



CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 5:30 PM
Court Room/Council Chambers (2nd Floor) and Online

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirk Hunsaker at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members Attending: Mayor Kirk Hunsaker, Council Member Nicholas Miller, Council Member Betsy Montoya, Council Member Lynn Mecham, Council Member David Hathaway, Council Member Jennifer Bowman

Other's Attending: City Manager Benjamin Reeves, Assistant City Manager Norm Beagley, Finance Director Shirley

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion: Regarding Community Engagement Policies

City Manager Reeves spoke to the concerns brought up by the citizens in public forums on topics like meeting notices and having adequate time for looking at the agenda and packet prior to the meeting. Reeves cited Title 52 and the Open and Public Meetings act and read from state code that 24 hours was the minimum notice requirement for any and all public meetings and the city is trying to have agendas and packets posted the Friday prior and with the new City Management software and website the process will be more streamlined and allow for more interactive experience for the public.

Council Member Bowman stated she wasn't aware that the city posted physically at Zion's Bank and the Post Office and Council Member Montoya suggested that a video be made on how to use Utah Public Notice as well as where to find all types of public notices.

City Manager Reeves then showed a training video on the difference between different types of public forums and demonstrated that the current City Council Protocols were consistent in treatment for all people. Even though it's oftentimes awkward to listen and not respond, the purpose of the forum is to hear from the public and not to debate. Council Member Bowman stated that it might be good for the Mayor to be more explicit on when the Council will respond whether it be later on the agenda or in another meeting in general. Council Member Montoya suggested a process of a Council assignment to address each comment from Public Forum that desires a Council response and gives an opportunity for the assigned Council Member to contact that citizen and have a one on one discussion. Council Member Mecham suggested that the Mayor reiterate the purpose of the public forum prior to the start just to educate the public that the Council is not being rude or apathetic but simply are not supposed to talk during the public forum. Community Development Director Bond suggested that a certain portion of the agenda have tips on public meeting etiquette, how public forum works, and the difference between an administrative and legislative act.

City Manager Reeves then discussed the question brought up by a member of the public which was 'why aren't the YouTube comments enabled during the live streamed meetings?'. Reeves stated the reason is that in a normal meeting the Council wouldn't have a citizen speak up at any and all parts of the meeting or giving their own narrative of the events of the meeting because of how disruptive that would be. Similarly, the YouTube comments are not turned on because the Council and Mayor could not possibly respond to any comments outside of the

public forum especially at that scale. Second, the settings on the City YouTube account is set to 'Family Friendly' which automatically turns the comments off and the reason being is because an anonymized and online member of the public who disagrees with a particular part of a meeting is more likely to make the comment section not family friendly.

City Manager Reeves then asked what the Council's thoughts were on creating a version of Santaquin University (a training program for newly elected City Council members) for the public. Council Member Miller said that having those trainings broadcast online would be good but it's a different experience learning about City government in person with department heads. Mayor Hunsaker advised Council that they should be aware of the current demands on staff time and examine how an in-person class put on by staff might affect them.

2. Training: Financial Overview – Review of Authorized Use of Designated Funding
(e.g. Impact Fees, etc.)

City Manager Reeves went over the different expenditure restrictions on the various revenues sources and showed a quick video on impact fees to answer a question raised by the public.

Reeves then went over the recent credit rating process with S&P Global for the City Hall Bonding process and stated that the city got a AA rating, the highest credit rating available to a city of Santaquin's size. This is because of the Council and the policies they have enacted over the last ten years.

3. Update: New City Hall Project

City Manager Reeves then gave an update on the City Hall Project including the placement of City Hall, the acquisition of properties on the proposed site, site preparation, architectural work, financing, and next steps. Bidding on the bonds ends on September 17th, this coming Thursday and the City will get the proposed interest rates on the bond. Council Member Mecham asked what a project timeline would be and Reeves said conservatively it would take about two years.

4. Review: Upcoming Agenda Items, time permitting
5. Other Discussion Items, time permitting

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:41 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Kirk F. Hunsaker, Mayor

K. Aaron Shirley, City Recorder