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**City of Taylorsville**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
*Minutes*

Wednesday, July 15, 2015  
Council Chambers  
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140  
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

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**BRIEFING SESSION**

**Attendance:**

Mayor Larry Johnson

**Council Members:**

Council Chairman Kristie Overson  
Vice-Chairman Ernest Burgess  
Council Member Daniel Armstrong  
Council Member Dama Barbour  
Council Member Brad Christopherson

**City Staff:**

Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney  
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder  
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer  
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director  
Todd Caldwell, UFA Battalion Chief  
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator

**Excused:** John Taylor, City Administrator; Tiffany Janzen, Public Information Officer

**6:00 BRIEFING SESSION**

6:02:24 PM Chairman Kristie Overson conducted the Briefing Session, which convened at 6:02 p.m. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all Council Members were present.

**1. Review Administrative Report – Community Development**

6:02:51 PM The Administrative Report for Community Development was reviewed and questions were addressed. Council Member Dama Barbour commended progress on the gateway signs and said that they are looking good. Community Development Director Mark McGrath reported that stone should be going up on the stones within about 10 days. He indicated that the footing for the sign on Bangerter Highway went in today.

1 Council Member Dama Barbour acknowledged how great the Redwood Road Wall is looking.  
2 Mr. McGrath confirmed that the wall on Redwood Road should be stained next week.

3  
4 Chair Overson commended the Administrative Report provided.

5  
6 **2. Review Agenda**

7  
8 6:05:10 PM The agenda for the City Council Meeting was reviewed.

9  
10 6:05:56 PM Council Member Ernest Burgess cited an issue in his District with raccoons. He  
11 reported that Keith Sorensen has already caught 38 raccoons. He asked whether this concern can  
12 be addressed. Mayor Johnson and Council Member Dama Barbour relayed that they have also  
13 had problems in their areas. It was agreed to bring this problem to the attention of West Valley  
14 Animal Services. Council Member Burgess referenced an additional problem with gophers in  
15 his area.

16  
17 6:08:41 PM Council Member Dama Barbour asked if Economic Development Director Wayne  
18 Harper would be available for an update on economic development. It was unknown whether Mr.  
19 Harper would be in attendance later.

20  
21 6:09:04 PM Chair Overson called for discussion on a potential date for the Volunteer Picnic.  
22 She suggested either August 27 or September 17, 2015. It was noted that the ULCT Conference  
23 is also in September. It was determined to schedule the Volunteer Picnic for September 17,  
24 2015.

25  
26 6:10:44 PM Chair Overson asked for ideas on a "Council Corner" article for the next newsletter.  
27 She asked that any suggestions be forwarded to her.

28  
29 6:11:25 PM Chair Overson thanked Council Member Dan Armstrong for driving the City's float  
30 in the parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Maintenance needs for the float vehicle were discussed. It was relayed  
31 that the vehicle is stored at a shared location with Cottonwood Heights. It was noted that the  
32 float will next be in a parade on July 24, 2015.

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34 **3. Adjourn**

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36 6:14:22 PM Chair Overson declared the Briefing Session adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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3 **REGULAR MEETING**

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5 **Attendance:**

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7 Mayor Larry Johnson

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9 **Council Members:**

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11 Council Chairman Kristie Overson  
12 Vice-Chairman Ernest Burgess  
13 Council Member Daniel Armstrong  
14 Council Member Dama Barbour  
15 Council Member Brad Christopherson

16  
17 **City Staff:**

18 Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney  
19 Mark McGrath, Community Development Director  
20 Tracy Wyant, UPD Precinct Chief  
21 Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder  
22 Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer  
23 Todd Caldwell, UFA Battalion Chief  
24 Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator  
25 Marsha Thomas, Judge

26  
27 **Excused:** John Taylor, City Administrator; Tiffany Janzen, Public Information Officer

28  
29 **Others:** Howard Wilson, Chris Curtis, Jackie Willardson, Gordon Willardson, Nathan  
30 Beckstead, Lynn Handy, John Gidney,

31  
32 **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

33  
34 6:30:45 PM Chairman Kristie Overson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed  
35 those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all  
36 Council Members were present.

