



## **CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING**

Tuesday, November 1st at 5:30 PM

Court Room/Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) and Online

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Olson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Councilors present included Councilors Adcock, Hathaway, Mecham, Montoya, and Siddoway.

Staff members present included City Manager Norm Beagley, Assistant City Manager Jason Bond, Public Works Director Jason Callaway, Engineer Jon Lundell, Recorder Amalie Ottley, Assistant Kathy Swenson.

Bailey Holdaway from Utah State University attended the meeting.

No other members of the public attended the meeting.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Mecham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **INVOCATION / INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT**

Councilor Mecham shared a thought about the Pledge of Allegiance and the gratitude he has for the ability to say the pledge each day at the school where he is employed. He expressed his appreciation for living in a country where we can express our freedoms.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **1. Utah State University Wellbeing Project and Survey Findings**

Mayor Olson welcomed Bailey Holdaway from Utah State University (USU) to present findings from a recent USU Wellbeing Survey that was advertised to residents in the city. Ms. Holdaway stated that only 50 viable results were received from the survey. Key points in the survey consisted of Personal Wellbeing and Community Wellbeing. Using the results from the survey, USU constructed a Wellbeing Matrix showing ratings of high versus low importance in items such as living standards, cultural opportunities, etc. Ms. Holdaway pointed out where some ratings have increased, and some have decreased over the years.

Mayor Olson inquired about survey answers being representative of the community as a whole rather than the small snapshot of people who actually took the survey.

Ms. Holdaway stated that the next Wellbeing Survey will be conducted in 2024 to allow for time between surveys for residents to rest from survey fatigue and to increase fundraising efforts for the study.

Mayor Olson inquired how the city can increase the number of survey takers. Councilor Montoya spoke to survey fatigue in residents as this survey was presented during the time the city's General Plan was also being considered. Councilor Montoya also offered strategies for funding and offered support in the form of an endorsement letter. Mayor Olson expressed his gratitude to USU and stated he is looking forward to working with them in the future.

## **2. Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) Water Efficiency Standards**

Assistant Manager Bond presented Water Efficiency Standards recently put forth by Central Utah Water Conservancy District. Assistant Manager Bond indicated that there could be potential ramifications from not implementing the recommended standards for both the city and its residents by the end of 2022. Those ramifications could include CUWCD (or possible state) rebates and/or funding not being approved for the city and residents in the future. Assistant Manager Bond addressed concerns for the requirements listed among the efficiency including difficulty in enforcement and footprints of buildings both residential and commercial. Assistant Manager Bond spoke to the city's willingness to address water efficiency practices and promote efficacy among residents.

Manager Beagley discussed landscaping standards that have been implemented by previous Santaquin City councils. He spoke about the city already making an effort to encourage xeriscaping and zero-scape yards among Santaquin residents.

Mayor Olson expressed his frustration with CUWCD's demands for cities to implement these standards in such a short time frame without consideration for past and current efforts the city is making to conserve water.

The council discussed the heavy-handedness of the proposed standards. Council members expressed that they are sympathetic to the need to conserve water but are concerned about the implications of executing the standards without proper consideration and time.

Councilor Hathaway expressed his frustration with the heavy-handed mandates coming from CUWCD without looking at circumstances in individual cities.

Assistant Manager Bond spoke to a number of reasons for municipalities to support landscaping in their city. Councilor Adcock agreed with the frustrations of others and added that CUWCD should take into consideration the Water Reclamation Facility in Santaquin.

Manager Beagley agreed that Santaquin City is unique in its water conservation and resources and spoke to a neighboring state's (Nevada) mandates that have taken more restrictive steps toward water reductions.

Councilor Montoya addressed the city's efforts in years' worth of water conservation and forward thinking. She expressed her opinion that these standards are an overreach of guidelines being imposed by state agencies.

The council members all agreed that they do not support the Water Efficiency Standards presented by Central Utah Water Conservancy District, stating that supporting data from Santaquin City shows that a one-size-fits-all mandate does not always fit our unique city's efforts in water conservation.

Mayor Olson asked Director Callaway about where water levels currently sit. Director Callaway and Manager Beagley reported that around 40% of stored water is lost in the city's open reservoirs due to seepage and evaporation, saying that seepage and evaporation is beneficial for water cycles in the environment. Manager Beagley and Director Callaway also reported on the importance of having a place to store water and not having over-storage.

Mayor Olson asked that the CUWCD be addressed directly regarding the concerns of council and city staff. Assistant Manager Bond spoke to current relationships with the Central Utah Project (CUP). Mayor Olson spoke to the balance the city has to maintain for water over-storage and future planning. Councilor Montoya stated that Santaquin City can provide data that shows that over 2 billion gallons of water has been saved by the City's Water Reclamation Facility.

At the mayor's direction, city staff will present the council's concerns along with studies and data, including costs that residents bore because the city was proactive more than a decade ago to CUWCD and ask for an exemption, or at the very least, an extension for the proposed efficiency standards. Manager Beagley stated that a meeting will be requested with city staff, the current water board representative, and directors at CUWCD.

### 3. Upcoming Agenda Items

Manager Beagley addressed upcoming items on the city council agenda.

## ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Montoya motioned to adjourn the Work Session Meeting. Councilor Siddoway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Yes
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

Motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

ATTEST:



Daniel M. Olson, Mayor



Amalie R. Ottley, City Recorder