielsen stated that when covid hit towns all over the state started using
137 electronic meetings more. The state legislature this past year came out and said that cities and
138 towns need to clarify more their electronic meetings ordinance and clarify how and when people
139 can participate and how members can participate in an electronic meeting. This ordinance is
140 simply helping the town clarify and meet the state code.
141 b. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-05 a
142 proposed amendment to the electronic meeting ordinance. Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and
143 the motion **Passed** all in favor.
144 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
145 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
146 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
147 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
148 v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent
149

150 9. Motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-05

- 151 a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-05.
152 Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
153 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
154 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
155 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
156 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
157 v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent
158

159 10. Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2022-07 certifying the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2023
160 at .000946%.

- 161 a. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** that they certify the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2023 at
162 .000946%. Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
163 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
164 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
165 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
166 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
167 v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent

- 168
- 169 **11.** Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2022-05 amendment to our electronic meeting
- 170 ordinance to establish how a quorum is calculated and how the votes will be counted.
- 171 a. City Attorney Josh Nielsen explained that the major edits in the code was that the voting member
- 172 had to be able to hear live all the discussion and be able to communicate if comments are made
- 173 to be considered a voting member. They did establish to be considered and make a quorum the
- 174 councilmember would need to be available for the whole meeting, but if quorum requirements are
- 175 already met and the member can only participate in part of the meeting, they would at least need
- 176 to be apart of the whole discussion of the agenda item to be allowed to vote.
- 177 b. Councilmember Neil Brown made a **Motion** to approve Ordinance 2022-05 amending out
- 178 electronic meeting ordinance to establish how a quorum is calculated and how the votes will be
- 179 counted. Councilman Stan Judd **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in favor.
- 180 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
- 181 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
- 182 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
- 183 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
- 184 v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent
- 185
- 186 **12.** Discussion with Chad Coburn on the finances for the rodeo held during the town celebration.
- 187 a. Mr. Coburn is asking for some clarification on how the budget works and how they can prove to
- 188 the rodeo committee members that the \$12,900 that they carried over from the Fiscal year 2021
- 189 budget shows in the fiscal year 2022 budget. He asked if they could do an enterprise account.
- 190 The council didn't want to create a separate account because the money would go in and the
- 191 very next year, they take it out. Instead, the council recommended that we make a separate
- 192 spreadsheet to show all the expenditures and income in an easier to read document, as the
- 193 accounting software for the town can be difficult to understand. Mr. Coburn stated that what he
- 194 now understands is that if there is left over money from the rodeo, that they won't see it until the
- 195 next fiscal year and that would be money that they would be able to plan on for projects the next
- 196 year. Mr. Coburn also stated that he wanted to make sure that the money that was donated to the
- 197 rodeo is used for the rodeo and that he can justify it to his donors. He never wants a donor to
- 198 think that they are donating to the Town's general fund. They also encouraged Mr. Coburn that if
- 199 the rodeo committee wants to do a project they need to approach the council months before so
- 200 that solutions can be found not just a month before the rodeo. The council reiterated to Mr.
- 201 Coburn that they appreciated the work that he and his committee had put in to make the rodeo a
- 202 success and no longer a drain on the town's budget. They also appreciate all the work that they
- 203 do to make the rodeo better each year.
- 204 b. The council did make a point that they would want to improve the parking situation for the town
- 205 celebration and rodeo, and maybe we need to have people available to direct parking to make it
- 206 much more efficient.
- 207
- 208 **13.** Discussion and possible action on items discussed at the work session on Emergency preparedness
- 209 which was held prior to this meeting.
- 210 a. Ms. Alisa Morford requested that the council approve a drop down under the departments page
- 211 with a emergency preparedness section. She would like to be able to put the preparedness
- 212 guides, zoom links to their meetings, etc. on this page. Councilman Brown mentioned that he
- 213 would be a little nervous about using the name Emergency Management and would rather see
- 214 the title of Emergency Preparedness or Emergency Readiness. It was clarified that for there
- 215 page, they would need to send everything in a PDF version and then the clerks would send that
- 216 on to our webpage development company for them to put it on the website. They want this to be
- 217 a community resources page for preparedness. The council felt that they would rather have the
- 218 page be listed under the community tab, and name is Community Preparedness, so as to not
- 219 cause any confusion that this committee would not be responding to any emergency situations.
- 220 b. Councilman Neil Brown made a motion that they add Community Preparedness under the
- 221 community tab on the webpage with the page title being Genola Citizens Preparedness
- 222 Committee. Councilman Grant Lundberg Second and the motion Passed all in favor.
- 223 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes

- ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
- iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
- iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
- v. Councilman Hale Robison – absent

14. Discussion on updating our interlocal agreement with Utah County for fire services.

- a. Chief McMullin reported that the county has decided to scrap the draft of the agreement as the county recognized that it didn't work for many of the south county cities. They are working on a new draft and will send it out soon. Chief McMullin stated that he would send it on to the town attorney as soon as he received it for him to review and asked that we have this agenda item tentatively on the next meeting. There was no action on this agenda item.