37  
38 **1.1 Opening Ceremonies – Pledge and Reverence – *Mayor Lawrence Johnson***  
39 **(Opening Ceremonies for August 5, 2015 to be arranged by *Council Member***  
40 ***Armstrong*)**

41  
6:31:31 PM Howard Wilson directed the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:32:24 PM Mayor Lawrence Johnson offered the Reverence and presented some thoughts on  
Independence Day and Pioneer Day.

6:35:14 PM Chair Overson recognized two students in attendance for a school government class.

1           **1.2 Mayor's Report**

2  
3 No Mayor's Report was given.

4  
5           **1.3 Citizen Comments**

6  
7 6:35:57 PM Chairman Kristie Overson reviewed the Citizen Comment Procedures for the  
8 audience. She then called for any citizen comments.

9  
10 There were no citizen comments, and Chairman Overson closed the citizen comment period.

11  
12       **2. APPOINTMENTS**

13  
14 There were no appointments.

15  
16       **3. REPORTS**

17  
18           **3.1 Arts Council Report – Howard Wilson**

19  
20 6:36:25 PM Arts Council Chair Howard Wilson reported on recent activities and upcoming  
21 events for the Taylorsville Arts Council. He distributed a handout regarding Arts Council events  
22 and reported on the following: *Annual Arts Show* at the Taylorsville Senior Center; *Taylorsville*  
23 *Symphony Concerts*; *Taylorsville Dayzz* (overseeing the vendor/display booths, and  
24 entertainment); and production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (over 2000  
25 people attended this production).

26  
27 6:40:04 PM Mr. Wilson described upcoming fall events, i.e. *Tombstone Tales*; *Symphony*  
28 *Concerts*; and *Taylorsville's Got Talent*. Mr. Wilson asked elected officials to participate with a  
29 number for the *Taylorsville's Got Talent* event. He relayed a need to recruit a new conductor for  
30 the symphony.

31  
32 6:42:23 PM Council Members Christopherson and Barbour thanked the Arts Council for their  
33 efforts in the community.

34  
35           **3.2 Taylorsville Justice Court Quarterly Report – Judge Marsha Thomas**

36  
37 6:43:20 PM Judge Marsha Thomas reported on recent activities in the Taylorsville Justice Court  
38 for year-end FY 2015.

39

1 6:43:45 PM Judge Thomas cited the number of case filings for 2015 (10,231) and listed specific  
2 case types (traffic, misdemeanor and small claims). She reviewed the type of misdemeanor  
3 cases.

4  
5 6:45:14 PM Judge Thomas reviewed projected revenue amounts and actual revenue received in  
6 FY 2015. She described budgeted expenses and court expenses for FY 2015. She cited an  
7 underspend amount of about \$100,000.

8  
9 6:46:27 PM Judge Thomas summarized filings, revenues, and expenses.

10  
11 6:46:54 PM Judge Thomas described FY 2015 Projects, as follows:

- 12 • Finalized move to all electronic case files and document management
- 13 • Reviewed older cases that needed attention
- 14 • Participated in multiple audits
- 15 • Refined court procedures
- 16 • Ergonomic remodel of workstations

17  
18 6:49:47 PM Judge Thomas outlined the FY 2016 Projects planned. She cited many challenges  
19 and stresses faced in the Court over the last year. The following potential projects were listed:

- 20 • Increase information provided to improve customer service
- 21 • Continue to streamline processes for current cases
- 22 • Continue to focus on older case cleanup
- 23 • Increase employee knowledge

24  
25 6:52:02 PM Council Member Ernest Burgess asked about the impact of improvements that have  
26 been made. Judge Thomas cited an example of implementing a dual-locking key box. She also  
27 described changes made by the new Clerk of the Court to tighten the deposit process. She  
28 observed that the integrity of the court is being improved through some of these changes.

