



# MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

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The Murray City Municipal Council met on **Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 06:30 PM** for a meeting held in the Murray City Council Chambers, 5025 S State Street, Murray, Utah.

The public was able to view the meeting via the live stream at [www.murraycitylive.com](http://www.murraycitylive.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/Murraycityutah/>. A recording of the City Council meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

### OPENING CEREMONIES

#### Council in Attendance:

Philip Markham, District #1  
Pamela Cotter, District #2  
Rosalba Dominguez, District #3 (Excused)  
Diane Turner, District #4 (Conducting)  
Garry Hrechkosy, District #5  
Jennifer Kennedy, Council Director (Excused)  
Pattie Johnson, Council Office Administrator III  
Crystal Brown, Officer Administrator

#### Administrative Staff in Attendance:

Brett A. Hales, Mayor  
Doug Hill, Chief Administrative Office  
Tammy Kikuchi, Chief Communication Officer  
G.L. Critchfield, City Attorney  
Brooke Smith, City Recorder  
Brenda Moore, Finance and Administration Director  
Craig Burnett, Police Chief  
Joey Mittelman, Fire Chief  
Greg Bellon, Interim General Manager of Power  
Bruce Turner, Power Operations Manager  
Matt Youngs, Power Energy Services Compliance Manager  
Jared Hall, Community and Economic Development Director  
Kim Sorensen, Parks and Recreation Director  
Kim Fong, Library Director  
Robert White, IT Service Director  
Ben Gray, Sr. IT Technician  
Laura Bown, Purchasing Agent  
Wendy Saunders, Passport Agent

#### Others in Attendance:

Charles Turner, Lawrence Horman, Clark Bullen, Sheri Van Bibber, Dave Carr, Harold Saunders.

#### Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order – Councilmember Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The audience was invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheri Van Bibber.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **1. Council Meeting - March 7, 2023**

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Cotter moved to approve the Council Meeting on March 7, 2023. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Hrechkosy.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Councilmember Markham, Councilmember Cotter, Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hrechkosy

Excused: Councilmember Dominguez

Motion passes 4-0

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

### **1. Employee of the Month - Wendy Saunders, Diane Turner and Mayor Hales presenting.**

Councilmember Turner introduced Wendy Saunders, as the March recipient of Employee of the Month. Wendy Saunders is the AM Passport Agent for Murray City who consistently went above and beyond her duties to ensure that clients received the best customer service possible. She received a certificate; a \$50 gift card; and her name will appear on the plaque located in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Hales shared a personal story about the first time he met Wendy and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the kindness she showed to him.

Brooke Smith, City Recorder is Wendy Saunders' supervisor. She said Wendy Saunders showed exceptional dedication and commitment to her work. Wendy was very reliable and treated everyone with respect and kindness when they came to City Hall. She also demonstrated great patience when helping applicants fill out difficult forms. During her time on the team, Wendy processed approximately 3000 new applications and photos, assisted over 500 people with renewing their passports, and helped over 500 walk-in clients. Her positive attitude and fun energy created an enjoyable work environment for her colleagues. Wendy was a valuable asset to the organization, and her contributions were greatly appreciated.

Wendy Saunders introduced her spouse and thanked the council and Mayor for the special recognition. Wendy loves to travel, and she recalled when she applied for the job online she had the desire to help people get their passports, so they could travel and explore.

Councilmembers thanked Wendy Saunders for her service and stated they appreciate her being a part of Murray City.

### **2. Consideration of a Joint Resolution for Child Abuse Prevention., Mayor Hales and Sheri Van Bibber presenting.**

Sheri Van Bibber was invited to the podium by Mayor Hales. Mayor Hales read into the record the proposed Joint Resolution.

The resolution acknowledged the importance of investing in the welfare, safety, and livelihood of children in the city. It also recognized the responsibility of all Murray citizens to protect children and strengthen families, as child abuse is a serious problem that affects the entire community. The resolution highlighted the Murray Exchange Club's positive contributions to the city, and called upon citizens to become more aware of child abuse and actively support parents in raising their children in a safe and nurturing environment. In support of the Murray Exchange Club's efforts, the city of Murray agreed to fly the Child Abuse Prevention Flag in front of City Hall from April 1st through April 30th. The resolution commended the Murray Exchange Club for their continued efforts to help families break free from the vicious cycle of child abuse and emphasized that all children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing

environment to reach their full potential.

## **MOTION**

Councilmember Hrechkosy moved to adopt the Joint Resolution for Child Abuse Prevention. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Markham.

## **ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Councilmember Markham, Councilmember Cotter, Councilmember Turner,  
Councilmember Hrechkosy  
Excused: Councilmember Dominguez

Motion passes 4-0

Mayor Hales thanked Sheri Van Bibber for her dedication to the youth program and child abuse prevention. He expressed gratitude for her contributions to the city and praised her involvement in various areas beyond child abuse prevention.

During the meeting, Sheri Van Bibber expressed her gratitude towards Murray city and the council for their support of the youth program. The Murray Exchange Club, which has been active since 2001, focuses on city service and Americanism. They give out American flags during the parade, organize events like the childhood abuse prevention campaign, and support various groups such as the YWCA. They also host the Haunted Woods in Murray City, whose proceeds go towards preventing child abuse. Last year, the event attracted about 12,000 people and raised \$26,000 which was donated to programs that support the prevention of child abuse. The speaker discussed statistics related to child abuse and neglect and mentioned that the Exchange Club works with hospitals to provide services to families that are deemed to be at risk.

Councilmembers expressed gratitude and praised the efforts of Sheri Van Bibber who spearheaded the events every year.

