



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 05, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Court Room/Council Chambers (2nd Floor) and Online

Minutes

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Kirk Hunsaker
Council Member Nick Miller
Council Member Betsy Montoya
Council Member Lynn Mecham
Council Member David Hathaway
Council Member Jennifer Bowman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Jason Bond.

INVOCATION / INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Invocation offered by Mayor Kirk Hunsaker.

1. State of the City Address - Mayor Kirk F. Hunsaker
Mayor Kirk Hunsaker gave his State of the City Address.

CONSENT AGENDA (MINUTES, BILLS, ITEMS)

Minutes

2. December 15, 2020 - Council Work Session Minutes
3. December 15, 2020 - Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Bills

4. Invoice Register - 12/12/2020 - 01/01/2021 - \$282,293.44

Motion made by Council Member Miller to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Council Member Mecham.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham,
Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

PUBLIC FORUM, BID OPENINGS, AWARDS, AND APPOINTMENTS

Public Forum

Name: Jeffrey Siddoway

Comment:

Esteemed Council Members:

Last month there was, yet again, a presentation in a City Council meeting regarding why Ranked Choice Voting should be used in Santaquin. This was presented once back in July, and I find it disappointing that it's been presented once again without a presentation providing the counter arguments on this issue. As such, I have felt compelled to provide the counter points to you and City residents. Below is an update to the points made against RCV back in July.

1) Proponents of RCV claim that with RCV "you would never ever not have 50% or higher" in voting. Regardless of the blatant double negative, that is actually not true. In 2014 political scientists Craig Burnett and Vladimir Kogan analyzed RCV ballots from four elections in California and Washington - making up around 600,000 ballots. They found that in those four races, not once did the winner receive a majority of votes cast. His "never ever" scenario can ONLY occur if every ballot ranks every single candidate, but many voters don't want to give some candidates any ranking at all, thus RCV often results in a winner with less than 50%.

2) Proponents claim that there "never ever is an opportunity for your ballot to not count in a meaningful way." Again, that simply isn't true based on the study mentioned above. This is for the same reasoning that winners don't always achieve 50%. It's called Ballot Exhaustion. If there are 5 candidates and I only rank my top three, because the last two are not viable options from my political position, in the 4th and 5th rounds of counting, I don't have a vote. That happens very often; in those four elections mentioned above, between 9.6 and 27% of first round ballots didn't make it through all of the rounds of counting. This concept is also based on the idea that if your candidate doesn't win, your vote didn't count in a meaningful way, which is an erroneous view of the democratic process in our Republic.

3) Australia, where RCV has been used for nearly a century, is a great example to actually see how RCV will work here. Nearly 90% of the candidates who win the first round go on to winning the election. Very rarely are end results much different than the first round. Why revamp an entire system just to get the same result? Beyond that, a closer look at the Australian political system, that supposed 10% improvement, isn't really an improvement. Australia does not have the two party system we have. They have multiple parties, but ultimately all of the parties fall under one of two larger umbrellas. Essentially, they ONLY have the illusion of more choices, and when the first round winner doesn't win the overall election, it is ALWAYS a candidate under the same overall umbrella as the first round winner. You get the exact same result, ideologically, just with a different face.

4) Proponents state that no primaries means a cheaper election. Well, possibly in the long run, but every new system comes with costs to educate the voters how it works, new ballots designs, with new machines and software to effectively count the ballots and votes in this system. Also, keeping track of these ballots naturally infuses the process to the follies of human error. I personally know people who's recent mail-in and in-person ballots have not been recorded by the State. We have enough human error in these elections as it is, we shouldn't add elements that would exploit that more than resolve it. Let's not forget the quagmire that this last election. The requirement of new devices and software is not something I will trust without question.

5) Finally, the idea that this will remove negative campaigning might be a good argument for State and National elections (though Australia proves that isn't the case,) but that is not a problem with small municipalities. When was the last time anyone in Santaquin witnessed a negative campaign from one candidate to another? I've seen only respect between candidates, whereas negativity only comes when addressing issues, which is an election aspect that we need to remain in place so that we fully understand the position of our candidates.

To be clear, regardless of whether or not Santaquin adapts RCV as the system of choice, I will continue to vote in every election and do all I can to promote voting among my neighbors. However, from my point of view here, it seems RCV is a solution looking for a problem, and the problems it has found are not solved by the solution it has proposed. We don't need a shiny new object to distract us, we need government officials to work with us for the betterment of our community.