29  
30 6:54:01 PM Judge Thomas commented on some mental health issues seen with defendants in the  
31 Court. She cited up to 17% of people involved in the criminal justice system who have mental  
32 health issues or substance abuse problems. She referenced reasons that people with mental  
33 health issues are sometimes incarcerated longer than the general population. Judge Thomas said  
34 that prosecutors and defendants are fairly adept at recognizing mental health illness in  
35 defendants. She described efforts made within the Taylorsville Court and with law enforcement  
36 personnel to help provide alternatives and treatment for mentally ill individuals. She cited a goal  
37 to help defendants develop a self-directed full life.

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1           **3.3     West Valley Animal Services Quarterly Report – Chris Curtis**

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3    7:02:19 PM Chris Curtis and Nathan Beckstead, of West Valley Animal Services, reported on  
4 animal services provided in Taylorsville for the previous quarter.

5  
6    7:03:16 PM Ms. Curtis reviewed statistics for strays, adoptions, euthanasias, returns to owner,  
7 and shelter intake. She cited the number of licenses sold and information on shelter operations  
8 during the fourth quarter of 2015.

9  
10   7:05:02 PM Ms. Curtis referenced medical and welfare donations to the shelter in conjunction  
11 with the *Best Friends Society*. She relayed that grants will also be sought to help with funding.

12  
13   7:06:00 PM Problems with an influx of raccoons in some areas of Taylorsville were addressed.  
14 Mr. Beckstead acknowledged that raccoons are a problem throughout the Wasatch Front. He  
15 explained that the Division of Natural Resources and the Division of Wildlife Resources have  
16 oversight of raccoons, although they do not have adequate staff. He explained that these agencies  
17 have given West Valley Animal Services authority to help deal with the problem. He relayed  
18 that live traps are available to rent or buy from West Valley Animal Services. Mr. Beckstead  
19 cited the potential for rabies. He acknowledged that raccoons are an ongoing and growing  
20 problem.

21  
22   7:09:11 PM Mr. Beckstead explained that citizens can call Animal Services to come and pick up  
23 trapped raccoons. He described ways that raccoons can be disposed of humanely. He said that  
24 Animal Services has taken on this task to help animals and citizens. He confirmed that once  
25 raccoons are trapped they can be taken to the animal shelter or citizens may call and request that  
26 they be picked up. He explained that raccoons must be dealt with humanely or it is considered  
27 cruelty. He clarified that they cannot be poisoned. He addressed the potential of someone  
28 dumping them in the Jordan River and stressed that if anyone is caught doing so, they will be  
29 prosecuted. Mr. Beckstead stated that citizens may call 801-965-5845 (dispatch) to request pick  
30 up. He asked that raccoons not be trapped on the weekend because of limited personnel at that  
31 time. He warned against leaving pet food outside because it attracts raccoons. He explained that  
32 steel traps require a permit and are not allowed for raccoons.

33  
34   7:15:04 PM Council Member Christopherson questioned the reason behind the increased  
35 problem. Mr. Beckstead cited the mild winter this year. He explained that the DNR takes care  
36 of this to the best of their ability, but only has about seven staff members. Council Member  
37 Christopherson asked about the advisability of taking this matter to a legislative level for  
38 potential State funding. Mr. Beckstead said this would take a massive effort and he does not  
39 visualize any funding becoming available.  
40

1 [7:17:21 PM](#) Council Member Dama Barbour commented on the nuisance of having raccoons in  
2 chimneys. Mr. Beckstead clarified that Animal Services does not have equipment to get  
3 raccoons out of chimneys or out from under houses. Ms. Curtis cited ideas that can be obtained  
4 online for covering chimneys, etc.  
5

6 [7:18:45 PM](#) Mr. Beckstead reiterated that citizens should not trap on Saturdays, but suggested  
7 setting traps on Sunday evening. He noted that if a raccoon happens to be trapped on a Saturday,  
8 it can be taken into the shelter but no one will be available to come and pick it up. He clarified  
9 that if an animal dies in an individual's care when trapping, the individual may be liable.  
10