Councilmember Hrechkosy emphasized the importance of paying attention and listening in order to identify potential cases of abuse and make a positive impact.

## **CITIZEN COMMENT(S)**

Those wishing to have their comments read into the record may send an email by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting date to [city.council@murray.utah.gov](mailto:city.council@murray.utah.gov). Comments are limited to three minutes or less (approximately 300 words for emails) and must include your name and address.

The meeting was open for public comment.

Lawrence Horman

Lawrence Horman introduced himself and advocated for the homeless during a presentation. He mentioned his personal connection to the issue and noted that child abuse often leads to homelessness. He hoped that someday there would be a similar effort to address homelessness as there is for child abuse. He suggested getting acknowledgment from state and national legislatures during the time when they are in session and advocating for funding to help find solutions. He also emphasized the importance of taking a housing-first approach to provide stability and help homeless people get back on their feet.

Clark Bullen

Clark Bullen from District Three spoke about the great things Murray city has to offer, including the Exchange Club, Murray Youth Community Council, and the Murray Power Department. He also mentioned the proposed power rate increase of 9% and his concerns about its impact on citizens who are already feeling the effects of increased costs for necessities like water, sewer, groceries, and gasoline. He suggested reevaluating the increase to a smaller percentage and implementing yearly increases of 1%. He encouraged the council to consider this option and also to re-look at the Supply

Cost Adjustment (SCA) as referred to in section 15.20.240 of the city code to fill the gap and go up to a higher rate cap so that rates don't have to be permanently increased.

No additional citizen comments were given, and the open citizen comment period was closed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

None scheduled.

### **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

Staff, sponsor presentations, and public comments will be given prior to Council action on the following matter. The Council Meeting Agenda Packet can be found [HERE](#).

1. Consider a resolution approving the donation of city services and/or nonmonetary assistance to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's "Light Up Navajo" initiative project., Blaine Haacke presenting.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Bruce Turner presented the proposed resolution requesting the donation of city services and/or non-monetary assistance to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's "Light Up Navajo" initiative project.

The purpose of this city service trip initiative was launched to expedite electrification projects within the Navajo Nation and to train the apprentices and one foreman in building power lines from scratch, which is something they do not get to do in their regular work. The crew would build power lines in Tuba City, which would help the people there immensely. Bruce Turner had gone on a previous trip in 2021 and witnessed how happy the people were to have power for the first time in their life. He believed that despite the cost, the benefits of the trip were tenfold.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The Public Hearing was open for citizen comment.

No citizen comments were given, and the open public comment period was closed.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Markham moved to adopt the resolution approving the donation of city services and/or non-monetary assistance to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's "Light Up Navajo" initiative project. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Cotter.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Councilmember Markham, Councilmember Cotter, Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hrechkosy

Excused: Councilmember Dominguez

Motion passes 4-0

The mayor thanked Bruce Turner for enlightening them about the trainee program and the benefits it provides to city staff.

Councilmembers express their appreciation for the program and note the added benefit of blessing other people's lives.

### **BUSINESS ITEM(S)**

1. Consider a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City and the Board of Education of the Murray City School District regarding the conveyance by the City of real property of which the City will continue to own, operate, and maintain the Murray City Library., G.L. Critchfield presenting.

City Attorney, G.L. Critchfield discussed the history of a ground lease between the city and school district for a library building. The lease was initially for 50 years and renewed for

another 50 years, with an expiration date of December 4, 2091.

The school district transferred the land to the city to build the library and financed the building's construction with bonds. When the bonds were paid off in 2013, the city notified the school district that they could exercise their option to take back the property. The land is owned by the school district, but the building is owned by the city.

The first item on the agenda was to convey the land back to the school district, which required signing an agreement and sending it to the title company.

The second agreement was the ground lease, which began in 1991 and has an expiration date of December 4, 2041, and included provisions for notice and payment if either party wanted to vacate or keep the building.

The district needs to give five years' notice to take back the building after the first 50 years. If they don't give notice, the city can stay there for another 50 years. If the city gives notice, they can vacate at the same time. If the district gives notice, they pay the market value for the building at that time.

Councilmember Markham asked if there was any exchange of monetary value for the ground lease. Attorney Critchfield replied there is an agreement in place for one dollar per year.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Cotter moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City and the Board of Education of the Murray City School District regarding the conveyance by the City of real property which the City will continue to own, operate, and maintain the Murray City Library. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Hrechkosy.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Councilmember Markham, Councilmember Cotter, Councilmember Turner,  
Councilmember Hrechkosy  
Excused: Councilmember Dominguez

Motion passes 4-0

2. Consider a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City and the Board of Education of the Murray City School District to provide for a ground lease of property owned by the board of education of the Murray City School District Located at 166 East 5300 South Street., G.L. Critchfield presenting.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Hrechkosy moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City and the Board of Education of the Murray City School District to provide for a ground lease of property owned by the Board of Education of the Murray City School District Located at 166 East 5300 South Street. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Markham.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Councilmember Markham, Councilmember Cotter, Councilmember Turner,  
Councilmember Hrechkosy  
Excused: Councilmember Dominguez

Motion passes 4-0

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT AND QUESTIONS**

Mayor Hales thanked the council for making tough decisions and asking questions throughout the meeting. He also reported that the power supply for the new city hall was coming from Taiwan but was delayed, and the furniture for City Hall is being delivered. He praised the public works department for being ready with sandbags and reported that rain barrels were available for purchase through public works. He also announced that the golf course superintendent, Dave Carruth, was retiring after 27 years of service and a new superintendent, Jason Lundberg, had been selected. A retirement party for Dave Carruth is scheduled for March 31 at City Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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