Thank you.

Awards

5. Planning Commission: Jessica Tolman & Kyle Francom
Museum Board: Jenny Fernelius, Keela Goudy, Elizabeth Robertson,
Jake Kester & Kim Bahr
Recreation Board: Jessica Tolman, Chad Finch, David Harris, Sara Olson,
Spencer Hintze & Erin Jarrett

Mayor Hunsaker thanked those whose terms expired for their service on the various boards and commissions.

Appointments

6. Planning Commission:
Commissioner Kylie Lance – (3-Year Term - Renewal)
Commissioner Drew Hoffman – (3-Year Term - New Appointment)
Commissioner BreAnna Nixon – (3-Year Term - New Appointment)
Alternate Board Member – Brad Gunnell - (3-Year Term - New Position)
Community Services Board:(Newly Formed Board with Staggered Terms)
Board Chair – Kyle Vincent – (3-Year Term)
Board Member – Sarah Olson – (3-Year Term)
Board Member – David Harris – (2-Year Term)
Board Member – Stephanie Taylor – (2-Year Term)
Board Member – Jessica Tolman – (1-Year Term)
Board Member – Keela Goudy – (1-Year Term)
Board Member – Nick Miller – (Elected Representative)

Historic Preservation Committee:

Alternate Board Member – Max Mitchell – (3-Year Term)

Mayor Hunsaker announced his new appointments to the various commissions and boards and looked to the Council for their approval.

Motion made by Council Member Bowman to approve the appointments.

Seconded by Council Member Montoya.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

BUILDING PERMIT & BUSINESS LICENSE REPORT

Community Development Director Jason Bond showed the two new business licenses and the record number of total building permits for the year 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion & Possible Action

7. Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Bid Award for the New City Office Building

Assistant City Manager Beagley described the process of selecting a general contractor and after 20 hours of deliberation Ellsworth-Paulsen Construction was chosen.

Motion made by Council Member Mecham to award the CM/GC Services for the new City Hall construction to Ellsworth-Paulsen Construction in an amount not to exceed \$337,898.

Seconded by Council Member Hathaway.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

Resolutions

8. Resolution 01-01-2021 Consolidated Fee Schedule

City Manager Reeves explained that the changes to the Transportation Impact Fees in the Consolidated Fee Schedule were in connection to the updates to the Transportation Master Plan Update process after going through the public notice and hearing process given by state code.

Motion made by Council Member Montoya to approve Resolution 01-01-2021 Consolidated Fee Schedule.

Seconded by Council Member Miller.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, STAFF, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

City Manager Benjamin Reeves

City Manager Reeves wanted to extend his appreciation to staff and especially public works crews who worked over holidays and weekends to ensure the roads around the city are clean and safe for residents.

Assistant City Manager Norm Beagley

Nothing to report.

Community Development Director Jason Bond

Nothing to report.

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Hunsaker

Echoed statements by Council Member Hathaway in thanking city staff for all of their work in 2020.

Council Member Miller

Getting ready to hire for another recreation position.

Council Member Montoya

Nothing to report.

Council Member Mecham

Nothing to report.

Council Member Hathaway

Wanted to thank city staff for all of their hard work during this interesting year of 2020.

Council Member Bowman

Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (May be called to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual)

Motion made by Council Member Miller to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

Seconded by Council Member Bowman.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

EXECUTIVE SESSION (May be called to discuss the pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and/or purchase, exchange, or lease of real property)

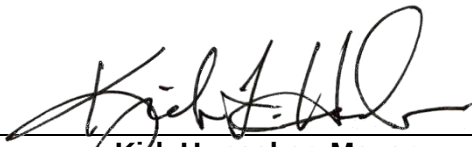
ADJOURNMENT

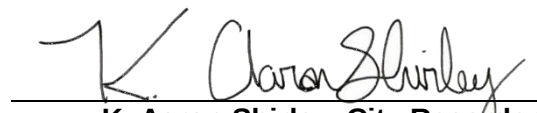
Motion made by Council Member Bowman at 8:20 p.m. to leave the executive session and adjourn the City Council Meeting.

Seconded by Council Member Montoya.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway, Council Member Bowman

ATTEST:



Kirk Hunsaker, Mayor

K. Aaron Shirley, City Recorder