11 [7:20:56 PM](#) Council Member Dan Armstrong asked about the difference between being able to  
12 eradicate a rat and a raccoon. Mr. Beckstead said this is specified in State law. Council Member  
13 Armstrong asked whether this can be addressed with the State if DNR cannot handle the  
14 problem. Mr. Beckstead agreed that this argument would have to be addressed at a State level.  
15 He acknowledged that agricultural property can process its own animals, but residential  
16 properties cannot eradicate anything except rats, mice, voles, and gophers.  
17

18 [7:25:15 PM](#) Ms. Curtis suggested addressing this with State agencies or the Health Department.  
19 She suggested being a "squeaky wheel." Mr. Beckstead observed that DWR and DNR are  
20 extremely understaffed. He referenced ideas found online to deal with gophers.  
21

22 [7:27:30 PM](#) Mr. Beckstead said his number one concern is that raccoons are dangerous. Ms.  
23 Curtis acknowledged that the average citizen does not understand the dangers of poison or the  
24 proper and legal requirements. She cited the dangers of setting poisons out for voles and  
25 gophers. She expressed concern with citizens handling the dispatch of any animals.  
26

27 [7:30:18 PM](#) Mr. Beckstead reviewed field operations and cited statistics for calls for service and  
28 response times. He described the top five calls for service, i.e. barking, nuisance, cruelty, stray  
29 confined, and stray roam. He cited calls for dogs in cars during the month of June when it was  
30 extremely hot. Council Member Ernest Burgess asked about the liability for people who leave  
31 animals in cars. Mr. Beckstead said that cases are examined individually and evaluated based on  
32 current temperatures, health of the animal, etc. If the animal is in distress, Animal Services will  
33 respond and if danger is imminent, staff will break into cars to rescue. If there is no danger, a  
34 warning will be issued.  
35

36 [7:34:44 PM](#) Mr. Beckstead reviewed statistics for Millrace Park Patrols. He described schedules  
37 for patrols and plans to increase patrols. He cited the great response from citizens regarding  
38 patrols. He observed that users of the park want it kept under control.  
39

40 [7:35:35 PM](#) Mr. Beckstead reviewed the agency's benchmarks for success. He cited goals to  
41 increase the percentage of animals licensed, returned to owners, lives saved, adoptions and

1 rescues. He referenced work to decrease impounded animals, enforcement actions, aggressive  
2 animal incidents, and euthanasia rates.

3  
4 7:36:17 PM Council Member Ernest Burgess asked about feral cats. Ms. Curtis described the  
5 TNR Program and observed that the program is working. She cited efforts made in regard to  
6 adopting kittens out in the community through the Best Friends Society. Mr. Beckstead asked  
7 that neighborhoods with problems contact Animal Services to receive education and training. He  
8 gave additional clarification on the TNR Program. Ms. Curtis cited programs that the *Best*  
9 *Friends Society* has to help relocate and balance the feral cat community. She encouraged  
10 residents to call Animal Services for help. Mr. Beckstead relayed that State laws regulate what  
11 can be done, but problems can usually be resolved.

#### 12 13 **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### 14 15 **4.1 Minutes – City Council Meeting: June 17, 2015**

16  
17 7:43:13 PM Council Member Brad Christopherson **MOVED** to adopt the Consent Agenda.  
18 Council Member Dan Armstrong **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Kristie Overson called  
19 for discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as  
20 follows: Armstrong-yes, Overson-yes, Christopherson-yes, Burgess-yes, and Barbour-yes. **All**  
21 **City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### 22 23 **5. PLANNING MATTERS**

24  
25 There were no planning matters.

#### 26 27 **6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

28  
29 There were no financial matters.

#### 30 31 **7. OTHER MATTERS**

32  
33 7:44:18 PM Council Member Dama Burgess asked whether the sign ordinance in the City needs  
34 to be reviewed. Community Development Director Mark McGrath acknowledged that several  
35 amendment applications have been received recently. He said that review of the ordinance is a  
36 top priority. He observed that the ordinance is very long and noted that a comprehensive  
37 amendment to the ordinance is planned for the very near future. He explained that the proposed  
38 amendment will come before the Planning Commission and the City Council. He said he  
39 personally does not feel that the City's standards are out of line. Mr. McGrath committed that  
40 this will be made a top priority as the next serious amendment to the development code.

