

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Monday, December 31, 2012
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Attendance:

Mayor Russ Wall

Council Members:

Vice-Chairman Dama Barbour
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Kristie Overson

City Staff:

John Inch Morgan, City Administrator
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Aimee Newton, Communications Director
John Brems, City Attorney

Excused: Council Chair Jerry Rechtenbach, Council Member Larry Johnson

Others: Israel Grossman, Jay Ziolkowski, Royce Larsen, VECC Director William Harry. Daryl Gudmunson, John Gidney Sheriff Jim Winder

Vice Chair Dama Barbour called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein all Council Members were present except Council Chair Jerry Rechtenbach and Council Member Larry Johnson who were excused.

1. ***Resolution No. 12-43 - A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Declaring the City's Intent to Withdraw from Membership in the Salt Lake Valley Emergency Communications Center - Mayor Russ Wall***

15:07:00 Mayor Russ Wall gave a brief history on Taylorsville's relationship with the Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC). He described the role of VECC and the function of dispatching 911 calls. He noted that 911 Police Matters are transferred to the Sheriff's Dispatch

Center. He gave clarification on billing for 911 calls/dispatch service. The Mayor explained that once the City joined the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), dispatch for fire-related calls and billing were handled through the UFA.

15:12:03 Mayor Wall explained ways that cities are being double-billed for emergency calls.

15:12:55 Vice Chair Barbour asked for clarification on where 911 calls are sent. The Mayor gave explanation on hand-offs that are made, depending on whether calls are for police, fire, or ambulance.

15:14:48 Council Member Burgess asked for additional explanation on the breakdown of fees for emergency calls. Mayor Wall cited problems related to not having the Unified Police Department (UPD) as part of VECC.

15:16:35 Mayor Wall commended VECC Director William Harry for running a good organization. He said that the existing problems are not service related, but are of a political nature.

15:18:03 Mayor Wall described a study that was performed in regard to Public Service Answering Points (PSAP).

15:18:43 Mayor Wall recognized VECC Director Bill Harry and Sheriff Jim Winder in attendance.

15:19:19 The Mayor explained that the Council of Governments (COG) asked him to form a committee to try and resolve issues with VECC. He said that committee has been making progress for the past year and a half.

15:20:16 Mayor Wall relayed that all willing concessions to this point have been made by UPD. He noted that UPD dispatchers are paid more than VECC dispatchers. He reported that progress is being made through the COG Committee. He suggested that the merger of VECC and UPD is imminent after some things are worked out. The Mayor reported that Sandy City recently withdrew from VECC and is not required to repay their bonding commitments.

15:23:40 Mayor Wall explained that the City is required to give six-months notice before the beginning of the fiscal year if it desires to withdraw from VECC. He cited some concerns with possible increased costs after the withdrawal of Sandy. He noted that this Special City Council Meeting was called as a precaution.

15:25:44 The Mayor suggested that the action taken by Sandy may be given some legislative attention. He observed that some amendments may be made to the interlocal with VECC. He gave reasons that this decision may not be faced every year.

15:27:14 Council Member Kristie Overson asked for clarification on the proposed resolution regarding the City's intent to withdraw. She asked whether the City is obligated to withdraw if the resolution is adopted.

15:28:20 The Mayor said there are still some financial concerns and issues regarding governance of the Board that must be resolved. He observed that Sandy City may just be posturing and may not end up withdrawing, but Taylorsville needs to be aware of the current situation.

15:29:40 Council Member Ernest Burgess asked whether Sandy City is officially withdrawing. Mayor Wall indicated that Sandy still belongs to VECC, but has expressed intent by letter to exercise its right to withdraw on July 1, 2013 if necessary.

15:31:26 VECC Director William Harry described the letter of intent received by Sandy. He indicated that Sandy may not be ready to withdraw from VECC on July 1, 2013. He explained that Taylorsville is in a different situation because its membership is based on other contracts and calls directed to other entities. He cited \$330,000 in 911 fees assessed to Taylorsville annually. He noted that costs for fire calls are assessed directly to UFA and there is no assessment made to UPD because VECC does not dispatch for those calls.

15:35:45 Mr. Harry referenced a map distributed to the Council regarding calls in Salt Lake County and the Public Service Answering Point. He explained routing issues that arise and gave reasons that it is important to have one 911 Center in the valley in order to avoid confusion.

