

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

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

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.

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

Chair Overson commended the Administrative Report provided.

2. Review Agenda

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Adjourn

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

REGULAR MEETING

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
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director
Tracy Wyant, UPD Precinct Chief
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer
Todd Caldwell, UFA Battalion Chief
Kristy Heineman, Council Coordinator
Marsha Thomas, Judge

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

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

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

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

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

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.

1.2 Mayor's Report

No Mayor's Report was given.

1.3 Citizen Comments

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

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

2. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Arts Council Report – Howard Wilson

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

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

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

3.2 Taylorsville Justice Court Quarterly Report – Judge Marsha Thomas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – City Council Meeting: June 17, 2015

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

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters.

7. OTHER MATTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

There were no new items for subsequent consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)

7:55:21 PM

- 9.1 Mayor's Town Meeting – Wednesday, July 29, 2015 – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**
- 9.2 City Council Social Media/Briefing Session – Wednesday, August 5, 2015 – 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**
- 9.3 City Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 5, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**
- 9.4 Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, August 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

10. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

7:55:58 PM

- 10.1 *Movies in the Park*: July 18, 2015 at 8:45 p.m. Featuring “Big Hero 6” – Taylorsville City Hall
- 10.2 *Wasatch Front Waste Area Cleanup*: July 2-30, 2015. For Specific Dates and Areas, go to: <http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/index.php/area-clean-up>
- 10.3 *Taylorsville Fireworks Restrictions*: (Ordinance 13-14) The Taylorsville Journal Has a Map of Restricted Areas on Page 8, or See the City website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov
- 10.4 “*Night Out Against Crime*” Presented by Taylorsville Public Safety Committee: Thursday, August 6, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. – Taylorsville City Hall
- 10.5 *UFA Presents: “Push to Survive” Open House*: August 3, 9, 15 & 21 – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Fire Station #118, Located at 5317 South 2700 West, Taylorsville

11. CLOSED SESSION (*Conference Room 202*)

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

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

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


Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 08-19-15