15. Discussion and possible action to Renae Gheen about street safety and clearing trees.

- a. She spoke about how some of the big trees are growing over the road and she is worried that these trees would cause danger to the roadways and to the power lines. She is asking the town to start forward thinking about how we can prevent problems instead of just dealing with the problem when it happens. She presented some pictures of problem trees. Councilman Stan Judd questioned whether it is our responsibility to take care of the tree if the tree isn't on the town right of way. Mayor Larson thought they could use Code Enforcement to issue a notification and ask the homeowner to take care of the issue and then in 60 days if its not taken care then the city would then move in to take care of it. Ms. Gheen felt that it might be beneficial for her a local resident to speak with her neighbors first instead of having the town get involved. The council discussed and recognized that they would need to treat situation individually and they would like Councilman Hale Robison to pay attention to this issue as he is over roads, and report if there are costs involved if the town needs to trim or take down a tree. There was no action on this agenda item.

16. Discussion and possible action on agreement 2022-01 with Utah County water project program for a grant in the amount of one hundred forty-two thousand seven hundred thirty-one dollars (\$142,731.00) to be used for SCADA system on our tank and wells.

- a. Utah County is wanting to put an agreement in place, where the federal government has given them the money and they in turn have given it to the Town they want an agreement to say that if you don't spend the money appropriately the town is liable not the county. City Attorney Mr. Nielsen felt like this agreement is really written like a contract instead of an interlocal agreement. He said that he spoke with the County Attorney's office, and he didn't feel like they would be updating or modifying the agreement at all. Mr. Nielsen stated that we can either fill out the forms as is or the town could rewrite their own contract and see if the county approves it. The funds are currently on hold until there is an agreement in place and the county approves the agreement. The council decided that if the contract draft is done in two weeks, they would be ok with a special meeting but if its not ready they can talk about it during the next months meeting. There was no action on this agenda item.

17. Discussion and possible action on adding a development fee for a pre-paid fee for chip seal on all new roads.

- a. This item was determined that it needed to be on the Planning Commission agenda and become apart of the development standards. There was no action on this agenda item.

18. Council Comments

a. Mayor Marty Larson -

- i. He received a report where at the gun range there have been enough incidents and reports that they will be able to shut down the range. He is asking for the Town's support in this action. Chief Hurst spoke up and stated that he is worried about push back from the Sheriff's Office. It was questioned why he would get push back and it was clarified that the Sherriff is an elected official. Mayor Larson told the council that unless they feel strongly that he shouldn't support he felt that it was a good idea to support this action as

280 it would protect residents. Chief Hurst said he expected that there could be some push
281 back as he had a hard time getting the gun range on the south end of Santaquin shut
282 down. The Council felt that it would prudent to support this.

- 283 ii. Staker Parson got the agreement back, the BLM decided that we didn't have to have a
284 bond, so now the Tank and Well project can start. He also reported that because of the
285 change of design they were able to drop the total cost by \$45,000.
- 286 iii. He has reviewed the Town's police budget. He informed the council that Santaquin City
287 is looking to up the officer pay. He is expecting to see a price increase for our contract
288 with them which would take affect at the first of the next fiscal year. He just wanted to
289 make sure that the council knew to keep the current coverage it would be approximately
290 \$20,000. He wanted to make sure that the council was aware of the new costs that the
291 town would need to incur in the next fiscal year.

292
293 **b. Councilmember Hale Robison** – Councilman Robison was excused from the meeting.

294
295 **c. Councilmember Grant Lundberg** – He reported that Lacee Clayburn officially told him that she
296 would be stepping down as the recreation director after this soccer season. There will be an
297 advertisement in the newsletter, and they will start looking immediately so that the new hire could
298 possibly get some training with Lacee while she is still on the job.

299
300 **d. Councilmember Stan Judd** – He didn't have any major thing to report, but he stated that he felt
301 strongly that it was important to stay with the Santaquin Police Department if possible.

302
303 **e. Councilmember Neil Brown** – he reported that he put together an update in the latest newsletter
304 and wanted to clarify the natural gas project was going for the residents. He stated that he wasn't
305 hopeful because of the barriers to installation, including the wetlands, the large land area of
306 Genola but relatively small number of residents.

307
308 **Motion to Adjourn**

309 f. Councilman Neil Brown made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Hale Robison
310 **Second** and the motion **Passed** all in Favor.

- 311 i. Mayor Marty Larson - Yes
- 312 ii. Councilman Neil Brown – Yes
- 313 iii. Councilman Grant Lundberg – Yes
- 314 iv. Councilman Stan Judd – Yes
- 315 v. Councilman Hale Robison - absent

316 g. The meeting was then adjourned at 9:14 pm.

317
318
319 Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Nicole Preston

320
321 Minutes Approved on: September 21, 2022

To see signed copy please visit the town office
Lucinda Thomas City Recorder

322