41

1 7:47:20 PM Chair Overson cited the large number of amendment requests and agreed that it  
2 would be appropriate to review the sign ordinance. Mr. McGrath suggested that the large  
3 amount of economic development activity is behind the request, along with Taylorsville's  
4 reputation for being very pro-development and pro-building. He said that Taylorsville's  
5 ordinance allows some flexibility, as opposed to Sandy City who is very strict.  
6

7 7:49:26 PM Mayor Johnson cited a need to act on this quickly and allow some flexibility for  
8 businesses that are being brought into the City. Mr. McGrath acknowledged that it is the choice  
9 of the community where standards for businesses should be drawn.  
10

11 7:50:46 PM Council Member Christopherson commented on signage at the Crossroads of  
12 Taylorsville Center. He suggested that signage will not make or break the Center, but agreed that  
13 reasonable accommodations can be made.  
14

15 7:52:07 PM Council Member Burgess cited a need to look at the sign ordinance's impact on the  
16 whole City.  
17

18 7:52:20 PM Council Member Barbour clarified that a lot of development is occurring in the City.  
19 She suggested a simple, direct, and consistent ordinance. She said that the nature of developers  
20 is to ask for whatever they can get. She suggested making the ordinance as simple as possible  
21 and being consistent.  
22

23 7:53:43 PM Chair Overson asked that particular attention be paid to specific requirements  
24 regarding Electronic Message Center (EMC) signs and that the City be on top of anything that  
25 involves billboards in Taylorsville.  
26

27 7:54:18 PM Council Member Christopherson recommended that EMC requirements be  
28 standardized instead of being dealt with on a conditional use level.  
29

30 **8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)**  
31

32 There were no new items for subsequent consideration.  
33

34 **9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)**  
35

7:55:21 PM

36 **9.1 Mayor's Town Meeting – Wednesday, July 29, 2015 – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

37 **9.2 City Council Social Media/Briefing Session – Wednesday, August 5, 2015 –**  
38 **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

39 **9.3 City Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 5, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**

40 **9.4 Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, August 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

1           9.5     City Council Social Media/Briefing Session – Wednesday, August 19, 2015 –  
2                     5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

3           9.6     City Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 19, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.  
4

5   **10.   CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

6   7:55:58 PM

7           10.1   *Movies in the Park: July 18, 2015 at 8:45 p.m. Featuring “Big Hero 6” –*  
8                     Taylorsville City Hall

9           10.2   *Wasatch Front Waste Area Cleanup: July 2-30, 2015. For Specific Dates and*  
10                    Areas, go to: <http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/index.php/area-clean-up>

11           10.3   *Taylorsville Fireworks Restrictions: (Ordinance 13-14) The Taylorsville*  
12                    Journal Has a Map of Restricted Areas on Page 8, or See the City website at  
13                    [www.taylorsvilleut.gov](http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov)

14           10.4   *“Night Out Against Crime” Presented by Taylorsville Public Safety*  
15                    Committee: Thursday, August 6, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. – Taylorsville City Hall

16           10.5   *UFA Presents: “Push to Survive” Open House: August 3, 9, 15 & 21 – 6:00 to*  
17                    7:00 p.m. Fire Station #118, Located at 5317 South 2700 West, Taylorsville  
18

19   **11.   CLOSED SESSION (Conference Room 202)**

20    *- For the Purpose(s) Described in Statute U.C.A. 52-4-205*

21  
22   It was determined that a Closed Session was not needed and no Closed Meeting was held.  
23

24   **12.   ADJOURNMENT**  
25

26   7:56:59 PM Council Member Dan Armstrong **MOVED** to adjourn the City Council Meeting.  
27   Council Member Dama Barbour **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Kristie Overson called for  
28   discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a roll-call vote. The vote was as  
29   follows: Armstrong-yes, Overson-yes, Christopherson-yes, Burgess-yes, and Barbour-yes. **All**  
30   **City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was  
31   adjourned at 7:57 p.m.  
32  
33

34  
35   \_\_\_\_\_  
36   Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

37   Minutes approved:

38  
39   *Minutes Prepared by: Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder*  
40