15:38:14 Mr. Harry said that the merger progress has come a long way and the action taken by Sandy, and potentially by Taylorsville, will affect that progress. He cited his first concern of public safety.

15:39:32 Vice Chair Barbour observed that Taylorsville would like to stay with current services, but desires to avoid unnecessary risk. Mr. Harry listed reasons that the risk to Taylorsville is very small. He described the role of the VECC Board of Operations and said control issues are nominal.

15:42:24 City Administrator John Inch Morgan gave clarification on language used in the proposed resolution regarding the City's potential intent. 15:43:20 City Attorney John Brems said he has concern that the City may not be able to revoke its intent.

15:43:47 Council Member Burgess asked if citizens are in jeopardy if the letter of intent is not revocable. 15:44:22 Mr. Harry explained that the Board would never refuse to let the City revoke its intent to withdraw from VECC. He said that the agency stands ready to allow Sandy City to withdraw its intent to pull out of VECC. 15:45:48 Council Member Burgess asked for additional clarification on Sandy's intent.

15:46:34 Mr. Harry said he understands why Taylorsville may consider giving notice, but would prefer that a letter of concern regarding cost sharing be presented rather than an intent to withdraw.

15:47:31 Vice Chair Barbour asked whether other cities have had this kind of a special meeting to consider withdrawing from VECC. Mayor Wall relayed that he is not aware that any other meetings have been noticed.

15:48:33 Mayor Wall summarized his concerns and suggested that a fix needs to be made in the interlocal agreement regarding the notice requirement. He also observed that if Sandy indeed leaves VECC on July 1, 2013, there will be additional costs assessed to Taylorsville.

15:50:17 Mayor Wall inquired whether Sheriff Winder would like to comment. Sheriff Winder indicated that he is only in attendance to listen to the conservation and does not want to aggravate the situation. The Mayor said that he believes it would be wise for the City to send something to VECC. He observed that if Taylorsville does not adopt a resolution to express intent to withdraw, it should send a strong letter of concern.

15:52:53 Council Member Burgess stated his desire to ensure that citizens are protected. The Mayor said that VECC has already set a precedent by allowing another entity to rescind its intent to withdraw. He cited some concerns with governance and lack of control.

15:55:01 Council Member Overson asked whether Sandy City will be allowed to rescind its letter of intent to withdraw. Mr. Harry acknowledged that is the case and confirmed that Taylorsville will be allowed to do the same.

15:56:17 Mr. Morgan clarified that other cities are allowed to hold an emergency meeting but, as far as he knows, no other cities have noticed a meeting for today.

15:57:32 Vice Chair Barbour asked whether a letter of concern could be sent now and then the City could file a notice of intent to withdraw in future months. Mayor Wall clarified that today is the last day to file notice to withdraw for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, but the City could withdraw for future years.

15:59:18 Vice Chair Barbour agreed with other Council Members that public safety is the number one concern. Mayor Wall confirmed that no matter what action is taken now, dispatch will still be in place on July 1, 2013.

16:00:16 Council Member Burgess suggested that if the resolution is adopted, it will send a message to VECC. 16:00:51 Mayor Wall clarified that the resolution is not really a message to VECC because the problem is not with them but, rather, is a message to other cities that if they are not interested in maintaining a fair partnership, Taylorsville will withdraw.

16:02:19 Council Member Kristie Overson **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 12-43 - A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Declaring the City's Intent to Withdraw from Membership in the Salt Lake Valley Emergency Communications Center. Council Member Ernest Burgess **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Rechtenbach called for discussion on the motion. There being none, he called for a roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Burgess-yes, Overson-yes, Johnson-excused, Rechtenbach-excused, and Barbour-yes. **All City Council members present voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

16:02:56 Mayor Wall asked that Administration be allowed to send a letter of explanation regarding the basis for the action taken, stating Taylorsville's desire to continue working with VECC and its willingness to partner with cities who want to participate. Council Members agreed that such a letter of explanation is appropriate.

2. Other Matters

There were no other matters.

3. Adjournment

16:04:49 Council Member Ernest Burgess **MOVED** to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting. Council Member Kristie Overson **SECONDED** the motion. Chairman Rechtenbach called for discussion. There being none, he called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Burgess-yes, Overson-yes, Johnson-excused, Rechtenbach-excused, and Barbour-yes. All City Council members voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04

p.m.


Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 01-16-13