

City of Taylorsville
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

Attendance:

Mayor Russ Wall

Council Members:

Council Chairman Jerry Rechtenbach
Vice-Chairman Dama Barbour
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Larry Johnson
Council Member Kristie Overson

City Staff:

John Inch Morgan, City Administrator
John Brems, City Attorney
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Jean Ashby, Deputy Recorder
Scott Harrington, Chief of Finance
Wayne Dial, Police Lieutenant
Donald Adams, Economic Development Director
Aimee Newton, Communications Director

Others: Ken Acker, Gordon Wolf, Israel Grossman, Ken Cook, Lynn Handy, Suzan Bukovinsky, Royce Larsen, Michael Taylor, Jennifer Schwendimann, John Gidney, Curt Cochran, Lee Yates, Karen Jentsch, Robb Reger, Lin Ragner, Pamela Manson, Kelly Etherington, Jerry Garcia, Lin Rayner, Ernesto Vasquez

18:00:49 Chairman Jerry Rechtenbach called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all Council Members were present.

1. Truth-in-Taxation Hearing Purpose and Process – *John Inch Morgan*

18:01:57 City Administrator John Inch Morgan described the Truth-in-Taxation process. He explained that any time a municipality desires to increase taxes, a public hearing must be held before the City budget can be finally and officially adopted.

18:05:09 Mr. Morgan illustrated the Notice of Proposed Tax Increase that was published in the newspaper according to State Statute requirements. He reviewed the amounts cited for increases to property tax, as outlined in the notice.

18:07:24 Council Member Johnson described the increase in tax on his own home. Mr. Morgan affirmed that tax increase amounts vary based on the value of individual homes or businesses.

18:08:55 Council Member Rechtenbach noted that the City Council adopted a tentative budget on June 20, 2012 with a three-to-two vote. He relayed that the tentative budget includes a 15% tax increase to cover expenses for city street maintenance and a wall project on 4100 South.

18:10:07 Chairman Rechtenbach noted that discussion on the budget, following the public hearing, will be deferred until the City Council Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, August 15, 2012.

18:10:39 Mayor Wall stated that Administration supports the recommended 15% tax increase. He noted that Administration originally proposed a 40% tax increase. He explained that the 15% increase does not cover all needed expenses for the City. The Mayor observed that Taylorsville still operates on a very lean budget.

18:11:42 Both Chairman Rechtenbach and Mayor Wall recognized members of the Taylorsville Budget Committee in attendance. It was noted that the City's budget is regularly reviewed by the Budget Committee.

2. Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing / Citizen Comments

18:12:16 Chairman Rechtenbach reviewed the City's Citizen Comment Procedures.

18:13:16 Council Chairman Jerry Rechtenbach opened the Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing and called for citizen comments.

18:13:22 Michael Taylor spoke against the proposed tax increase in the City budget. Chairman Rechtenbach confirmed that the City of Taylorsville has previously raised taxes only one time and that was in 2006.

18:16:14 Suzan Bukovinsky spoke in favor of the proposed tax increase. She cited data provided by the Salt Lake County Tax Assessor's Office and noted that Taylorsville's proposed tax rate is smaller than surrounding municipalities. She referenced services provided in Taylorsville and observed that the proposed tax increase is very minimal.

18:19:19 Budget Chair Lynn Handy recognized members of the Taylorsville Budget Committee in attendance. He stated that the Budget Committee supports the proposed tax increase. He observed that local taxes are important in providing basic community services. He suggested that citizens agreed to support municipal taxes when they voted to form a City. He noted that this is only the City's second tax increase in 16 years. He called for citizens to support Taylorsville in moving forward.

18:22:30 Curt Cochran spoke in favor of the proposed tax increase. He relayed that he currently serves on the Taylorsville Budget Committee and the Taylorsville Economic Development Committee. He noted a need to promote new businesses in Taylorsville.

18:24:01 Lee Yates stated that he serves on the Taylorsville Economic Development Committee and relayed that the committee is in favor of the proposed tax increase. He observed that the City faces a key challenge in maintaining its appearance. He cited the additional \$200,000 that has been budgeted for improved streetscapes. Mr. Yates stated that the increase on his home is only \$30 per year and said he feels it is money well spent. He suggested that the cost of economic development is high, but the cost of not investing in economic development is even higher.

18:26:23 Karen Jentzsch referenced plans for R.C. Willey to leave Taylorsville and questioned how the loss of that business will affect the City's budget. Mayor Wall relayed that the City stands to lose approximately \$300,000 in tax revenue as a result of the business closing, and it is still unknown how the City will offset that loss. Ms. Jentzsch suggested eliminating City expenses, i.e. fireworks and shots for police officers, in order to save money. She asked that cuts be made in order to prevent another tax increase next year.

18:29:59 Robb Reger stated that he is a new resident to Taylorsville. He expressed surprise at the recent drop in value of his new home and the increase in his property tax. He questioned whether the City will get the best return for its investment. He asked whether the budget was increased to replace street signs. Chairman Rechtenbach clarified that an expense for street signs was not included in the budget. Mr. Reger asked that the City proceed with caution and make do with less.

18:34:01 There were no additional citizen comments, and Chairman Rechtenbach declared the public hearing closed. He thanked those who attended and expressed their opinions.

**3. Discussion of Property Tax Revenue and the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Final Budget –
City Council**

Further discussion regarding the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget will be held during the Taylorsville City Council Meeting scheduled for August 15, 2012.

4. Other Matters

There were no other matters.

5. Adjournment

18:35:20 Council Member Dama Barbour **MOVED** to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting. Council Member Ernest Burgess **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Rechtenbach called for discussion. There being none, he called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Johnson-yes, Rechtenbach-yes, Barbour-yes, Burgess-yes, and Overson-yes. All City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. **The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.**


Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 09-05-12

Minutes Prepared by: Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder